



**THTH 8302 Doctrinal Foundations for Contemporary Ministry**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Professional Doctoral Studies (3 hours)**  
**Theological & Historical Studies**  
**November 10–12, 2025**

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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.

**Seminar 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.

**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.

Harwood, Adam. *Christian Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Systematic*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2022.

Harwood, Adam, and Kevin Lawson, ed. *Infants and Children in the Church: Five Views on Theology and Ministry*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2017.

Putman, Rhyne R. *The Method of Christian Theology: A Basic Introduction*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2021.

One book of the student's choice, selected from the list on page 7.

Also, please 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*, either edition. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007 or 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*, either edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013 or 2020. 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.

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*, 2 vol, any edition. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 1990–2014. Garrett was an SBC theologian who offered an excellent historical examination of each of the doctrines discussed.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville: B&H, 1994 or Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Grenz was a prolific Baptist author who ministered primarily in Canada. His systematic theology, as seen in his title, focuses on the theme of community.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*, either edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994 or 2020. 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.

Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2011. Oden is a Methodist/Wesleyan evangelical theologian who utilizes the resources of historical theology to make a case for Christian doctrines. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the concept of consensus Christianity.

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.

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: assigned readings, classroom lectures, classroom discussions, book reviews, and a doctrinal foundations paper. These methods are consistent with the belief that some learning occurs outside of, as well as in, the classroom. My goal is not to indoctrinate students into affirming all my views; rather, my goal is to encourage students to think critically about their own views, gain a deeper understanding of other perspectives, and be able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the supporting claims.

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- |                                     |     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| • Notes on Putman book              | 15% | Due: Oct. 6, 2025   |
| • Notes on Harwood and Lawson book  | 15% | Due: Oct. 13, 2025  |
| • Notes on Blount and Wooddell book | 15% | Due: Oct. 13, 2025  |
| • Seminar Presentation              | 20% | Due: During Seminar |
| • Text Reflection Review            | 15% | Due: Dec. 5, 2025   |
| • Doctrinal Foundations Paper       | 20% | Due: Dec. 12, 2025  |

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

## Technical Assistance

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

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) [Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## 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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas 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>

## 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 definitions, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## Course Schedule

Time	Topic	Texts	Presenters
Monday, Nov. 10 1:00-1:30 pm	Introductions & Syllabus		Harwood
Monday, Nov. 10 1:30-3:00 pm	Prolegomena	Blount, Introduction Erickson, Part 1 Harwood, Chapter 1	Harwood
Monday, Nov. 10 3:15-5:00 pm	Revelation	Blount, Article 1 Erickson, Part 2 Harwood, Part 1	
Monday, Nov. 10 5:00-6:00 pm	<i>Dinner</i>		
Monday, Nov. 10 6:00-8:45 pm	God	Blount, Article 2.1 Erickson, Parts 3-4 Harwood, Part 2	
Tuesday, Nov. 11 8-9:45 am	Humanity	Blount, Articles 3, 18 Erickson, Part 5-6 Harwood, Part 3	

Tuesday, Nov. 11 10:00-10:45 am	Christ, pt. 1	Blount, Article 2.2 Erickson, Parts 7-8 Harwood, Part 4	
Tuesday, Nov. 11 11am-1:00 pm	<i>Chapel and Lunch</i>		
Tuesday, Nov. 11 1:00-2:00 pm	Christ, pt. 2		
Tuesday, Nov. 11 2:15-4:00 pm	The Holy Spirit	Blount, Article 2.3 Erickson, Part 9 Harwood, Part 5	
Wednesday, Nov. 12 8:00-9:45 am	Salvation	Blount, Articles 4, 5, 13 Erickson, Part 10 Harwood, Part 6	
Wednesday, Nov. 12 10:00-11:45 am	The Church	Blount, Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 Erickson, Part 11 Harwood, Part 7	
Wednesday, Nov. 12 12:00-1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>		
Wednesday, Nov. 12 1:00-2:45 pm	Last Things	Blount, Articles 10 Erickson, Part 12 Harwood, Part 8	
Wednesday, Nov. 12 3:00-3:45 pm	<i>Seminar Wrap-up</i>		
<b>Dec. 5, 2025</b>	Focused Theology Topic Book Review Due		
<b>Dec. 12, 2025</b>	Doctrinal Foundations assignment due		

Note: Since this is a reduced-time class, please do not plan to arrive late or leave early. Due to rush hour traffic, flights out of town on Wednesday should be scheduled after 6:00 p.m.

## 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, *The Method of Christian Theology* (100 points)
    - i. Due four weeks before class, **Oct. 6, 2025**
    - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
    - iii. Turn in 3-5 single-spaced pages of 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.
  - b. Read Harwood and Lawson, *Infants and Children in the Church*
    - i. Due three weeks before class, **Oct. 13, 2025**
    - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
    - iii. Turn in 3-5 single-spaced pages of 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.
  - c. Read Blount and Wooddell, *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*.
    - i. Due two weeks before class, **Oct. 13, 2025**
    - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
    - iii. Turn in 3-5 single-spaced pages of 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 carefully the sections in Blount, Erickson, and Harwood corresponding to the topic on which they will present.** When registration for the seminar is settled, the professor will circulate a Google document for students to sign up for the topic presentation.

Prepare PowerPoint slides and a fill-in-the-blank handout for your presentation.

Don't merely teach the content of the doctrine; instead, prepare discussion questions that will lead the group to consider the doctrine.

Guidelines for leading discussions:

- i. Define the 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 impacts the project report.

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

Due: **Dec. 5, 2025**

Each student will review one of the following books (one you have not previously read) and submit a **9-15 page report**, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12, with proper documentation (please use parenthetical notation for references to pages in the book).

If possible, choose a book that relates to a doctrine you might address in your 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 disagrees with an author's assertions or conclusions (disagreement on some points is likely). Some books will demand more effort from readers than others. The goal of reading in theology is not merely to gain information 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 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 the author(s), major thesis or arguments of the book, and brief summary of the content of the book. If the book has multiple authors, then do not provide specific information for each author. Instead, simply describe the reason for multiple authors and the general but important distinctions between the authors (for example, the Four Views on Hell book includes a dispensationalist, evangelical, Roman Catholic, and openness theologian).
  - b. 3-5 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 footnote any sources that you use.

#### Theology Texts to Review (choose one)

- Allen, David L., and Steve W. Lemke, eds. *Calvinism: A Biblical and Theological Critique*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2022. Salvation

- Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2012. Ecclesiology
- Dockery, David S., and Yarnell, Malcolm B. III. *Special Revelation and Scripture*. TPG. Brentwood: B&H Academic, 2024. Revelation
- Dockery, David S., with Lauren McAfee, ed. *Created in the Image of God: Applications and Implications for our Cultural Confusion*. Nashville: Forefront, 2023. Humanity
- Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*, either edition. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005 or 2019. Ecclesiology
- Jamieson, R. B., and Tyler R. Wittman. *Biblical Reasoning: Christological and Trinitarian Rules for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022. Trinity and Christology
- Jowers, Dennis, ed. *Four Views on Divine Providence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Doctrine of God
- Peckham, John C. *Divine Attributes: Knowing the Covenantal God of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021. Doctrine of God
- Thiselton, Anthony. *The Holy Spirit—In Biblical Teaching, through the Centuries, and Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. Holy Spirit
- Burk, Denny, et al. *Four Views on Hell*, second edition. Counterpoints, edited by Preston Sprinkle. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Eschatology

#### 4. *Doctrinal Foundations Paper* (100 points)

Due: **Dec. 12, 2025**

Select a representative model, write a one-sentence summary of a project (though you are not committing to it at this point), and write an 8-10 single-spaced page Doctrinal Foundations paper that meets the requirements of the DMin or DEdMin Handbook for a project report. See explanations and examples in the Project in Ministry Handbook (available on the NOBTS Professional Doctoral Office resources website).

(Pertinent Sections from Project in Ministry Handbook, revised January 2025)

#### Representative Models for Projects

1. **Equipping Program** - Equipping a small group of believers with the ministry skills needed for a specific task.
2. **Preaching Skills Enhancement** - Improving the preacher's skill—typically utilizing a particular form of preaching to convey a specific message.
3. **Strategy Planning** - Developing a strategy to address a specific ministry need.
4. **Community-Needs Assessment** - Assessing social needs in a community and developing specific recommendations to meet those needs.
5. **Ministry Research** - Researching a particular ministry need to develop a resource, like a handbook, to address the issue.

#### Doctrinal Foundations Section of Final Project Proposal

Identify and discuss two to four Christian doctrines (ecclesiology, Christology, soteriology, etc.) and how these doctrines undergird the project. Provide biblical support for these doctrines without merely exegeting biblical passages, utilizing sound hermeneutics and avoiding eisegesis or proof texting. Utilize the original biblical languages as appropriate in your discussion. How is the project informed by key issues, thinkers, or movements in theology?

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Historical Theologies

- Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Baptist Theology: A Four-Century Study*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2009.
- McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

### Systematic Theologies

- Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B&H, 2014.
- Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*.
- Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Abridged in one volume. Edited by John Bolt. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Beeke, Joel, and Paul Smalley. *Reformed Systematic Theology*. 4 vols. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019–2024.
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- Conner, Walter T. *Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: Broadman, 1937.
- Dagg, J. L. *A Manual of Theology*. 1857; repr. Harrisonburg, VA: Gano, 1990.
- Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. 1994; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
- Letham, Robert. *Systematic Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019.
- Lewis, Gordon, and Bruce Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. 3 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991–1997.
- Swindoll, Charles R., and Roy B. Zuck, eds. *Understanding Christian Theology*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *Systematic Theology*. Minneapolis: Eerdmans, 2015.