



**Systematic Theology 1 THEO5300**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Theological and Historical Studies Division**  
**Spring 2022 Online**

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**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competency addressed in this course is Christian Theological Heritage.

**Course Description**

This first course in systematic theology introduces the student to the methodology of the study of theology (Prolegomena), and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ. The biblical foundation and the relevant historical development are considered in comprehensive 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 revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ 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.

**Textbooks**

**Required Texts:**

The Bible (a modern version is preferable)

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998.  
ISBN:978-8010-3643-9

Macgregor, Kirk R. *Contemporary Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-310-53453-2. This book is a great introduction to the various theologians and theological systems. Your textbook assumes that you are familiar with these theologians and theological systems.

### Supplemental Textbooks:

1. No prerequisite courses are required. However, you should have completed BSHS5310 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics. I would recommend that you read Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth: Fourth Edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN# 978-0-310-51782-5. This is an excellent introduction to the field of hermeneutics.
2. Geisler, Norman L. *Systematic Theology in One Volume*. Minneapolis: MN, 2011. ISBN# 978-0-7642-0603-0. Dr Geisler is a conservative evangelical scholar known primarily as a classical Christian apologist. His work is a great complement to that of Erickson with an apologetic bent.

### Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- *Reading all assigned materials*. The course is structured to correspond with assigned chapters in the textbook. Likewise, the tests are based upon your assigned reading as well as BlackBoard materials.
- *Blackboard Materials*. The blackboard materials are designed to enhance and provide additional materials and not a summation of the textbook. That is to say, you still need to read your required textbooks.
- *Tests*. There are tests to assess requisite knowledge. Much of theological studies involves understanding concepts and terminology. A study guide has been provided to assist you in mastering specific concepts and vocabulary. The study guide highlights some important concepts and vocabulary but is not exhaustive. That is to say, you still need to read your required textbooks.
- *Integrative Papers/Presentations*. The purpose of this exercise is to assist you to synthesize and then integrate the lessons from theology into your own life and ministry.
- *BlueJeans Meetings*. I will be offering weekly voluntary BlueJeans meetings to answer any concerns and to go over some of the key concepts in the course materials.

### Course Requirements

1. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
  2. Integrative Essays. The purpose of these exercises are to assist the student in integrating their theology with life and ministry. Students will follow the directions to complete the three (3) integrative essays. CAVEAT: Please remember a quote attributed to two Nobel Prize in Physics winner, Richard Feynman and Albert Einstein: "If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself." Likewise, another Nobel winner (Chemistry), Ernest Rutherford, "If you can't explain your physics to a barmaid it is probably not very good physics."
- 1) Required Embedded Assignment: **This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.** Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbook and other theological resources (like commentaries, other theological textbooks or monographs), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation. What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism? Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel. This assignment should be 800-1200 words in length (No less than 2 pages and no more than 3 pages of running text). Three questions to consider: (1) Do people who have never heard of Jesus Christ have any knowledge whatsoever of God? (2) Is such knowledge of God, if it exists, adequate to save

people? (3) Does any common ground exist between non-believers and believers that can serve as a springboard for a conversation leading up to the Gospel? One way to approach this assignment is to look at Romans 1-2 and Acts 17:16-34. Also, look at the conversions of Abraham, Moses, and the commentary from Hebrews 11 concerning “faith.”

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 PTS)	BASIC (1 PT)	COMPETENT (2 PTS)	GOOD (3 PTS)	EXCELLENT (4PTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to understand the doctrinal topic.					
APPLICATION	Able to apply knowledge by relating it to the broader Christian worldview.					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate the doctrine to a ministry audience.					

- 2) Self-Reflection Paper (Required from all): This assignment addresses how the course enhanced your personal life and ministry. In 950 words or less, share how this course enhanced your personal life and ministry. That is, how was this course helpful to you and your ministry? Was there a specific topic that you felt contributed to your theological and spiritual growth?
- 3) Required Scholarly Research Position Paper. This is ***NOT*** an opinion paper (*opinion: a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge*). This assignment should be no less than 10 pages of running text and no more than 25 pages and include no less than ***six primary resources***. The paper ***MUST*** demonstrate substantive exegesis of the biblical texts. Choose one from below or submit your own (topic must be pre-approved)
  - i. The Bible. Formulate in your own words your doctrinal conviction about the Bible in a logically consistent and adequate way, organizing your conclusions in ways you can explain clearly, support with both biblical and nonbiblical evidence, communicate effectively, and persuade the reader. You might want to read and react to Joseph C. Sommer’s essay “Some Reasons Why Humanists Reject the Bible.” <https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/reasons-humanists-reject-bible/>
  - ii. The Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is an essential and peculiar doctrine of evangelical Christianity. Formulate in your own words your doctrinal conviction about the Trinity in a logically consistent and adequate way, organizing your conclusions in ways you can explain clearly, support with both biblical and nonbiblical evidence, communicate effectively, and persuade the reader. You will need to address the issue of subordinationism within the Trinity. A good resource is Millard J Erickson, *Who’s Tampering With the Trinity? An Assessment of the Subordination Debate* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2009).
  - iii. You can substitute one of your one choosing. If you have a topic that you are burning to research and write on please talk to the professor and get his prior approval. You can email me your proposal with the following components: (1) Draft title, (2) Research question, (3) Plan of study, (4) hypothesis or thesis, and (5) short resource bibliography.

- Quizzes – Students must take 11 quizzes throughout the course, which will cover all materials from the reading and notes. All quizzes contain multiple-choice, true/false, essays, and matching questions. All test are closed-book/closed-notes; and must be completed in 30 minutes. Preparation and study are essential for these quizzes.

### Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

	Percentage	Grading
Quizzes	30	A=93-100%
Embedded Assignment	20	B=85-92%
Self-Reflection Essay	10	C=77-84%
Research Paper	40	D=70-76%
TOTAL	100%	F= Below 70%

### Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

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

### Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

### Help for Writing Papers at “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.

### Plagiarism on Written Assignments

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.

Study Guide: This is not an exhaustive study guide. You will need to read your textbooks as well. The study guide also contains memory verses.		
1: Introductory Reading and Lecture [E] Part 1 Studying God  Definition of theology (Erickson, Grudem, Kendrick) Purpose of theology (Kendrick)	Unit 2:Part 2: Knowing God General and Special Revelation [E] Chp 6 -7 [M] Chp 1-3  Define and contrast the differences, if any, between general and special revelation Define and identify the areas (loci) in which we find God's	Unit 3:Inspiration [E] Chp 8 [M] Chp 4-7  Name the issues and responses in formulating a theory of inspiration Compare & contrast the five theories of inspiration What are Dewey Beegle's

<p>What are the “senses of theology?”</p> <p>What is the starting point of theology? What is Erickson’s starting point of theology?</p> <p>Characteristics of modernism, postmodernism and their effect on theology.</p> <p>Define Foundationalism, neofoundationalism</p> <p>What does Erickson mean by “unrepentant modernism?”</p> <p>Identify the process of doing theology</p> <p>Degrees of authority of theological statements</p> <p>Identify the three approaches to contextualizing theology</p> <p>Prologomena and its importance</p> <p>Identify the evangelical preconditions</p> <p>Theological Triage</p> <p>[M] Discuss the development of theology from the medieval period to Kant</p> <p>[M] Discuss the theological contributions of Schleiermacher and Hegel</p>	<p>general revelation</p> <p>Identify and differentiate the differing assessments of the value of general revelation</p> <p>Describe and evaluate the assumptions of natural theology</p> <p><i>A priori</i> and <i>a posteriori</i></p> <p>Theism</p> <p>Pantheism</p> <p>Panentheism</p> <p>Finite godism</p> <p>Atheism</p> <p>Identify and discuss the various modalities of special revelation</p> <p>Arguments for God’s existence</p> <p>Kalam cosmological argument</p> <p>Identify and explain Karl Barth’s understanding of General Revelation</p> <p>Discuss the difference between personal, propositional, &amp; narrative view of revelation</p> <p>Karl Barth</p> <p>Paul Tillich</p> <p>L. H. DeWolf</p> <p>Thomas Aquinas</p> <p>C.S. Lewis</p> <p>Abraham Kuyper</p> <p>Martin Luther</p> <p>Kevin Vanhoozer</p> <p>Identify and discuss the core of natural theology</p> <p>What is the Pannenberg circle’s view of revelation?</p> <p>Romans 1:20</p> <p>Hebrews 1:1-2</p>	<p>problems with biblical phenomena?</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:16</p> <p>2 Peter 1:20-21</p>
<p>Unit 4: Inerrancy &amp; Authority</p> <p>[E] Chp 9 -10</p> <p>[M] Chps 8-11</p> <p>Kierkegaard</p> <p>Karl Barth</p> <p>Emil Brunner</p> <p>C.S. Lewis</p> <p>John Rice</p> <p>Identify and discuss the three conceptions of inerrancy</p> <p>Discuss the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Word of God</p> <p>Identify and discuss the various</p>	<p>Unit 5: Greatness and Goodness of God</p> <p>[E] Chps 11- 12</p> <p>[M] Chps 12-15</p> <p>Differentiate between the acts of God and the attributes of God</p> <p>Identify the different classifications of the attributes of God</p> <p>Aseity</p> <p>Immutability</p> <p>Omnipresence</p>	<p>Unit 6: Immanence &amp; Transcendence</p> <p>[E] Chp 13</p> <p>[M] Chps 16-19</p> <p>How would you describe and critique 20<sup>th</sup> Century views of immanence from a biblical perspective?</p> <p>How would you distinguish among the traditional model of transcendence, Karl Barth’s model, and the model of Soren Kierkegaard?</p>

<p>views of illumination</p> <p>Identify and illustrate from the Bible normative and historical (or descriptive)</p> <p>Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy</p> <p>What is the epistemological importance of inerrancy?</p> <p>Define inerrancy</p> <p>What are the three issues concerning inerrancy and Erickson's responses?</p> <p>What are the three views of divine origin and authorship of Scripture</p>	<p>Unity</p> <p>Using scripture define and discuss God's constancy</p> <p>Evaluate Process Theology and its arguments against God's immanence</p> <p>constancy</p> <p>Omnipotence</p> <p>Omniscience</p> <p>Goodness</p> <p>What do we mean when we say that God is free?</p> <p>Identify and discuss the five different classifications for the attributes of God</p> <p>Identify and discuss the moral attributes of God</p> <p>Identify and discuss the holiness of God</p> <p>Identify and discuss Erickson's attributes of God's greatness</p> <p>Expound on the question: Do the Muslim and the Christian community worship the same God?</p>	<p>How would you evaluate the historical model of the theology of Hope?</p>
<p>Unit 7: Trinity</p> <p>[E] Chp 14</p> <p>[M] Chps 20-23</p> <p>For the major heresies and bad theology you should know, Who taught it? What is it? Key texts used? Where &amp; when was it condemned? Where does it show up today?</p> <p>Dynamic Monarchianism</p> <p>Theodaniam</p> <p>Filoque</p> <p>Perichoresis</p> <p>Ontologic and economic Trinity</p> <p>Monarchianism</p> <p>Subordinationism</p> <p>Patipassionism</p> <p>Socinianism</p> <p>Albigensianism</p> <p>Latin Averroism</p> <p>Monophysitism</p> <p>Modalistic monarchiansim</p> <p>Hypostasis</p>	<p>Unit 8: What God Does</p> <p>[E] Part 4</p> <p>[M] Chps 24-27</p> <p>Summarize the major features and the implications of the doctrine of divine government.</p> <p>If God either controls, directs, or influences man's decisions isn't God then responsible for evil?</p> <p>Differentiate between general and specific providence</p> <p>Discuss the merits of the law of reversal in the relationship between God's governing activity and sin</p> <p>Young earth vs old earth</p> <p>Theistic evolution</p> <p>Gap theory</p> <p>Day-age theory</p> <p>Apparent-age theory</p> <p>Punctuated 24-hour theory</p> <p>Scientific creationism</p>	<p>Unit 9: Humanity</p> <p>[E] Part 5</p> <p>[M] Chp 28-31</p> <p>Naturalistic evolution</p> <p>Fiat creationism</p> <p>Deistic evolution</p> <p>Progressive creationism</p> <p>Traducian</p> <p>Hylomorphism</p> <p>Monism</p> <p>Conditional unity</p> <p>What are the 7 contemporary images of humanity?</p> <p>Identify and critique the basic views of the human constitution with particular attention to Erickson's conditional unity.</p> <p>Evaluate Erickson's argument against Robinson's monism.</p> <p>Trichotomism</p> <p>Dichotomism</p> <p><i>Imago dei</i></p> <p><i>Soma</i></p>

<p>Homoiousios Economic trinity Tritheism Patripassianism Jansenism Karl Barth Gnosticism Monothelism Pelagianism Nestorianism Sabellianism <i>Ousia</i> <i>Homoousios</i> Immanent trinity Oneness Pentecostalism</p> <p>Explain the biblical evidence for the deity of three? What are the essential elements of the doctrine of the Trinity? Define “person,” “essence,” &amp; “mode” as it relates to the doctrine of the trinity. If Jesus is God, did God die when Jesus died? If God cannot be tempted by evil, how could Jesus be God (James 1:13; Mt 4:1)? How can Jesus be God and at the same time be the “Son of God” (Jn 1:1; 3:16)?</p> <p>Why did Jesus say the Father is “greater” than Him (Jn 14:28)? Is Jesus eternally subordinate to the Father? How can Jesus be God if He has a God over Him (Jn 20:17)</p>	<p>What is the difference between the plan of God and the decrees of God?</p> <p>Concurrence Government Preservation Foreordination Finitism Predestination</p> <p>How are miracles related to the providence of God? How does prayer relate to the providence of God?</p>	<p><i>Nephesh</i> <i>Psyche</i> Transmission of the soul? Identify and explain the relevant Scripture passages concerning the image of God in man. How do the substantive, relational, and functional views of the image of God differ? Who are the proponents of each position?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anthropological theologies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emil Brunner</li> <li>Millard Erickson</li> <li>Plato</li> <li>Thomas Aquinas</li> <li>Benedict Spinoza</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Unit 10: Sin [E] Part 6 [M] 32-35</p> <p>Original sin Arminianism Pelagianism Total depravity Prevenient grace Enabling grace Regeneration</p> <p>Identify and explain the five</p>	<p>Unit 11; Person of Christ [E] Part 7 [M] Chps 36-38</p> <p>Theologies of Adolf von Harnack Millard Erickson Rudolf Bultmann</p> <p>How would you explain the problems with the positions of Barth and Bultmann on the humanity of Christ?</p> <p>Using all resources respond to the</p>	

<p>conceptions of the source of sin</p> <p>Compare and contrast Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Tillich, Gustavo Gutierrez and Frederick Tennant's understanding of sin and its implications.</p> <p>Sin as defined by Dr Kendrick</p> <p><i>Poneros</i></p> <p><i>Asebes</i></p> <p><i>Enochos</i></p> <p><i>Hamartia</i></p> <p><i>Adikia</i></p> <p><i>Anomos</i></p> <p><i>Lawlessness</i></p> <p><i>Planan</i></p> <p><i>Paraptomai</i></p> <p><i>Hypocrites</i></p> <p><i>Kakos</i></p> <p><i>Parabates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theologies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albert Mohler</li> <li>Danny Akins</li> <li>Augustine</li> <li>Millard Erickson</li> <li>John Wesley</li> <li>John Calvin</li> <li>Augustin</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Identify and critique the various theories of original sin. Pay particular attention to Erickson's conclusion: "We all were involved in Adam's sin, and thus receive both the corrupted nature that was his after the fall, and the guilt and condemnation that attach to his sin. With this matter of guilt, however, just as with the imputation of Christ's righteousness, there must be some conscious and voluntary decision on our part. Until this is the case, there is only a conditional imputation of guilt."</p>	<p>question,"Could Jesus have sinned?"</p> <p>Christology from above/below</p> <p>Adoptionism</p> <p>Anhypostatic Christology</p> <p>Dynamic Incarnation</p> <p>Apollinarianism</p> <p>Arianism</p> <p>Docetism</p> <p>Ebionism</p> <p>Eutychianism</p> <p>Monophysitism</p> <p>Nestorianism</p> <p>Trinity</p> <p>Critique the growing tendency to view the incarnation of Jesus Christ a mythological and irrelevant for modern religious thought and practice.</p> <p>Why is the deity of Christ so important to the Christian faith? Use biblical references to support your answer.</p> <p>What are the elements of a "functional Christology" and how would you respond to them?</p> <p>What are the contemporary issues concerning Christological methodology, and how do they concern the church?</p> <p>Discuss the "search for the historical Jesus" and its importance for understanding the person and work of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>How has Rudolph Bultmann's understanding of Christology affected views of Christ and His work?</p> <p>How does the Bible explain the unity of the person of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>How is it possible to bring together a human and divine nature into one person, and why is it necessary?</p> <p>What objections have been raised against the virgin birth and how would you respond to them?</p>	
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## Course Schedule

**Professor has the discretion to change the scheduled assignment and due dates**

**[M]=Kirk R. Macgregor, *Contemporary Theology***

**[E]=Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.**

**All assignments are due on or before 10:00pm on the date indicated**

	Subject	Reading	Assignments	Quiz
Jan 18	Introduction to Syllabus Theological Triage Studying God	Unit 1 [M] [E] Part 1: Studying God Chp 1-5		
Jan 29	General & Special Revelation	Unit 2 [E] Chp 6, Chp 7 [M] Chp 1-3		Unit 1 Quiz Studying God
Feb 5	Inspiration	Unit 3 [E] Chp 8 [M] 4-7		Unit 2 Quiz General & Special Revelation
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Feb 12	Inerrancy and Authority	Unit 4 [E] Chp 9, Chp 10 [M] Chp 8-11	Embedded Assignment due	Unit 3 Quiz Inspiration
Feb 19	Greatness & Goodness of God	Unit 5 [M] Chp 12-15 [E] Chp 11-12		Unit 4 Quiz : Inerrancy & Authority
Feb 26	Immanence & Transcendence	Unit 6 [E] Chp 13 [M] Chp 16-19		Unit 5 Quiz Greatness & Goodness of God
•				•
Mar 5	Trinity	Unit 7 [E] Chp 14 [M] Chp 20-23		Unit 6 Quiz Immanence & Transcendence
Mar 12	What God does	Unit 8 [E] Part 4 [M] Chp 24-27		Unit 7 Quiz Trinity
Spring Break March 14-18				
Mar 26	What God does			
Apr 2	Humanity	Unit 9 [E] Part 5		Unit 8 Quiz What God does

		[M] Chp 28-31		
Apr 9	Sin	Unit 10 [E] Part 6 [M] Chp 32-35	Scholarly research paper	Unit 9 Quiz Humanity
Apr 16	Person of Christ	Unit 11 [E] Part 7 [M] Chp 36-38		Unit 10 Quiz Sin
Apr 23	Person of Christ		I need you to send me an email indicating that you are a graduating senior	
•				•
Apr 30			Self reflection paper due	Unit 11 Quiz Person of Christ
May 7				
May 14	Graduation			

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