TH611x: Systematic Theology I
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The purpose of this course is to introduce the nature, necessity, and divisions of theology and to survey the major issues within **Theology (proper), Bibliology, Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology**. Professional Christian leaders need a settled foundation as to their understanding of the basic teachings of Christianity and also need the skills and tools necessary to continue personal research during their ministry. This course is designed to meet that need by introducing five areas of Christian doctrine and provide the students opportunity to formulate and articulate their personal understanding of those areas.

**Required Textbooks:**

**Suggested Supplemental General Systematic Theologies:**

**Suggested Supplemental Monographs:**

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:
1. Discuss the major divisions of Systematic Theology.
2. Delineate the various fields of theology: Systematic, Biblical, Historical, etc.
3. Defend the need for Systematic Theology for the pastor and Christian leader.
4. Discuss the major issues involved in developing and articulating the major concepts of Systematic Theology.
5. Identify central scriptural passages for the major theological issues.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of various methods for Systematic Theology and utilize some modern technological tools to assist in proper research.
7. Identify leading writers of Systematic Theology and analyze their approach and methodology.

Course Requirements:
1. Attend all classes and be prepared to discuss the major issues for each class by reading the textbook assignments and other reading assignments (see class schedule for content).
2. Prepare an oral presentation for the class as a summary of one or two chapters of the textbook by Erickson. The chapter oral reports will be assigned and divided in relation to the number of students enrolled and assignments will be made at the first-week class. All students in the class should be provided a detailed outline of the presentation (3-4 pages).
3. Write a short paper on the need of Systematic Theology for the preacher (3-5 pages, due October 14).
4. Exams and/or written assignments will be given to indicate the student has an understanding of the issues involved in the various theological disciplines.
5. Prepare an Annotated Bibliography of 5 Systematic Theologies in which the author’s background, approach, and method are analyzed. Each entry should be 1 page. Due November 18.
6. Read and write a book review on three (3) books (monographs). Each book should be related to a different topic of Systematic Theology discussed in this course. The list of suggested monographs serves as a source for the books to review. Books not included on that list may be used, but must be approved by the instructor. The book reviews will be due when the topics are discussed in class. See the class schedule.
7. Prepare an annotated bibliography of 5 books and 5 scholarly articles written during the past ten years related to the topics of Systematic Theology discussed during this class. This list can be derived by searching some data bases contained on the internet. The purpose of this assignment is to make the student aware of contemporary and recent writings and the issues currently being addresses in theological studies. A copy of the annotated bibliography should be made available for each member of the class.

Grading:
Weekly Grade (including attendance, participation in class discussions, completion of reading assignments, and quizzes) 10 %
Tests 30 %
Oral Presentations 15 %
Short Paper 10 %
Book Reviews 15 %
Annotated Bibliography 20 %

NOTES: 1. Weekly quizzes will be given only if the students do not give evidence of having read the assigned reading from the textbooks and other sources. When class discussions begin to
reflect little or poor “wrestling” with the issues, from that point on, there will be weekly quizzes and/or weekly written assignments.

2. Failure to present oral and/or written assignments at the assigned time will result in a reduction in the grade for that assignment.

Class Schedule (Tentative)

August 30  Introduction to the course, Introduction to Systematic Theology
            Erickson chapters 1-2
September 6  Method, source, and language of Systematic Theology
            Erickson, chapters 3-7
            Revelation
            Erickson, chapters 8-9
September 13 Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Authority of God’s Word
            Erickson, chapters 10, 11, 12
September 20  EXAM 1 - Introduction and Bibliology
            BIBLIOLOGY Book Reviews due
September 27 Attributes of God
            Erickson, chapters 13-14, Tozer
October 4    God’s nature
            Erickson, chapters 15-16
October 11   God’s work
            Erickson, chapters 17-19
            THEOLOGY Book Reviews due
October 18   Good and Evil in the world and Angels
            Erickson, chapters 20-21; Dickason
            ANGELOLOGY Book Reviews due
October 25   Humanity - Introduction and Origin
            Erickson, chapters 22-24
November 1   BMA Arkansas - EXAM 2 - Theology and Angelology
November 8   Humanity- Nature and universality
            Erickson, chapters 25-26
            ANTHROPOLOGY Book Reviews Due
November 15  Sin - Nature and source
            Erickson, chapters 27-29
November 22  THANKSGIVING - No Class
November 29  Sin - Magnitude and dimensions
            Erickson, chapters 30-31
            HAMARTIOLOGY Book Reviews due
December 6   FINAL EXAM - Anthropology and Hamartiology