



THEO5301 Systematic Theology II
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

This second course in systematic theology introduces the student to the doctrines of the work of Christ, salvation and the Christian life, the Holy Spirit, the church, and last things (eschatology). The biblical foundation and the relevant historical developments are considered in developing a comprehensive statement of Christian teaching concerning construction of a Christian understanding of each doctrine.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to understand theological method and the doctrines of the work of Christ, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the church, and last things biblically, historically, and systematically.
2. Be able to apply theology by integrating these doctrines into a coherent, comprehensive, and consistent Christian worldview.
3. Be able to communicate these doctrines in the particular ministry calling and context of the learner.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will utilize textbooks, reading assignments, vocabulary quizzes, written assignments, audio-visual resources, and online discussions to reach the goals of the class. Because this is an internet course, each student must invest heavily in reading and online interaction. Self-motivation will be an important ingredient to success in the course.

Biblical Authority

This course operates under the assumption that the Bible is the inspired, totally true, and trustworthy Word of God. While history, tradition, and reason play no small role in the theological task, the Bible holds ultimate authority in Christian doctrine and practice. *The Baptist Faith and Message* (2000) provides the structure of this course's content.

A Note about Web-Based Learning

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses based in the traditional classroom. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping the student for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at your own pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the course content. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom settings. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. Note that your instructor is praying for your success.

Primary Texts

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

_____. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*, rev. ed. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000. (Any edition will do.)

Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Recommended Texts

Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Garrett, James Leo. *Systematic Theology*. 2 vols. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 2006, 2007.

McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th or 8th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007, 2013.

Course Requirements

1. Vocabulary Quizzes (15%)

Weekly quizzes will cover the words from the vocabulary lists included in the syllabus. Each quiz covers the words in the corresponding vocabulary list (e.g. Quiz #1 will cover the words on Vocabulary List #1). The definitions may be found in the Erickson dictionary. Each quiz will be “active” for 7 days beginning on the Monday morning of that week. The allotted time is 15 minutes. Never use the back button or the test will end and you will be graded on what you have completed. The quizzes are **NOT open book**.

2. Discussion Board Questions (20%)

Students will be required to answer discussion board questions. These discussion questions will be based on the assigned reading and additional resources located in Course Documents.

Students are required to make at least three (3) substantive posts to each question.

- a. The **first post** will be the answer to the question posed. This post should be longer and more detailed than the remaining posts. **The initial post is due Thursday of the week of the unit.**
- b. The other two posts should be offered in response to other student posts. **These posts are more than a mere “good job” or “I like what you said.”** A substantive post is defined as a post that both exhibits a thoughtful response based upon the class material and that, in the case of response posts (see above), furthers the discussion thread by posing new questions or thoughts to which other students may respond.

3. Critical Book Review (20%)

All students are required to read and review John Stott’s *The Cross of Christ*. The review should include:

1. a bibliography entry,
2. a **brief** biographical data about the author(s) (e.g., his position, degrees, research interests, and other works),
3. an assessment of the main purpose and/or thesis of the book,
4. a **concise** summary of the book’s contents (**No more than 1/3 of the total review should be summary**),
5. a **thorough** critical analysis of the book (see the questions below for ideas),
6. a discussion of the relevance of the book to one’s particular ministry, and
7. a conclusion with a recommendation or dismissal.

The reviews should be between 2000-4000 words and should conform to Turabian or SBL style guides. Because book reviews are primarily about one source, **use parenthetical citations for the primary text and footnotes only for external sources.**

A few questions to consider when preparing for a critical book review: What is the main purpose or thesis of this book? To whom is this book written? Did the author(s) fulfill his or her purpose? What are some of the author’s working assumptions (e.g., his or her denominational background, field of research, or view of Scripture)? Does the author provide strong biblical, philosophical, and historical support for his or her positions? Are there any points of contact between this book/writer and other texts read during the course of the semester? How might the content of this book affect ministry in the local church or ministry

within your particular calling? Are there any ideas that changed your particular way of thinking on the subject matter at hand? Would you recommend this book to someone else?

- **A papers (93-100)** clearly state the book's thesis, successfully and succinctly outline its argument in its own terms, demonstrate advanced critical engagement with the argument and content of the book, make clear and well structured arguments, and exhibit a proficient grasp of grammar, spelling, and style.
- **B papers (85-92)** clearly state the book's thesis, show an attempt to understand the book on its own terms and critically reflect on the issues at hand, make arguments, and show sufficiency in grammar, spelling, and style.
- **C papers (77-84)** state the book's thesis, present the content of the book, raise preliminary critical questions for further evaluation, limit evaluation to approval or disapproval of the author's arguments, and make repeated mistakes in grammar, spelling, and style.
- **D (70-76) and F (0-69)** papers lack evidence of grasping the book's thesis and content, limit evaluation to preformed judgments without serious consideration of the book's ideas, contain major grammatical, spelling, and stylistic errors, and demonstrate little or no attempt to proofread.

4. Cross of Christ Ministry Project (15%)

Theology done well should result in faithful Christian ministry. After reading the course materials on the doctrine of salvation and John Stott's *The Cross of Christ*, students will be required to do a ministry project related to the doctrine of the doctrine of salvation. This project will consist of **two parts:**

Part 1:

Students may choose to do **one** of the following:

- (1) Write a full-length sermon or Bible study **manuscript** on the doctrine of salvation and **present it in a church or Bible study group.**
- (2) **Share the gospel with a non-believer** and write a detailed report of the witnessing encounter, integrating insights from *The Cross of Christ* into the analysis of the encounter.
- (3) Write a counseling case study based on the contents in *The Cross of Christ*.

The page count will vary on Part 1. The goal is for students to do practical ministry based up *The Cross of Christ*.

Part 2:

Write a brief reflection **on the value of doctrinal study for completing Part 1.** This report should be between 3-5 double spaced pages.

5. Theological Research Paper (25%)

All students are required to write a brief research paper (12-15 double-spaced pages in length) on a particular doctrinal topic/question. Students may choose from the following topics or seek approval from the professor on another topic.

The research paper topic and thesis statement are due at the end of Unit 5!

Students should read the available research paper resources in the “Paper Writing Resources” section before writing. This includes an essay by John Frame entitled “How to Write a Theological Research Paper” and a comprehensive grading rubric for the assignment.

A more focused paper is usually a better product than an overly broad paper (e.g., like trying to cover all the doctrine of Christ in ten pages!). Students may select a doctrinal topic and seek to investigate how a particular theologian in history addressed that issue, or one may start with a particular theologian and investigate his or her unique theological perspectives (e.g., Calvin’s understanding of imputation or Karl Barth’s doctrine of inspiration). Students may also feel free to pick one of the doctrinal topics below and offer a biblical, philosophical, and historical analysis of the doctrine.

Possible Paper Topics (or Mix and Match)

The Work of Christ	Anselm of Canterbury
Theories of the Atonement	Arminius, James
Election	Athanasius
Reprobation	Augustine
Conversion	Barth, Karl
Justification	Brunner, Emil
Regeneration	Bultmann, Rudolf
Sanctification	Calvin, John
Glorification	Cappadocian Fathers, The
Adoption (Soteriology)	Edwards, Jonathan
Eternal Security/Apostasy	Hodge, Charles
The Person of the Holy Spirit	Justin Martyr
Baptism in the Holy Spirit	Kierkegaard, Søren
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Luther, Martin
Miracles	Mullins, E. Y.
Speaking in Tongues	Origen
The Nature of the Church	Schleiermacher, Friedrich
Church Polity	Tertullian
Baptism	Thomas Aquinas
Lord’s Supper	Wesley, John
Personal Eschatology	Zwingli, Huldrych
The Millennium	
New Heaven and New Earth	
Hermeneutical Approaches to Revelation	

6. Reading Report (5%)

At the end of the course, students will report in the online classroom the total percentage of the assigned readings which were completed.

Evaluation of Grade

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below.

Vocab Quizzes	15%
Discussion Board Questions	20%
Critical Book Review	20%
Ministry Project	15%
Theological Research Paper	25%
Reading Report	5%

Borderline grades will normally be determined by the numerical grade received (I round up from .5), unless the student's promptness and faithfulness in class attendance, positive attitude and contribution in class discussions, and preparedness and attentiveness in class warrants special consideration. These factors only apply when the student is fractionally close to the next highest grade.

Class Policies

1. Late Work

Because life and ministry happens, late work will be accepted—but with a penalty. For every day an assignment is late, five points will be deducted. No assignment over two weeks late will be accepted. Failure to submit every assignment will result in failure of the course.

2. Plagiarism

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Remember the words of the proverb: “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out” (Prov 10:19).

3. Lectures, Readings, and Assignments Schedule

The schedule runs Mondays through Saturdays. Though materials will be available on Sunday, the course instructor encourages (but does not require) students to take a day of rest and worship on Sundays.

Book reviews, ministry projects, and research papers are due Saturday at 11:59 PM CST at the end of the unit week (units begin on Monday).

4. Blackboard

- a. All assignments are submitted using Blackboard SafeAssign (anti-plagiarism) technology.
- b. Tests are conducted in Blackboard. Because this technology is accessible at home or office, there is a **trust policy** in place that the student will not compromise his or her integrity by looking at notes or books during the test. And as the proverb notes, “Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered” (Prov. 28:18).
- c. **BLACKBOARD DOES NOT SUPPORT iPADS OR ANDROID TABLETS.** Use a PC or a Mac to do all assignments in Blackboard.
- d. **SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN .PDF FORMAT.** If you need help with converting your files to .PDF, contact the ITC for assistance (see contact information below).
- e. Blackboard tends to work best with Mozilla Firefox. Download and use it for the best compatibility: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/>
- f. Discussion Board tip: Type responses in Microsoft Word first, and then paste them into the discussion board when ready to submit.

5. Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Appropriate Conduct in Discussions is especially important so that all students can have a chance to participate meaningfully. In a theology class with potentially contentious topics, it is essential to treat each other with love and kindness. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

Technical Assistance

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Helps

1. “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. Please contact them to secure help with writing: <http://nobts.edu/writing/>

2. Grammarly Download

Grammarly is a free grammar, form, and spell checker. It works better than the standard spell in Microsoft Word. It is a free download. Students should take advantage of it to improve their writing!
<https://www.grammarly.com/office-addin/windows>

Course Schedule

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
Unit 1 8/20-8/25	Introduction		Read Syllabus
Unit 2 8/27-9/1	The Work of Christ, pt. 1	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atonement • Atonement, Example theory of • Atonement, Governmental theory of the • Atonement, Limited • Atonement, Moral-influence theory of • Atonement, Penal-Substitution theory of • Atonement, Ransom theory of the • Atonement, Unlimited • Descent into Hell • Theology of the cross 	Erickson, ch. 35 Grudem, ch. 28-29 Discussion Board Question #1
Unit 3 9/3-9/8	The Work of Christ, pt. 2	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension of Christ • Christ, Exaltation of • Christ, Humiliation of • Expiation • Imputation • Propitiation • Recapitulation • Reconciliation • Resurrection • Session 	Erickson, chs. 36-38 Grudem, ch. 27

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
Unit 4 9/10-9/15	Election	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #3</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determinism • Election • Fatalism • Foreknowledge • Grace, Common • Grace, Special • Predestination • Preterition • Reprobation • Total depravity 	Erickson, ch. 43 Grudem, ch. 32 Discussion Board Question #2
Unit 5 9/17-9/22	Conversion, Regeneration	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #4</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arminianism • Augustinianism • Effectual calling • Grace • Irresistible grace • Pelagianism • Penance • Regeneration • Repentance • Semi-Pelagianism 	Erickson, ch. 44 Grudem, ch. 33-35 Research Paper topic and thesis due.
Unit 6 9/24-9/29	Justification, Adoption, Union with Christ	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #5</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption • Apostasy • Assurance of salvation • Communion of saints • Eternal security of the believer • Justification • Merit • Perfectionism • Perseverance, Doctrine of • Sanctification 	Erickson, ch. 45 Grudem, ch. 36-37 Discussion Board Question #3

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
Unit 7 10/1-10/6	Sanctification		Erickson, ch. 46 Grudem, ch. 38, 43 Book Review Due on 10/2
Unit 8 10/8-10/13	Perseverance and Apostasy	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #6</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body of Christ • Church discipline • Heresy • Invisible church, the • <i>Kerygma</i> • <i>Koinonia</i> • Laity • Missions • Schism • Sect • Spiritual warfare • Visible church 	Erickson, ch. 47 Grudem, ch. 40, 42 Discussion Board Question #4
Fall Break 10/15-10/20			
Unit 9 10/22-10/27	The Work of the Holy Spirit	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affusion • Anathema • Consubstantiation • Ecumenism • Excommunication • Free churches • Immersion • Real presence of Christ • Separation of church and state • Spiritual presence • Transubstantiation • Worship 	Erickson, chs. 39-41 Grudem, ch. 30, 39, 52-53 Discussion Board Question #5

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
Unit 10 10/29-11/3	The Nature and Government of the Church	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #8</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostolic succession • Baptism, believers' • Congregational form of church government • Episcopacy • Eucharist • <i>Ex cathedra</i> • <i>Ex operer operato</i> • Memorialism • Paedobaptism • Papacy • Presbyterianism • Sacrament 	Erickson, chs. 49-51 Grudem, ch. 44-48
Unit 11 11/5-11/10	Ordinances of the Church	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #9</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amillennialism • Annihilationism proper • Antichrist • Chiliasm • Dispensationalism • Eschatology • Immortality • Parousia • Postmillennialism • Premillennialism • Prophecy • Rapture, the 	Erickson, ch. 52-53 Grudem, ch. 49-50 Discussion Board Question #6
Unit 12 11/12-11/17	Eschatology, Pt. 1		Erickson, chs. 54, 56-57 Grudem, ch. 54-55 <i>Cross of Christ Ministry Project Due on 11/13</i>

Unit & Date	Class Topic	Vocabulary Words	Readings & Assignments Due
Thanksgiving Break			
11/19-11/24			
Unit 13 11/26-12/1	Eschatology, Pt. 2	<u>Vocabulary Quiz #10</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apokatastasis • Beatific vision • Conditional immortality • Filioque • Hades • Intermediate state • Limbo • Paraclete • Purgatory • Sheol • Universalism 	Erickson, chs. 55, 58 Grudem, ch. 41, 56-57
Unit 14 12/3-12/8			Research Paper Due on 12/8/18

Selected Bibliography

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Driscoll, Mark and Gerry Breshears. *Vintage Jesus*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.

Gibson, Jonathan and David Gibson, eds. *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her: Definite Atonement in Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspective*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2013.

Grillmeier, Aloys. *Christ in Christian Tradition*. 2 vols. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1988.

Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

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Patterson, Paige. "The Work of Christ." In *A Theology for the Church*, edited by Daniel L. Akin, 545–602. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007.

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Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Hill, Charles E. and Frank A. James, eds. *The Glory of the Atonement*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Torrance, Thomas F. *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*. Edited by Robert T. Walker. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

Doctrine of Salvation

Allen, David L., Eric Hankins, and Adam Harwood, eds. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Alexandria, LA: Message Books, forthcoming.

Bass, Christopher D. *That You May Know: Assurance of Salvation in 1 John*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2008.

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Doctrine of Holy Spirit

Cole, Graham A. *He Who Gives Life: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton: Crossway, 2007.

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Doctrine of the Church

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Alcorn, Randy. *Heaven*. Nashville: Tyndale, 2004.

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