TH512x SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I
Course Syllabus
BMATS Arkansas—Spring 2015 Dr. Andy Snider

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
An orderly study of Christian doctrines covering the person and work of Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the application of salvation, the biblical foundations of church life, and the end of all things.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon our mutual, diligent completion of this course of study, you will be able to:

- Understand and explain the role of theology as a critical element of pastoral ministry.
- Define and biblically explain key doctrines of Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, and eschatology and reason carefully through related contemporary issues when you encounter them.
- Formulate doctrinal themes, and show how they are integrated in the gospel metanarrative of Scripture.
- Continue developing skill in exploring the mysteries of God, such as the incarnation of Christ, the specific works of the Holy Spirit, the complex concepts of redemption, and the consummation of history.

III. COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/19 Christology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/26 Christology</td>
<td>Bray: ch 10, 25, 26</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2/2 Christology</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/9 Pneumatology</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2/16 Pneumatology</td>
<td>Bray: ch 11, 27</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2/23 Soteriology</td>
<td>Doctrinal Formulation or Research Paper*</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/2 Soteriology</td>
<td>Bray: ch 28</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3/9 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/16 Soteriology</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3/23 Soteriology</td>
<td>Book Review #1 due</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>3/30 Ecclesiology</td>
<td>Bray: ch 29, 30</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4/6 Ecclesiology</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>4/13 Ecclesiology</td>
<td>Book Review #2 due</td>
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IV. ASSIGNMENTS

A. Exams

One exam will be administered, based on the syllabus and class lectures. This will be a "semi-comprehensive" final exam covering selected material from the semester – a study guide will be provided.

B. Reading and Book Reviews


   - Read the whole book beginning with Chapter 1, except as follows: you may skip chapters 2 and 12, and you may skim the "II. Historical Interpretations" section in each chapter if you wish.
   - Write a brief (3 pages, double spaced) review of the book. No title page, bibliography, or footnotes, please.

   - Read the whole book beginning with Chapter 1, except as follows: you may skip Part Five and skim Part Six.
   - Write a brief (3 pages, double spaced) review of the book. No title page, bibliography, or footnotes, please.

NOTE: Remember that a good book review does three things: summarizes the content, evaluates the content (positive and negative if possible), and closes with a recommendation.

C. Writing Projects

1. Doctrinal Formulation Paper
   - You will write a short paper that presents a concise summary of a particular biblical theme (i.e., a sub-topic of Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, or eschatology)
   - The goals of this assignment are:
     1. To help you cultivate a deeper love for and understanding of God and his Word.
     2. To expand your exposure to major theological writings.
(3) To develop your ability to comprehend and summarize a biblical theme.
(4) To develop your sense of how doctrine affects the hearts of believers.

c) **Length** requirement is 6-8 pages, excluding front and back matter (title page and bibliography, both of which are required; table of contents is not required). No appendixes are allowed for this assignment.

d) **Format:** Turabian 8th edition (don't forget [www.eturabian.com](http://www.eturabian.com))

e) **Bibliography:** You must include at least 10 scholarly sources in your bibliography, including an appropriate balance of theology books and exegetical tools like dictionaries/lexicons and commentaries. This is a Works Consulted bibliography (see description of this under bibliography instructions for the Research Paper below)

f) **Grading Criteria:** see grading rubric in the "Course Syllabus" section of the course home page on Moodle.

g) **List of Topic ideas:**
   This list is just to stimulate your thinking. You may choose another topic, or modify any of these ideas to create your own topic.
   - The Deity of Christ: Why It's True, Why it Matters
   - The Humanity of Christ our Great High Priest
   - Holy Spirit, Holy People: The Spirit's Ministry to the Church
   - Substitutionary Atonement: The Center of Salvation
   - one specific theme of salvation, like adoption, ransom, victory over Satan/evil, justification, or glorification
   - Holy Nation: The Church as Strangers in a Foreign Land
   - Community of Love: How the Church Represents Jesus
   - Blessed Hope: How the Return of Christ Shapes the Christian Life
   - Another topic, or narrower version of any on this list, is permitted. See me if you have questions about defining your topic
   - Note: you may NOT write your doctrinal formulation paper on the gifts of the Holy Spirit (i.e., the charismatic controversy), a millennial system (premill, postmill, etc.), or any other doctrine that is too controversial among Christians (or too broad) to cover in the limitations of this assignment. You may write your Research Paper on any of those topics.

2. **Research Paper**
   a) One of the most significant learning opportunities in this class is your research project. A starter list of topic ideas appears below. If you have any doubts at all, please discuss your topic with me in order to ensure the topic is well-conceived for a successful project.

   b) The goals of this assignment are:
(1) To help you cultivate a deeper love for and understanding of God and his Word.

(2) To make you aware of the major theological writings on a particular topic and give you the opportunity to evaluate them carefully.

(3) To develop your theological research skills so that when a question arises during study you are able to locate the needed resources to inform your understanding of the issue.

(4) To develop your ability to comprehend, evaluate, formulate, and present theological argumentation.

(5) To incorporate your exegetical skills into the process of systematic theological argumentation.

(6) To increase your knowledge of a chosen topic in order to enhance your future ministry.

c) **Length** requirement is 12-14 pages, excluding front and back matter (title page, table of contents, and bibliography, all of which are required for this assignment). Any appendixes are **included** in the page count.

d) **Format:** *Turabian* 8th edition. Remember: title page, table of contents, and bibliography are all required for this assignment.

e) **Bibliography:** the credibility of your research will depend in part on your bibliography. This is a "Works Consulted" bibliography, meaning that an item is included if it contributed significantly to your understanding of the research topic. Thus, you may include a source even if it is not footnoted in the text of the paper. The bibliography must include a minimum of twenty scholarly sources, including an appropriate balance of systematic theologies, journal articles, monographs, reference works (including dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.), and commentaries.

f) **Grading Criteria:** see grading rubric in the "Course Syllabus" section of the course home page on Moodle.

g) **List of Topic Ideas**

   The following are only suggestions—you may choose another topic or do a narrowed-down version of a topic on this list.

   - Arius is Alive: The Inferior Christ of the Jehovah's Witnesses
   - Spiritual Gifts: Is the Spirit Still Giving?
   - Election: Who is Chosen, and When?
   - Justification and Its Recent Formulations
   - Union with Christ: The Central Truth of Salvation
   - Church Government: What's the Best Form?
Should Women be Pastors (elders, worship leader, etc.)
Thy Kingdom Come: Why I Am a Premillennialist
…or any topic of interest in Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, or eschatology

V. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Attendance
More than one, 3-hour unexcused absence will result in grade reduction. If excused absences are needed, please contact me directly.

B. Grading
1. Exam – 25%
2. Doctrinal Formulation Paper – 20%
3. Research Paper – 25%
4. Book Reviews – 20%
5. Reading – 10%

C. Timeliness Policy
1. Please respect your classmates and professor by diligently observing due dates. Writing assignments must be uploaded correctly into Moodle by 11:55 p.m. on the due date. After that, a penalty of one letter-grade will be assessed if the paper is late.
2. If extreme circumstances prevent the timely submission of an assignment, please contact me by phone or email in advance if possible.
3. All assignments must be turned in by the last day of the semester in order to receive credit for the class, no matter how late the assignment may be.

D. Contact Information
Please feel free to contact me if you have a question or concern. If after class is not a convenient time, please email me: andrew.snider@bmats.edu