Course Syllabus

TH 512c
Systematic Theology II

Spring 2015 Online
Developed Fall 2014

Professor: David Erickson, Ph.D.

Student Access to Professor
The Professor invites and encourages students to visit with him regarding their academic assignments or other life issues during the course. The professor’s hours are somewhat flexible to meet your scheduling requirements or individual needs.

- Primary contact with the professor will be accomplished via Moodle messages. 
  How to Send a Moodle Message: 1) Click the participants section of the course; 2) Click on the instructor’s name; 3) Scroll to the bottom of the page; 4) Click on the “Send Message” button; 5) This will open a new small window in which you can type your message; 6) Click send message. The instructor will respond to your message via Moodle.

- Secondary contact (only as a backup to primary contact) with the professor is through email: david.erickson@bmats.edu

- If you believe you need emergency contact, the professor’s work phone number is 903-586-2501 (Cell: 903-625-0132) The instructor contact time is Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time. The instructor will not answer blocked numbers, and cannot respond to a blocked number if you don’t leave a message.

Delivery and Terms
This is NOT a self-paced course. The professor has assigned deadlines for specific assignments as shown in the assignment schedule. The class begins January 19, 2015 and ends on May 14, 2015.

Course Texts
Required Books


Poythress, Vern S. *Inerrancy and Worldview: Answering Modern Challenges to the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. ISBN 1433523878 This book can be purchased or is available as a free pdf download from the author’s website www.frame-poythress.org/


**Course Description**

An orderly study of Christian doctrines examining theological foundations, revelation and Scripture, the triune nature of God, the sovereign work of God in salvation, the person of Christ, and the biblical foundations of church life.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1) Articulate, explain, and summarize a variety of theological concepts.
2) Evaluate other theologians on a biblical, theological, and philosophical basis.
3) Organize and implement research in theological resources that will enable continued growth in the personal, professional, and academic study of theology.
4) Create a theological work that examines and explains a specific theological issue within its biblical, historical, and contemporary context.
Course Philosophy
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 an advanced theological understanding and the ability to further your theological knowledge.

Course Policies
Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Some student interactions will involve opinion which is neither right/wrong nor good/evil. My family values may be more/less socially open/closed than yours; my early life experiences may be different from yours; my denominational traditions may be distinct from yours; my journey in life may have taken a divergent path from yours. Be considerate in all responses to show discretion, regard, and courtesy.

Assignments Due: All assignments will be turned in to the instructor on the due date, by 11:55 p.m. Central Time. You may turn your completed work in earlier than the due date. You are expected to adhere to all deadlines without fail. Moodle will not allow you to submit work after it is due and 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. Contact the instructor if there is an extreme, extraordinary emergency in your life. If the student and instructor agree there is an extreme, extraordinary circumstance, the work will be turned in no later than one class week from due date.

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 may 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 if they are concerned about it being returned.

Academic Honesty: 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 exclusively for that course. The student is asserting that the thoughts are the student's own original work unless credit is explicitly given to sources via citation. The student is asserting
that the words written are the student’s own original work unless words are enclosed in quotation marks. 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, not quoting properly, and submitting without approval work originally prepared by the student for another course. Students found engaging in academic dishonesty will be subject to various disciplinary measures.

**Lack of Engagement:** Online courses are designed for the student to become engaged quickly, early, and to the maximum for the successful completion of the course. The instructor will follow the current Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Student Handbook (page 3) process of assigning the grade of “F” due to the student’s non-participation/engagement in the course.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** BMA Seminary supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requiring accommodations for classes are responsible for contacting the Dean’s Office. This service is available to all students regardless of their location. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with federal and state laws though the Dean’s Office. Contact the Dean’s Office in person in the main administration building on the central campus or:
- by mail: P.O. Box 670, Jacksonville, TX 75766
- by phone: 800-259-5673
- by email: bmats@bmats.edu

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is dedicated to helping all students we serve to achieve their Christian, educational, and life goals.

**Course Assignments**

Please note for all assignments: *Moodle will not allow you to submit work after the deadline date.*

1. **Forums**
   The student will have the opportunity to respond to discussion opportunities and questions each week. Discussion opportunities are to be returned via Moodle.
   To receive full credit, each student must:
   - have her/his name on all discussion threads (there will typically be multiple threads per week).
   - post a reply of at least 100 words to each discussion thread. The replies to each discussion thread will total up to 30 points for the forum grade.
   - post replies that substantially contribute to the discussion of the material learned that week.
   - formulate complete sentences using good English.
   - be civil in responses.
NOTE: When you respond to the professor’s questions, Moodle will not allow you to see other students’ responses for a brief period (this is the time period when you can still edit your post).

2. Book Summaries
On the dates specified in the schedule, submit summaries of the designated books. The summary required will change from week-to-week. Consult the instructions on Moodle for each week’s assignment to learn the exact requirements for that summary.

3. Theological Critiques
On the dates specified in the schedule, submit theological critiques over the designated books or portions of books. The nature of the critique required will change from week-to-week. Consult the instructions on Moodle for each week’s assignment to learn the exact requirements for that critique.

4. Book Reviews
On the dates specified in the schedule, submit book reviews on the requested books. A book review is five to six (5-6) pages (double-spaced 12 point Times New Roman) and includes: a brief introduction (1-2 paragraphs), a summary of the book’s contents (max 3 pages), a theological critique of the book (2-3 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 on Moodle for an example of the proper format. The book review will be graded according to the rubric available on Moodle.

5. Sermon or Lesson
This is an oral assignment in which you will submit a sermon preached or lesson taught on a theological subject covered in the class. The sermon or lesson may be recorded when delivered to a live audience (for example, a sermon you preach at your church) or recorded solely for the class. Your sermon or lesson should be primarily derived from a single biblical passage. That is, it should largely consist of an exposition of the theological doctrine taught by a passage of Scripture, although it may necessarily utilize and reference additional Scriptures in the exposition of the primary text. It should not, however, be a topical sermon.
Your sermon or lesson should be designed to introduce and explain from the biblical text a particular doctrine in a way that is comprehensible to a well-educated but non-theological audience. It should make the theology coming from the text understandable to an ordinary Christian. It should not read like a systematic theology book, nor should it be addressed to theologians.
The sermon or lesson will be graded according to the rubric available on Moodle.

Please Submit:
A. Digital recording of the sermon or lesson (if making the recording yourself, a computer, tablet, or smart phone is recommended. A cheap digital audio recorder is not recommended. Many students have come to grief trying to figure out how to get their recording transferred off their recorder and onto Moodle)
B. Outline or manuscript of the sermon or lesson (whatever you are accustomed to using)
C. Bibliography of works used in the preparation of the sermon. You should consult at least twelve relevant works. These may include monographs (books about your subject), journal articles (you need to use EBSCO), commentaries (whether electronic or paper), and scholarly theological works (there are scholarly, popular-level, erroneous, and heretical theological works available on the internet; choose wisely).

6. Research Paper
You must submit a paper of fifteen to twenty (15-20) pages on a theological subject covered in the class. The paper must examine a different area of theology than the sermon or lesson. Your paper must have a **central thesis** for which it argues. The paper is not to be a mere recital of facts that have been unearthed. It should state a thesis in the introduction, present facts and arguments that support the thesis, and explain why the thesis is superior to alternative explanations.

Your paper must be **narrowly focused**. A general theological statement, broad concept, or vague idea is not acceptable (for example, God is good or God has predestined all the redeemed). Instead the scope of your paper must be limited to what is feasible in the limited confines of a research paper. Instead of trying to examine the goodness of God in the entire Bible, examine it in a specific context, such as the Judges narrative or apostolic preaching in the Book of Acts. Instead of examining predestination, consider a subtopic, such as reprobation, the relationship of regeneration to faith and repentance, or election in Peter’s writings.

Your paper should reflect maturing theological scholarship and thorough knowledge of the subject. You should be conversant on your subject within its biblical, historical, and contemporary contexts. You should be able to analyze critically different views on the issue and advocate a specific theological viewpoint as the one that best reflects Scriptural teaching.

At a minimum the paper should reference (via footnote) at least twelve different sources, including at least two monographs (books about your subject) and two articles from peer-reviewed journals (you need to use EBSCO). Footnotes in Turabian style are expected for virtually every paragraph.

The paper will be graded according to the rubric available on Moodle.
**Course Grades:**

There are six parts to student grades in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage Each</th>
<th>Total Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forums (12 opportunities)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Summaries (4 opportunities)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theological Critiques (4 opportunities)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews (3 opportunities)</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon or Lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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There will be two bonus point/extra credit opportunities during the course (30 points).

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 CONTRACT:** By continuing with the course, you certify that you:

- have thoroughly read the syllabus and all relevant orientation information.
- understand that this course has a fixed start and end date.
- understand the delivery mode of this course is not self-paced.
- understand that this is not a watered-down course--you will use the same textbook and complete the same requirements as in a traditional classroom.
- agree to submit your assignments electronically or as instructed by your instructor within the accepted timeframe.
- are the student officially enrolled in this course and you are actually performing your own work.
- agree to the course conditions and requirements, especially the provisions of academic honesty and personal integrity in an online course.

Failing to fulfill the course contract will result in failure of the course and other appropriate disciplinary actions, if necessary.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Date Available on Moodle</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz (Extra Credit)</td>
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<td>Course Syllabus</td>
<td>Now</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>Forum Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Machen, <em>Christianity and Liberalism</em></td>
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<td>Poythress, <em>Inerrancy and Worldview</em></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Zwingli, <em>Of the Clarity and Certainty of the Word of God</em></td>
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**THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS**

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<th>Date Available on Moodle</th>
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<td>Forum Critique</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fairbairn, <em>Life in the Trinity</em></td>
<td>February 19</td>
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<td>Reeves, <em>Delighting in the Trinity</em></td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>MacArthur, <em>Safe in the Arms of God</em></td>
<td>March 5</td>
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<td>Geisler, <em>Chosen But Free</em></td>
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<td>Forum Book Review</td>
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<td>Keathley, <em>Salvation and Sovereignty</em></td>
<td>March 26</td>
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<td>Forum</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Athanasius, <em>De Incarnatione</em></td>
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**GOD AND SALVATION**
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Forum Book Review</td>
<td>3 6</td>
<td>Hammett, <em>Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches</em></td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>BMAA Meeting</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Forum Book Review</td>
<td>3 6</td>
<td>Brand, <em>Perspectives on Church Government</em></td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Sermon/Lesson</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Research Paper Course Evaluation</td>
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