

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

THTH 8302 Doctrinal Foundations for Contemporary Ministry

Winter Trimester -- February 23-25, 2016

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Room:

Time: T 1 pm -- 9 pm

W 8 am -- 4 pm

Th 8 am -- 4 pm

NOBTS 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.

Course Description

This seminar is designed to involve students in research and reflection upon the various doctrinal foundations for contemporary ministry. A twofold approach will examine the development and articulation of specified doctrines of the Baptist Faith and Message, and the development and implementation of the doctrines within the various contemporary ministries of the local church. This course also serves as preparation for the students to engage in theological reflection in other ProDoc seminars, the Final Project Proposal, and the Project Report.

Core Values Focus

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary highlights five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. While all five core values pertain to the class, the primary focus of the Seminary for the 2015-16 is Mission Focus.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing the seminar will demonstrate

- foundational knowledge of the methods and tasks of Christian theology;
- awareness of the critical significance of sound theological reflection for the church;
- appreciation of the Baptist theological heritage and major challenges it faces today;
- ability to develop strategies for teaching doctrine to contemporary believers;
- commitment to attentive reading, solid research, sound reasoning, and clear and substantive writing.

Required Textbooks

Blount, Douglas K. and Joseph D. Wooddell, eds. *Baptist Faith and Message 2000: Critical Issues in America's Largest Protestant Denomination*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

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

Putman, Rhyne R. *In Defense of Doctrine: Evangelicalism, Theology, and Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.

Bring **one or more** of the following Systematic Theology texts (If you have used other texts for systematic theology, bring them too.):

Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. 2d ed. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2014.

This “systematic” theology is a collection of essays on different doctrinal topics written by some of the leading voices in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. Bird is an Anglican and Reformed NT scholar from Australia who has written a systematic theology that integrates the insights of contemporary biblical theology into a systematic textbook.

Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. An encyclopedia of theological knowledge from an evangelical perspective. A very helpful resource for research papers.

Forlines, F. Leroy. *The Quest for Truth: Theology for a Postmodern World*. Nashville: Randall House, 2001. Forlines writes a clear, compelling systematic theology from a Reformed Arminian or classical Arminian perspective. Forlines is one of the most significant voices in contemporary Free Will Baptist theology.

Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013. Frame is a Presbyterian and Reformed theologian in the Westminster Tradition.

Garrett, James L. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*, vol. 1, 4th ed. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 2011. Dr. Garrett is a SBC theologian who offers an excellent historical examination of each of the doctrines discussed. Dr. Garrett is the go-to expert on Baptist doctrine.

- Grudem, Wayne.** *Systematic Theology.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. Grudem, a Calvinistic Baptist with charismatic undertones, has written one of the most popular and accessible theology texts available today.
- Horton, Michael F.** *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Horton is a well-known Reformed theologian and apologist who engages many contemporary issues and important philosophical trends in his work.
- Lewis, Gordon and Bruce Demarest.** *Integrative Theology.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. This evangelical theology—available in one-volume and three-volume editions—integrates biblical exegesis, historical research, apologetics, and pastoral application in its discussion of every doctrine.
- McKim, Donald K.** *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. A nice, concise dictionary of theological terms.
- Oden, Thomas C.** *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology.* New York: HarperOne, 2011. Oden is a Methodist/Wesleyan evangelical theologian who utilizes the resources of patristic Christianity to make a case for Christian doctrines. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the thought of early church fathers.
- Ryrie, Charles C.** *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth.* 2d ed. Chicago: Moody, 1999. This volume is a systematic theology written with lay persons in mind. Ryrie writes from a classic Dispensationalist perspective.
- Towns, Elmer.** *Theology for Today.* 2d ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2001. Towns, co-founder of Liberty University, offers an accessible systematic theology text from a “traditional” Baptist perspective.
- Williams, J. Rodman.** *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. Williams was a leading intellectual figure in the neo-charismatic movement called “renewal theology.” This is an excellent exposition of contemporary charismatic and Pentecostal theology.

Class Schedule

Time	Topic	Texts	Presenters
Tues, 2/23 1-1:30	Introductions and Syllabus		
Tues, 2/23 1:30 -3:00	Prolegomena: What is Theology?	Erickson, Part 1 Putman text	
Tues, 2/23 3:00-5:00	Doctrine of God & Revelation	Blount, Article 1, 2.1 Erickson, chs. 6-19	Team One: 1. 2.
5:00-6:30	Supper	Break	
Tues, 2/23 6:30-9:00	Christology	Blount, Article 2.2 Erickson, chs. 30-38	Team Two 3. 4.
Wed, 2/24 8:00-10:00	Pneumatology	Blount, Article 2.3 Erickson, chs. 39-41	Team Three 5. 6.
Wed, 2/24 10:00-12:00	Eschatology	Blount, Article 10 Erickson, chs. 54-58	Team Four 7. 8.
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Break	
Wed, 2/24 1:00-4:00	Ecclesiology	Blount, Articles 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14 Erickson, chs. 49-53	Team 5 9. 10.
Thurs, 2/25 8:00-12:00	Soteriology	Blount, Articles 4, 5, 13 Erickson, chs. 42-48	Team 6 11. 12.
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Break	
Thurs, 2/25 1:00-4:00	Anthropology	Blount, Articles 3, 18 Erickson, chs. 20-29	Team 7 13. 14.

Note: because this is a reduced-time class, do *not* plan on arriving late or leaving early. Because of rush hour traffic, flights out of town on Thursday should be scheduled at least after 6 pm.

Seminar Assignments

1. **Assigned Readings/Notes**– Read the following assigned texts. You are responsible for all the readings, not just those you present in class.
 - a. Read Putman, *In Defense of Doctrine* (100 points)
 - i. Due the first day of class, **February 23, 2016**
 - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
 - iii. Answer the following questions based on your readings. Bring answers to seminar to submit and be prepared to discuss.
 1. What is doctrine?
 2. Why is the ongoing development of doctrine important?
 3. Describe Kevin Vanhoozer’s theodramatic approach to doctrine.
 - b. Read Blount and Wooddell, *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*.
 - i. Due the first day of class, **February 23, 2016**
 - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
 - iii. Turn in outline-style notes on this book. There is some flexibility in format, but a bulleted list with sentences describing the basic teachings of each chapter is preferred. Use a method that would later serve you best.
2. **Seminar Presentation** (100 points)

During the seminar, lead the class discussion on theological topics. **Each student is required to read the Erickson chapters corresponding to the section they are assigned.** When we know how many are registered for the seminar, we will send out a sign-up sheet for you to request the topic to present.

Following are guidelines for leading discussions:

- i. Define the particular doctrine and describe particular facets of the doctrine.
- ii. Why and how is the doctrine that you present important?
- iii. What problems or controversies are found within this doctrine?
- iv. Prepare questions about the doctrine to stimulate discussion.
- v. What type of projects would this doctrine most readily inform or relate?
- vi. Provide a typical one-sentence statement of the objective of a DMin or DEdMin project report and lead the discussion of how the doctrine you present impacts that project report.

3. ***Focused Theology Text Reflection Review*** (100 points)

Due: March 19, 2016

Each student will sign up to review *one* of the following books (preferably one you have not previously read) and turn in a **10-16 page report**, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, with proper documentation (you may use parenthetical notation for references to pages in the reviewed book) and in doctoral-level style.

Every book will be assigned in the seminar on a first come first served basis. Reviews will be submitted via the seminar blackboard site. Reviews will be available for download as resources for seminar participants. If possible, choose a book that relates to a theme you might use for a project report:

The Text Reflection Review should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Each Text Reflection review should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account biblical and theological principles and sound reasoning. Students are expected to be demanding readers, aiming to profit from the books, even if the student might disagree with an author's assertions or conclusions (disagreement is a very real possibility). Some books will demand more from the reader than others. The goal of reading in theology is not merely to gain information alone but to increase in understanding. Be a teachable reader.
2. When you disagree with an author or if you find a book laborious or difficult to read, then follow the wisdom of Adler and Van Doran (*How to Read a Book*) and allow the author to speak on his or her own terms. *When you disagree, do so reasonably and not disputatiously or contentiously. Moreover, respect the difference between knowledge and mere personal opinion by giving reasons for any critical judgment you make.* You do not have to like or recommend a book. Not all books are worth reading. For this class, however, you are expected not only to learn from the readings but to hone your understanding of theology and theological issues. Your reflections should be helpful to other students who might want to study an issue treated in the book that you read and review.

3. Your review should include the following:
 - a. 3-5 pages: Brief biographical sketch of author(s), major thesis or arguments of the book, and brief summary of the content of the book. If your book has multiple authors, then do not provide specific information for each author. Simply describe the reason for multiple authors and the general but important distinctions between authors (for example, the *Four Views on Hell* book includes a dispensationalist, evangelical, Roman Catholic, and openness theologian)
 - b. 4-6 pages: What particular theological insights are offered in the book (or missing) and how do they practically relate to life and ministry in the church? How were you challenged by the book?
 - c. 3-5 pages: Reasonably describe the major strengths and weaknesses of the book. Offer a statement of recommendation; why you would or would not recommend this book, and to whom would you recommend the book, and so forth?

Note: you might profit by looking at published reviews of these books to get ideas for your own evaluation. Be sure to site the sources that you use.

Theology Texts to Review (choose one)

- Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2012. Ecclesiology
- Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 5, edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000. Harmartiology
- Bowman, Robert M., and J. Ed Komoszewski. *Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Christ*. Foreword by Darrell L. Bock. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007. Christology
- Brand, Chad Owen, ed. *Perspectives on Election: Five Views*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006. Doctrine of God and Soteriology
- Cole, Graham A. *He Who Gives Life: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007. Pneumatology
- Cole, Graham A. *The God Who Became Human: A Biblical Theology of Incarnation*. New Studies in Biblical Theology, ed. D. A. Carson. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2013. Christology
- Cooper, John W. *Body, Soul, and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Theological Anthropology

- Erickson, Millard J. *How Shall They Be Saved? The Destiny of Those Who Do Not Hear of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996. Soteriology
- Erickson, Millard J. *What Does God Know and When Does He Know It? The Current Controversy over Divine Foreknowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. Doctrine of God
- Habermas, Gary R. *The Risen Jesus & Future Hope*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003. Christology and Eschatology
- Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Nashville: Kregel, 2005. Ecclesiology
- Jowers, Dennis, ed. *Four Views on Divine Providence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Doctrine of God
- Nash, Ronald H. *The Concept of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983. Doctrine of God.
- Pinson, Matt, ed. *Perspectives on Christian Worship: Five Views*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009. Ecclesiology
- Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. Hamartiology
- Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. Doctrine of God.
- Sanders, Fred and Klaus Issler. *Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2007. Christology.
- Seifrid, Mark A. *Christ, Our Righteousness: Paul's Theology of Justification*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 9, edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000. Soteriology
- Stott, John. *The Incomparable Christ*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001. Christology
- Walvoord, John F., et al. *Four Views on Hell*. Counterpoints, edited by Stanley N. Gundry. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. Eschatology
- Wright, N. T. *Scripture and the Authority of God*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2011. Doctrine of Revelation

4. *Doctrinal Foundations Paper* (100 points)

Due: April 16, 2016

From the *Representative Models for Projects* listed below or the *Project Report Samples* posted on Blackboard, choose an example of a project report and write an 8-10 page Doctrinal Foundations section that meets the requirements of the DMin or DEdMin Handbook for a project report.

Seminar Assignment Values

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|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| • Assigned Readings (a) Questions | 15% | Due: Seminar Week |
| • Assigned Reading (b) Outline Notes | 15% | Due: Seminar Week |
| • Seminar Presentation | 15% | Due: Seminar Week |
| • Text Reflection Review | 25% | Due: March 19, 2016 |
| • Doctrinal Foundations Paper | 30% | Due: April 16, 2016 |

Pertinent Sections from Project in Ministry Handbook:

Doctrinal Foundations Section of Final Project Proposal

Identify and discuss two to four Christian doctrines which undergird and inform the proposed project. Your Doctrinal Foundations section should identify which classic Christian doctrines (theology, soteriology, ecclesiology, etc.) are most foundational to the project, presupposed by the project, or addressed in the project. Focus your discussion on these broader foundational doctrines and the implications of these doctrines, rather than merely exegeting biblical passages. However, do provide biblical support for these doctrines, utilizing good hermeneutics and avoiding eisegesis or proof-texting. Utilize the original biblical languages as appropriate in your discussion. In your discussion you may also identify how key issues, thinkers, or movements in theology (Calvinism vs. Arminianism, Lordship salvation vs. grace salvation, etc.) are informed by the project.

Theological Reflections Section of Project Report

Identify and discuss two to four key theological issues that were raised in the implementation of the project. Although this section (5-7 pages) may address some of the same general issues that were raised in the Doctrinal Foundations section of the Final Project Proposal, do not merely recapitulate the Doctrinal Foundations discussion. You may address issues surfacing in the implementation of the project, your theological reflections as you directed the project, or the issues raised in the project which have informed your pastoral theology.

Representative Models for Projects

1. *Equipping Program*: Developing materials and using them to train a small group of believers in some phase of direct ministry (e.g., training a ministry team to minister to persons in grief and working with them in the early stages of implementation). [See Appendix 1]
 - a. *Example*: The purpose of this project is to equip selected members of Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell, Louisiana, in personal evangelism skills.
 - b. *Project Goals*:
 - i. To research the field of evangelism in order to determine the essential skills needed for personal evangelism training.
 - ii. To develop a workshop to equip the selected members of Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell, Louisiana, in personal evangelism skills.
 - iii. To equip the selected members of Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell, Louisiana, in personal evangelism skills.

2. *Ministry Skill Enhancement*: A personal improvement program of some ministry skill (e.g., the development of goals and related exercises for improving diction, word selection, gestures, etc. in preaching, and the implementation and evaluation of those plans). [See Appendix 2]
 - a. *Example*: The purpose of this project is to enhance the project director's apologetic preaching skill at First Baptist Church, Junction City, Texas, in order to increase congregational worldview awareness.
 - b. *Project Goals*:
 - i. To research the field of apologetic preaching in order to identify the essential components necessary to address congregational worldview awareness.
 - ii. To develop a series of apologetic sermons incorporating the common components necessary to address congregational worldview awareness.
 - iii. To preach the series of sermons at First Baptist Church, Junction City, Texas.

3. *Strategy Planning*: Developing a strategy of Christian ministry among a targeted people group and beginning the early stages of implementation (e.g., an on-site study of a ski resort community and an ensuing strategy for reaching the population). [See Appendix 3]
 - a. *Example*: The purpose of this project is to develop a church relocation strategy for Central Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia.
 - b. *Project Goals*:
 - i. To explore the demographics of Chatham County, Georgia, in order to determine population densities and future growth initiatives.
 - ii. To examine strategy planning processes in order to inform the strategy planning team.
 - iii. To develop a strategy for Central Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia, for the purpose of relocation.
 - iv. To present the relocation strategy to the Deacons and Church Council of Central Baptist Church for approval.

4. *Community Assessment*—The assessment of social needs in a community and development of specific recommendations for meeting those needs (e.g., researching the social crises in an urban area and making recommendations for establishing a crisis pregnancy ministry). [See Appendix 4]
 - a. *Example*: The purpose of this project is to assess the social crisis of teenage pregnancy in Jefferson County, Tennessee, and to present specific recommendations to Central Baptist Church, Garden City, Tennessee, for establishing a crisis pregnancy ministry.
 - b. *Project Goals*:
 - i. To identify the demographic data and community needs related to the crisis of teenage pregnancy in Jefferson County, Tennessee.
 - ii. To research how a crisis pregnancy ministry could be used to meet the needs created by the crisis.
 - iii. To make specific recommendations to Central Baptist Church, Garden City, Tennessee, for the development of a crisis pregnancy ministry.

5. *Ministry Research*: Research of a general subject that issues forth into the development of conferences or workshops that address a related ministry concern (e.g., studying Mormonism and developing a workshop that equips believers to share Christ with Mormons). [See Appendix 5]
 - a. *Example*: The purpose of this project is to research ethnography in order to develop a workshop to equip members of Second Baptist Church, Port Hudson, Florida, to evangelize Hispanic migrant workers.
 - b. *Project Goals*:
 - i. To research the field of ethnography as it relates to evangelizing Hispanic migrant workers.
 - ii. To examine the demographic data of Port Hudson, Florida, in order to identify the Hispanic migrant worker population.
 - iii. To develop a workshop that would equip members of Second Baptist Church, Port Hudson, Florida, to evangelize Hispanic migrant workers

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Collections

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- Brown, Colin, ed. *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974-78, 1985.
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- Douglas, J.D., ed. *New 20th-Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Eliade, Mircea, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Religion*. 16 vols. New York: MacMillan, 1986.
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Systematic and General Theologies

- Akin, Daniel L., ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007.
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