Course Description

The nature, necessity, and divisions of theology are studied on an advanced level. The study includes an analysis of the Christian and non-Christian worldviews of God; and surveys in the fields of Bibliology, Theology, Angelology, Anthropology and Hamartiology.

Course Purpose

Knowledge of the teachings of Scripture is essential for those involved in Christian ministry and is beneficial to the spiritual growth of any believer. Utilizing the text of Scripture, the teaching of men about the Scriptures, and human reason, this course will help you develop a basic theological understanding and the ability to further your theological knowledge.

Course Texts


Course Requirements

1. **Exams**

   There will be two (2) exams a mid-term and a comprehensive final. Exams will test the student’s comprehension of the assigned readings, class discussions, and lectures. Taking good notes will be critical to success on the exams. The mid-term is worth 15% and the final is worth 20% of the overall grade for the course.
2. **Research Papers and Presentations**
Prepare two papers of five to seven (5-7) pages on assigned subjects. These papers should reflect maturing theological scholarship and thorough knowledge of the subject. The goal of the paper is to introduce to your fellow students theological views beyond the ones advocated in the textbook and to critically analyze them. At a minimum the paper should reference (via footnote) at least three systematic theologies (other than the textbook), two monographs, and one article from a peer-reviewed journal. A summary of the contents of the paper will be presented to the class by the student on an assigned date. Each of these papers is worth 12.5% of the final grade.

3. **Book Reviews**
Submit book reviews on the specified dates for the books written by Yarnell and Keathley. A book review is five (5) pages, double-spaced, and includes: a brief introduction, possibly with biographical information on the author (1 page or less), a summary of the book’s contents (3 pages), critical reflection on the book (1 pages), and a brief conclusion (1 paragraph). A book review should include full bibliographic information for the book under review at the top of the first page. Quotations from or references to the book being reviewed should be noted with parenthetical page citations. See the sample book review in the Syllabi section of the website for additional guidance. Each book review is worth 10% of the final grade.

4. **Reflection Papers**
Every week (excepting exam days) bring to class a one (1) page single-spaced reflection paper from the week’s reading. A reflection paper should include the following: a summation of the main points in the weekly reading (simply reproducing the headings from the chapter is not acceptable), a reaction to or reflection on the reading, and two or three questions about the reading. The reading reflections may be in the form of paragraphs, an outline, or bullet points. Reflection papers must be written in proper English. These papers are worth 10% of the final grade. The lowest scoring paper will be dropped in the calculation of your final grade.

5. **Recitation**
Every student should come to class prepared to intelligently discuss the assigned reading. Class discussion forms a critical part of the learning experience and good discussion can only occur when both the students and professor prepare for it. You are expected to be able to summarize and discuss the main ideas from the reading, as well as to interpret relevant Scripture passages. Students may “pass” on class discussion one time without penalty. Unexcused absences automatically count as a “pass.”
Course Grades

Mid-Term Exam  15%
Final Exam  20%
Book Reviews  20%
Research Papers  25%
Reflection Papers  10%
Recitation  10%

The seminary’s standardized grading scale will be followed in assigning final grades:

A  91-100%
B  81-90%
C  71-80%
D  61-70%
F  0-61%

Course Policies

1. Attendance and Participation
   Students are expected to attend every class session. More than one unexcused absence will result in grade reduction. Under certain circumstances, such as the severe illness, injury, or death of an immediate family member or your own illness or injury, every effort will be made to accommodate you, provided you contact the professor to explain your situation. Additionally, it is recognized that many of you are engaged in professional Christian ministry, which will sometimes intrude on your academic life. The professor will try to accommodate the needs of your people as you attempt to balance the requirements of ministry and study.
   Personal electronic devices (computers, cell phones) may be used in class for taking notes only. Using the internet, texting, or taking phone calls during class is strictly prohibited unless given explicit permission to do so. A violation of this rule may result in expulsion from class or the prohibition of electronic devices in the classroom.

2. Deadlines
   You are expected to adhere to all deadlines without fail. Late work is automatically worth zero points. You have been informed of the various due dates well in advance and are expected to meet them regardless of personal impediments that may arise immediately before something is due. Deadlines are a fact of life. You can choose to plan ahead so that you meet them, or you can be content with the mediocrity of last-minute work. Either way, you still have to be on time.

3. Grammar and Style
   Major papers and book reviews are expected to employ proper English grammar and must conform to the standards in Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (on issues that Turabian does not address, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed.). Papers that have
more than three grammatical errors or more than two style errors will be immediately returned to the student for correction. The student must then resubmit a grammatically sound and stylistically proper paper. The grade of the paper will be reduced 10 percentage points every day past the due date until an adequate paper is produced. Students are encouraged to consult with the professor before the due date to ensure that their paper will not be returned.

4. Academic Integrity
The sanctity of truth is central to those who believe in a God who cannot lie and who forbids false witness. Academic honesty is the application in the academic world of the sanctity of truth. A student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student personally has done that work and that it has not been submitted for credit in any other course without permission. Unless credit is explicitly given to sources, the student is asserting that the words and/or the thoughts are the student's own original work. Academic dishonesty is falling short of these standards. It includes, but is not limited to: cheating, submitting work which was prepared by another person, not giving credit on papers to sources, and submitting without approval work originally prepared by the student for another course.

5. Special Needs
Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the professor at the beginning of the course in order for special arrangements to be considered.

6. Syllabus Disclaimer
During the course of the term the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary. All such modifications will occur during a regularly scheduled class meeting.