SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I

Syllabus
(Th 611)

Purpose of Course

Professional Christian leaders need to have a sure and settled foundation as to their understanding of the basic teachings of Christianity. Clear formulation and articulation of such doctrines, therefore, is foundational to an effective ministry. Moreover, such leaders need to have the tools and skills necessary to continue personal research concerning these doctrines for the rest of their ministry. As the first of two courses in Systematic Theology, the purpose of the current course is to guide in a discussion of the doctrines of Theism, Bibliology, Theology, Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology. Since this is a survey of such a broad area, many questions will remain unanswered.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the major issues involved in formulating and articulating the doctrines related to Theism, Bibliology, Theology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology.
2. Identify central Biblical passages pertaining to these major theological issues.
3. Identify the major terms and theologians who have made a great impact on the historical development of Systematic Theology.
4. Utilize some modern technological tools (including the Internet) as a means to assist in proper research.
5. Research and prepare pertinent bibliographies, as well as outline and deliver oral presentations which set forth logically and critically the basic issues relating to at least two important areas of theological concern.

Format

The format this semester will be structured along the lines of a seminar. As time permits, some time will be allowed for work in Kellar Library where students will be able to use the Internet, 

1Office hours for consultation with the professor will be on Monday, 5:00-5:30 pm, Tuesday from 10:30 to 12:00 noon and other times by appointment. Students should feel free to request further information either by phone or email. The professor’s home telephone number is: 903-586-5920. The office number is: 903-586-2501 ext. 223. Email address is: philipbryan@bmats.edu

2The class meets in the Mount Olive Room, Mondays, at 6:00 p.m.
Periodical Indexes, the card catalog, and computers as they conduct research and prepare various reports. These reports by students, response and discussion directed by the professor, and other research will provide the bases for class discussion.

Reading

1. **Textbook**

2. **Other books**
   Erickson, Millard J. *The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology*

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Read the assigned readings in the textbook and other materials, including at least ONE of the following options, for a total of 150 pages of reading (besides the readings in Erickson theology): (a) Carson or White; (b) Grudem — chapters 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24; (c) Packer; (d) Ross and Van Bebber or Erickson, *Concise Dictionary* (15%).

2. Prepare one oral report for presentation to the class, as a summary of two chapters out of the book by Erickson. *Students should provide all members of the seminar with detailed outlines of their presentations, i.e., reports (4-6 pp., single-spaced). Each report should be well-documented and include all pertinent bibliographical information.*

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3 This is the only required reading for ALL students. It is available on our virtual bookstore on the Web.

4 Required of students who utilize these books in making brief summaries and oral presentations and to complete the collateral reading assignment. See reading assignment (#1).

5 The recommended manual of style for bibliographies, etc.
information. Neatness is important; part of the evaluation of the reports will be based on proper form, spelling, etc. Each oral report should be limited to 45 minutes during its presentation. (15%) 

3. Take three exams over class discussion, student reports, and the text book. These quizzes will focus on terms, people, and definitions. They will also contain some essay questions, designed to create practical reflection on the materials studied. (45%) 

4. Attend classes and contribute to class discussion in a manner that will reveal that the assigned materials have been read. (15%) Seminary rules about absences, etc., will follow the stipulations given in the current BMATS Catalog, pp. 44-45: 

Tardiness or absences from class may result in a reduction of the final grade a student may receive in a particular course. A student who misses more than one-fourth of the classes for any course, without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the professor, will receive an automatic "F" for the course. 

 Normally, for unexcused absence from a regularly appointed test, or examination, five points shall be deducted from the class grade for the semester. Three tardinesses are equivalent to one absence. 

5. Prepare an annotated bibliography of ten scholarly articles written during the past ten years. Assignment of specific topics will be made at the first session. Make a copy of the bibliography for each member of the seminar. (5%) 

6. Prepare a bibliography of ten books written during the past ten years. This list must be derived by means of searching some of the data bases contained on the Internet. Make a copy of the bibliography for each member of the seminar. (5%) 

7. Failure to present assignments at the appropriate (i.e., assigned) time will result in a reduction in the grade for the assignment. 

Weekly Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introduction of Course and Assignments</td>
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<td>9/1</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Class dismissed for Labor Day</td>
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6 Students are referred to a brief document entitled “Instructions for Preparing Outline Reports” which gives detailed instructions and suggestions for report and summary preparation, as well as other pertinent information. This is available on the BMATS web site: http://bmats.edu/syllabi/BRYAN/reportaid.pdf

7 Specific assignments of summaries will be included in the revised syllabus.
   Lecture: Chapter 1 ................................. Professor

9/15  4. **Summary:** Chapters 2 & 3 – ................................. G. Workman
   (Bib.: “Existentialism”)
   **Summary:** Chapters 4 & 5 – ................................. E. Goble
   (Bib.: “Contemporizing Theology”)

9/22  5. Chapters 6 & 7
   **Special Report on Postmodernism.** ............................. B. Wilkinson
   (Bib.: “Postmodernism”)
   **Part 2: Knowing God -- Bibliology (8-12)**
   **Summary:** Chapters 8 & 9 – ................................. M. Taylor
   (Bib.: “Particular Revelation”)

9/29  6. **Summary:** Chapters 10 & 11– ............................. J. Currie
   (Bib.: “Inerrancy”)
   Lecture: Chapter 12. ........................................... Professor
   **Special Report--KJV Controversy –** .......................... S. Kirkland

   **Summary:** Chapters 13 & 14 – ............................. E. Roberson
   (Bib.: “The Goodness and Greatness of God”)

10/13  8. **Exam (Parts 1 & 2: Studying God & Knowing God)**

10/20  9. **Summary:** Chapters 15 & 16– ............................. J. Cole
   (Bib.: “The Trinity”)
   **Part 4: What God Does -- Theology (17-21)**
   Lecture: Chapter 17. ........................................... Professor

10/27 10. **Summary:** Chapters 18 & 19 – ............................. D. Jones
   (Bib.: “Creation”)
   **Summary:** Chapters 20 & 21 – ............................. M. Loua
   (Bib.: “Angels”)


11/10 12. **Part 5: Humanity -- Anthropology (22-26)**
   Lecture: Chapter 22. ........................................... Professor
   **Summary:** Chapters 23 & 24 – ............................. B. Harris
   (Bib.: “The Image of God”)

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* Numbers indicate chapters, either in the Erickson textbook or in other specified books.
11/17  13. **Summary**: Chapters 25 & 26 – C. Proctor  
Bib.: “Constitutional Nature of Man”

**Summary**: Chapters 21 & 22 of Grudem – B. Wagner  
Bib.: “Man as Male and Female”

**Summary**: Chapters 23 & 24 of Grudem – J. Tolbert  
Bib.: “Original Sin”


**Lecture**: Chapter 27 – Professor

**Summary**: Chapters 28 & 29 – W. Parks  
Bib.: “Source or Origin of Sin”

**Summary**: Chapters 30 & 31 – D. Hinton  
Bib.: “The Magnitude of Sin”

**Bibliographies to be Presented to Class Members**

12/1  15. **Exam III (Parts 5 & 6: Man & Sin)**

**Challenge**

We have an ambitious program ahead of us this semester, but with all of us working together, we should learn a lot and have a very profitable time. May God bless and guide you!^9

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^9This syllabus and most other faculty syllabi can be found on the BMATS web page: [http://bmats.edu/syllabi](http://bmats.edu/syllabi)