



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THCM 2300-35: Christian Doctrine

Fall 2017/18- Term 181

4x Hybrid Dates: 8/28, 9/11, 9/25, 10 /9

Dr. Mitchell L. Landress

Adjunct Professor

Office: 863-773-6947

mitchell.landress@gmail.com

Cell: 863-448-2986

The mission of Leavell College 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

The seminary has five core values:

1. **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.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is ***Servant Leadership***.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to survey the doctrines of the Christian faith. Students are introduced to the biblical, historical, philosophical, and systematic aspects of theology. Special attention is given to Baptist doctrine.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Understand the biblical-theological elements of fundamental Christian doctrines.
2. Apply the principles of theological method to doctrinal positions.
3. Communicate a summary and critique of a theologian's doctrinal perspective.

Course Texts

- Holy Bible. You may bring any reliable, modern translation.
 - Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. 3rd ed. Edited by L. Arnold Hustad. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015. Print or digital.
 - Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. Print or digital.
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Methodology

The principal means of instruction for this course will be through lecture, small group work, large group discussion, and student presentations. Media presentations will be utilized to supplement the classroom lectures and discussions.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. **Because of the extremely limited class time in these Hybrid courses, students cannot miss any of the four class sessions.** A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class. This policy will be strictly enforced.

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. Late work penalties will be subtracted from the total grade after the work has been graded. The scale is as follows: initial -5%, after 1 day -15%, after 2 days -30%, after 4 days - 50%.

Course Grading

This course will be graded using the standard Leavell College grading.

Grading Scale

A 100-93	B 92-85	C 84-77	D 76-70	F 69 and below
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Course Requirements and Grading (400 points possible)

1. **Reflective Essays** (1 double-spaced page, 250-300 words). Each paper is worth a possible 10 points and is meant to be a creative, reflective essay. Avoid first person (“I, me, my”); simply state things as fact. You may cite names and Bible verses, but please do not include any quotations due to space constraints. This reflective essay is not meant to be a summary of a doctrine but your thoughts on the topic **after reviewing the textbook or slides**. A 10-point paper meets the length requirement and has excellent content, grammar, and syntax. A 9-point paper has a minor problem with the length, grammar, or syntax. A 7- or 8-point paper has multiple problems. Reflective essays will only be accepted **online** by the due date/time. See **Rubric for Assessing Reflective Essays** below. 100 points possible.
2. **Book Review** (4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font). Students will review *The Spiritual Condition of Infants*. The review should be 4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font. The review should address issues such as: summary and critique of the author’s thesis, arguments, assumptions, method, sources, logic, and style; specific examples of strengths and weaknesses of the book; discussion of its usefulness for the intended audience, how the book contributes to its field, other books which explore the issue, and whether or not you would recommend the book and why. Cite page numbers parenthetically; no footnotes; use quotations sparingly. See **Rubric for Grading Book Reviews** below. 100 points possible.
3. **Research Paper** (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of the course. The rubric for assessing this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric. The paper will be a summary and critique of a particular doctrine of a selected theologian. This will be due in stages. See **Guidelines for Research Paper** below. 100 points possible.
4. **Final Exam.** The final will be comprehensive and will consist of various types of questions (multiple choice, short essay, T/F, etc.) based on class notes, discussions, and textbooks. 100 points possible.

Course Outline

Please have the assigned readings completed before the class meeting and be prepared to take notes on and discuss the material in the reading assignments.

8/28 Erickson: Chapters 1–7

9/11 Erickson: Chapters 8–22

9/25 Erickson: Chapters 23–30

10/9 Erickson: Chapters 31–42

Additional Course Information

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook http://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/studentservices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.

Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support request for help with the site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.) BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard System. For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: Student_Bb_Help_ITCSupport@nobts.edu - for general technical questions/support requests. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/studentservices, email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800.662.8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

Need	Email	Phone	Web Page
Advising – Graduate Program	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counselingservices.html
Women's Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flvc.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



TWITTER.COM/NOBTS INSTAGRAM.COM/NOBTS FACEBOOK.COM/NOBTS

Guidelines for Research Papers

Students will submit an 8-12 page (plus bibliography), double-spaced research paper. You may choose the theologian and doctrine from the list below. The paper is to be a summary and critique of a selected theologian and doctrine. Please properly cite your sources and follow Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, 8th edition for the paper's form (footnotes) and style. The grade will be comprised of these assignments:

1. **Choose a theologian and doctrine.** Select one theologian and one corresponding doctrine from the list below (**5 points**):

Tertullian (ca. 160-235) - Trinity
Athanasius (296-373) - Christ, salvation
Augustine (354-430) - Trinity, creation, man, sin, salvation, church
Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) - existence of God
Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) - existence of God, salvation
John Calvin (1509-1564) - revelation, God, man, salvation
Martin Luther (1483-1546) - authority of Scripture, salvation, church
Balthasar Hubmaier (d. 1528) - salvation, baptism
Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) - God, original sin, salvation
Karl Barth (1886-1968) - revelation, Christ
C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) - theodicy, salvation
Karl Rahner (1904-1984) - Trinity, salvation
Jürgen Moltmann (b. 1926) - theodicy, last things
Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928-2014) - Christ
Hans Küng (b. 1928) - church
Gustavo Gutiérrez (b. 1928) - salvation
Clark Pinnock (1937-2010) - inerrancy, God, salvation, Holy Spirit, last things
James H. Cone (b. 1938) - theological method, God, salvation

2. **Reference Summary.** Get a working knowledge of your theologian and topic. Consult at least three different types of in-print reference works to learn about your topic. The different types of published reference works include: theological dictionaries, theological encyclopedias, historical or systematic theologies (not including your textbooks), and works of church history. After you have read the three sections or chapters about your topic, write a two-page, double-spaced summary of what you learned about the topic. No footnotes are necessary for this assignment. Mention the major issues, significant personalities, controversies (with dates and places), writings, and theological questions ("Why does this matter?") involved in your topic. List your sources on page three of your summary in Turabian format. See syllabus for due date. **15 points.**

3. **Bibliography.** Find at least four primary sources (written by the theologian) and six secondary sources (written about the theologian). Four of those ten sources must be from a peer-reviewed academic journal (*Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, not *Christianity Today*). The secondary sources must have been published in the last 25 years. Be sure to search ATLA through EBSCOHost; please contact the NOBTS library for the login information and passkey;

check syllabus for due date; use Turabian format. **10 points.**

4. **Two Article Summaries.** Find and read two articles (6-page minimum) from a peer-reviewed academic journal from the last 25 years on your topic. Then, write a one-page, single-spaced summary for each article. You will find these through ATLA via EBSCOHost. Please provide bibliographic information. 10 points each = **20 points.**

5. **Research Paper.** The paper must have the following distinct sections:

- 2-3 pages of **biography** on your theologian. Be sure to include why he was remembered as a notable theologian. What were his two or three most important books? Where did he teach or pastor?
- 3-5 pages of **summary**. Be sure to include his theological perspective (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, etc.) as you summarize his understanding of the doctrine. Provide examples from primary sources and interact with secondary sources.
- 3-4 pages of **critique**. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the view that you summarized? Be sure to interact with secondary sources at this point.

Tips for Writing a Research Paper

- **Begin early.** Do a little bit of work each week. Set an early, “false” deadline to finish your paper, which gives you time to follow the next suggestion. Work to obtain books weeks in advance of needing them in case they are not on the NOBTS library shelf. Books can sometimes be borrowed from other libraries; others may be available digitally.
- **Write and rewrite.** The key to good writing is rewriting. Words rarely come out right the first time. All of us need to put a draft away for a couple of days and return to it with “fresh eyes.” Enlist a reader who will provide constructive feedback. Rewriting will improve your work.

Rubric for Grading Theology Research Papers

The Research Paper will be graded as follows (50 points possible):

Content, 25 points

Up to 25 pts. will be awarded for the three sections as described above.

- 2-3 pages of biography on your theologian
- 3-5 pages to summarize his view of the doctrine, drawing from primary sources
- 3-4 pages of critical reflection on his view of the doctrine, noting the strengths and weaknesses of the theologian's view, interacting with secondary sources.
 - "A" quality work (23-25 points) - the paper presents a thorough biography, a clear summary of his view on the selected doctrine, and an astute theological critique
 - "B" quality work (20-22 points)
 - "C" quality work (18-19 points) - the paper lacks a thorough biography, clear doctrinal summary, and/or significant theological critique

Selection and use of sources, 10 points

Up to 10 points will be awarded for the ten sources which are relevant to the topic, meet the requirements for number and type of sources (four primary and six secondary; at least four from peer-reviewed academic journals), and are used and cited properly.

Form, 5 points

Up to 5 pts. will be awarded for conformity to Turabian format for title page, footnotes, and the works cited page.

- "A" quality work (5)
- "B" quality work (4)
- "C" quality work (3)

Style and Grammar, 10 points

- style - refers to the ability to construct clear and meaningful sentences and paragraphs
- grammar - proper use of English, including spelling, punctuation, and syntax
 - "A" quality work (9-10)
 - "B" quality work (8)
 - "C" quality work (7)

TOTAL...../50 pts.

**Competency Assessment Rubric for:
THCM2300 Christian Doctrine**

Student Name: _____

Semester _____

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the biblical-theological elements of fundamental Christian doctrines.
2. Apply the principles of theological method to doctrinal positions.
3. Communicate a summary and critique of a doctrinal perspective.

Assignment Description:

The student will write a paper that will bring together applications of the principles studies and the actual investigation carried out during the semester. The paper will cover one of the doctrines and use the methodology discussed in the class. The paper is required to be 8-12 pages, typed and double-spaced.

DOMAIN	LEVEL	FAILURE (0 POINTS)	BASIC (1 POINT)	COMPETENT (2 POINTS)	GOOD (3 POINTS)	EXCELLENT (4 POINTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to understand the doctrines studied.					
APPLICATION	Able to apply understanding to critique a theologian's doctrinal position.					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate the doctrinal perspective.					

**Book Review Grading Rubric for:
THCM2300 Christian Doctrine**

	10	8	6	4	2
Content	4-5 pgs in length provides a robust explanation and critique of author's thesis all details accurate	3 1/2 pgs in length acceptable explanation and critique of author's thesis minimal inaccuracies	3 pages in length provides some explanation and critique of author's thesis some inaccurate details	2 pages in length provides little explanation and critique of author's thesis many inaccurate details	<2 pages in length neither explains nor critiques the author's thesis no accurate details
Organization	addresses topic directly highly organized structure	addresses topic directly organized structure	addresses topic somewhat organized structure	somewhat addresses topic highly unorganized structure	wanders significantly from the topic no organized structure
Logical Support	superior examples of the topic	examples of the topic	acceptable support of the topic	minimal support of the topic	no logical support of the topic
Communication	exceptionally clear meaning to the reader	clear meaning to the reader	somewhat clear meaning to the reader	unclear meaning to the reader	incoherent for the reader
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	no visible or significant errors	errors do not disturb the reading process	errors sometimes disturb the reading process	errors often disturb the reading process	errors make reading difficult

Reflective Essay Grading Rubric for:
THCM2300 Christian Doctrine

	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0
Content	Nails the topic All details accurate	Stays on topic Minimal inaccuracies	Some deviation from topic; Some inaccurate details	Deviates from topic; Major inaccurate details	Deviates significantly from topic; No accurate details
Organization	Highly organized structure	Organized structure	Somewhat organized structure	Unorganized structure	No discernable structure
Logical Support Is evidence presented to support the claim(s)?	Superior logical support of topic or claim(s)	Logical support	Acceptable logical support	Minimal support	No logical support
Communication	Exceptionally clear meaning	Clear meaning	Somewhat clear meaning	Unclear meaning	Incoherent
Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling	No errors	1 error	2 different errors (rather than 2 occurrences of the same error)	3-4 different errors	5 or more errors

Selected Bibliography

- Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2014. **Systematic Theology**.
- Allen, David L., Eric Hankins, and Adam Harwood, ed. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2016. **Soteriology**.
- Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 5. Edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997. **Anthropology**.
- Elwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. **Theological Dictionary**.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995. **Historical Theology**.
- Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2005. **Ecclesiology**.
- Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. 6 Vols. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1999. **Revelation**.
- Huffman, Douglas, ed. *God Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. **Theology Proper**.
- Keathley, Kenneth. *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010. **Soteriology**.
- Putman, Rhyne R. *In Defense of Doctrine: Evangelicalism, Theology, and Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. **Theological Method**.
- Stott, John. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006. **Christology**.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *Life After Death: A New Approach to the Last Things*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012. **Eschatology**.
- _____. *The Holy Spirit—In Biblical Teaching, through the Centuries, and Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. **Pneumatology**.
- Torrance, Thomas F. *Atonement: The Person and Work of Christ*, ed. Robert T. Walker. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009. **Christology**.
- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003. **Christology**.