Systematic Theology II  
TH 612  
Spring 2011: Thursday, 6:00-9:00 pm, Winters Room  
Professor: David Erickson  
derickson@bmats.edu (903) 795-3677

Course Description

This course consists of advanced studies in Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology and eschatology. Special emphasis is given to the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

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 gain theological understanding on a more advanced level and the ability to further your theological knowledge.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course the student should:

1) Objective: Demonstrate a general knowledge of the topics covered in Systematic Theology II (Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology and eschatology).  
Acquisition: The student will complete weekly reading assignments and participate in weekly class discussions and lectures.  
Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation, the writing of reflection papers, and questions on the exams.

2) Objective: Have the ability to engage in ongoing research within the field of systematic theology.  
Acquisition: The student will conduct individual research and writing on a particular theological topic.  
Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a research paper that successfully meets the criteria in the grading rubric.

3) Objective: Comprehend Baptist ecclesiology, understand its importance, and distinguish between the ecclesiology of Baptists and Evangelicals.  
Acquisition: The student will attend lectures, complete weekly reading assignments, and read Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches.  
Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation and the completion of a critical book review that successfully meets the criteria in the grading rubric.

4) Objective: Engage in personal theological reflection that leads to the personal appropriation and rejection of various theological doctrines.  
Acquisition: The student will complete weekly reading assignments and participate in weekly class discussions and lectures.  
Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a personal statement of faith.
Course Texts


Most textbooks for Seminary classes are available for purchase at Marie’s Christian Book & Gift Center, 597 S. Ragsdale, Jacksonville.

Course Requirements

1. **Exams**
   There will be two (2) exams, a mid-term and a 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 20% and the final is worth 15% of the overall grade for the course. The final is not comprehensive.

2. **Research Paper**
   Prepare a paper of ten to fifteen (10-15) pages on an approved subject (you may select a subject from the suggested topics or ask to do a personally created topic). This paper should reflect maturing theological scholarship and thorough knowledge of the subject. The goal of the paper is to critically analyze different views on the subject and to advocate a specific theological viewpoint as the one that best reflects Scriptural teaching. At a minimum the paper should reference (via footnote) at least ten different sources, including at least two monographs, two articles from peer-reviewed journals. Footnotes are expected for virtually every paragraph. The paper will be graded according to the rubric attached to this syllabus. The paper is worth 20% of the final grade.

3. **Book Review**
   On April 7 submit a book review on *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*. 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 (1-2 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. The book review will be
graded according to the rubric attached to this syllabus. The book review is worth 14% of the final grade.

4. **Statement of Faith**
   By the end of the course prepare a personal statement of faith covering Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. This statement should be the result of your personal theological reflection and must be presented in a series of affirmations. If you have not reached a conclusion on a minor doctrinal point you may omit it or you may affirm both sides of your currently unresolved antinomy. **Every affirmation must be supported by relevant Scripture(s) and you may not reference or quote any source besides Scripture.** The statement of faith must be at least two single-spaced pages. For examples of statements of faith you are encouraged to consult the First London Confession of Faith (1644), the Somerset Confession (1656), the Second London Confession of Faith (1677), the Orthodox Creed (1678), the New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833), the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association (1905), the Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (1983), and the Baptist Faith and Message (2000). These are available online or in William Lumpkin, *Baptist Confessions of Faith.*

When crafting a statement of faith, precision is vitally important. Be sure you say exactly what you mean. The best way to do this is to work on this assignment periodically during the semester and then refine it as the deadline approaches. To encourage this, a rough draft of relevant sections must be submitted on the dates indicated on the schedule. An electronic copy of the final draft of your personal statement of faith must be emailed to the professor by midnight on May 12. This is a pass/fail capstone assignment. Students who do not submit a statement of faith that meets the stated requirements will not pass the course.

5. **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 8% of the final grade. The lowest scoring paper will be dropped in the calculation of your final grade.

6. **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 20%  The seminary’s standardized grading scale will be followed in assigning final grades:
Final Exam 15%
Book Review 14%
Research Paper 20%
Statement of Faith 15%
Reflection Papers 8%
Recitation 8%

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, injury, or death, 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, *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 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 after their paper has been returned until an adequate paper is produced. Students are encouraged to consult with the professor before submitting their paper to ensure that it 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.

Suggested Paper Topics

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<th>The Virgin Conception</th>
<th>The Ordo Salutis</th>
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<td>Christ the Second Adam</td>
<td>General Calling vs. Effectual Calling</td>
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<td>Christ the High Priest</td>
<td>What is the Meaning of “Husband of One Wife” in Bishop’s Qualifications?</td>
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<td>Substitutionary Atonement</td>
<td>The Bride of Christ</td>
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<td>Governmental Atonement</td>
<td>The Meaning of Ecclesia</td>
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<td>The Procession of the Holy Spirit (filioque)</td>
<td>The Meaning of Baptism</td>
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<td>The Work of the Spirit in Salvation</td>
<td>Open, Close, or Strict Communion</td>
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<td>Does Glossolalia Still Occur?</td>
<td>Wine or Grape Juice in the Lord’s Supper</td>
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<td>Limited Atonement vs. Unlimited Atonement</td>
<td>The Return of Christ in Dispensational Premillennialism</td>
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<td>Imputation vs. Infusion of Grace</td>
<td>The Return of Christ in Historic Premillennialism</td>
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<td>Salvation in Roman Catholic Theology</td>
<td>The Return of Christ in Amillennialism</td>
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<td>Salvation in Evangelical Theology</td>
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TH 612 Schedule
Spring 2011

January 27  Introduction

February 3  The Person of Christ, Akin 480-544

February 10 The Work of Christ, Akin 545-602

February 17 The Person of the Holy Spirit, Akin 604-662


March 3  Salvation, Akin 686-705
         Due: Rough draft of personal statement of faith (Christology, pneumatology)

March 10 Salvation, Akin 705-745

March 17 Salvation, Akin 745-764

March 24 Mid-Term Exam

March 31 Ecclesiology, Akin 766-856
         Due: Rough draft of personal statement of faith (soteriology)

April 7  Ecclesiology
         Due: Book Review of *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*

April 14 Spring Break

April 21 Eschatology, Akin 858-892

April 28 Eschatology, Akin 892-934
         Due: Research Paper

May 5  Final Exam
         Due: Rough draft of personal statement of faith (ecclesiology, eschatology)

May 12 Submit Personal Statement of Faith