Course Description

An orderly study of Christian doctrines covering introduction to theology, revelation and Scripture, the existence, attributes, and triune nature of God, the creative and providential work of God, the nature of angels, and the origin and fall of humanity.

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 Objectives

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

1) Objective: Identify and summarize key terms and concepts used in systematic theology.
   Acquisition: The student will complete weekly reading assignments and participate in class discussions and lectures.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by class participation, the writing of reading summaries, and questions on the exams.

2) Objective: Organize and implement research in theological resources that will enable continued growth in the personal, professional, and academic study of theology.
   Acquisition: The student will participate in class discussions and lectures and engage in individual research on a particular theological issue.
   Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a research paper or theologically-oriented sermon that utilizes relevant theological resources.

3) Objective: Create a theological work that examines and explains a specific theological issue within its biblical, historical, and contemporary context.
Acquisition: The student will conduct individual research and writing/sermon preparation on a particular theological issue.
Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a research paper or theologically-oriented sermon that successfully meets the criteria in the grading rubric.

4) Objective: Evaluate other theologians on a biblical, theological, and philosophical basis.
Acquisition: The student will read and critically review *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach*.
Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a critical book review that successfully meets the criteria in the grading rubric.

5) Objective: Engage in personal theological reflection that leads to the articulation of personal theological beliefs.
Acquisition: The student will complete reading assignments and participate in class discussions and lectures.
Assessment: Success will be measured by the completion of a personal statement of faith.

**Course Texts**


**Course Requirements**

1. **Book Review**
   By 8 p.m. on June 24th submit a book review on *Salvation and Sovereignty*. 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 on Moodle for an example of the proper format. The book review is worth 15% of the final grade. The book review will be graded according to the rubric available on Moodle.

2. **Reading Reflections**
   Write an eight page single-spaced summary of the contents of Akin chapters 1-8. Focus on summarizing the main points of the reading in order to demonstrate to the professor
that you read the material. The summary is not intended to be comprehensive, exhaustive, or extensive. The summary must be written in proper English and is worth 10% of the final grade. The summary is due by 8 p.m. on June 24th.

3. **Exams**
There will be two (2) exams a mid-term and a non-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. Each exam is worth 10% of the overall grade for the course.

4. **Research Paper or Sermon**
The student may submit a sermon preached on a subject selected from the list provided below. The sermon may be delivered to a church audience or recorded solely for the class. It should be designed to introduce and explain from the biblical text the intricacies of a particular doctrine in a way that is comprehensible to a well-educated but non-theological audience. A recording of the sermon may be submitted as a digital file along with an accompanying outline or manuscript and a bibliography of works used in the preparation of the sermon. The student should consult at least twelve relevant monographs, journal articles, commentaries, and scholarly theological works in the preparation of the sermon.
Alternatively, the student may submit a paper of twelve to fifteen (12-15) pages on a subject chosen from the list provided below. This project should reflect maturing theological scholarship and thorough knowledge of the subject. The goal of the paper is to examine the subject within its biblical, historical, and contemporary context, critically analyze different views on the issue, and advocate a specific theological viewpoint as the one that best reflects Scriptural teaching. The paper is not to be a mere recital of facts that have been unearthed. At a minimum the paper should reference (via footnote) at least twelve different sources, including at least two monographs and two articles from peer-reviewed journals. Footnotes are expected for virtually every paragraph. The sermon or paper is due by midnight on July 24th. Sermons and papers will be graded according to rubrics available on Moodle. The sermon or paper is worth 25% of the final grade.

**Suggested Paper/Sermon Topics**
The Inerrancy of Scripture
The Trinitarian God
The Holiness of God
The Omnipresence of God
How God Created
Holy Angels in the World
Humans and Gender in a Church
The Transmission of Sin
The Effects of Sin on Society

5. **Statement of Faith**
By the end of the course prepare a personal statement of faith covering the nature and existence of God, revelation, creation, angels, humanity, and sin. 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 must be submitted by July 13th. The final draft of your personal statement of faith must be submitted by midnight on July 27th. 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.

6. Class Participation
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.

Course Grades

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper/Sermon</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Book Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statement of Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Summaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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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. Missing more than two hours of class time will result in grade reduction. Due to the compressed nature of a Motion class it is imperative that students attend class every day. If at any time ministry or family responsibilities intrude on the scheduled meeting of the class, the student is advised to drop or withdraw from the course to avoid failing the course due to excessive absences. Personal electronic devices (computers, tablets, 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Assignment(s) Due</th>
<th>Class Discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Summaries of chapters in Akin</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Critical book review of Keathley</td>
<td>Theological Method</td>
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<td>Natural Revelation</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Special Revelation</td>
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<td>The Nature of God</td>
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<td>The Attributes of God</td>
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<td>The Divine Plan</td>
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<td>Creation</td>
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<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
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<td>Sin</td>
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<td>Final Exam (1 p.m.)</td>
<td>Sin (cont.)</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
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<td>Rough draft of Personal Statement of Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Paper / Sermon</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>Midnight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Personal Statement of Faith</td>
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