TH 412
Christian Doctrine II
Spring 2016
Thursday, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, Mt. Olive Room

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Work: (903) 586-2501
Cell: (903) 625-0132

Course Description
An orderly study of Christian theology examining theological foundations, the triune nature of God, the sovereign work of God in salvation, and the biblical foundations of church life.

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) 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 Texts


Course Requirements

1. Book Summaries
On the dates specified in the schedule, submit summaries of the designated books. The summary required will change from week-to-week. Further instructions will be given in class.

2. 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. Further instructions will be given in class.

3. 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.

4. Sermon or Lesson
This is an oral assignment in which you will preach a sermon or teach a lesson on a theological subject. 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 a rubric.

Please Submit:
A. Outline or manuscript of the sermon or lesson (whatever you are accustomed to using)
B. Bibliography of works used in the preparation of the sermon. You should consult at least ten 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).

5. Research Paper
You must submit a paper of eight to ten (8-10) 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 ten 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.

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.
Additional assignments may also be made during the semester as deemed necessary. These assignments will be precursors to or extensions of the assignments already described.
Course Grades
There are six parts to student grades in this course:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
<th>Total Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Summaries (3 opportunities)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theological Critiques (2 opportunities)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Reviews (2 opportunities)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon or Lesson</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</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. **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.
   Students who arrive for a class session after the roll has been checked (there is normally no oral roll call) have already been marked absent. To have this absence changed to a tardy, it is the student’s responsibility to request the change during a break or immediately after the class session. As specified in the catalog, after accumulating three tardies a student will be given one absence.
   Personal electronic devices (computers, cell phones, tablets) 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**

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 integrity is the application of the sanctity of truth in the academic world. A student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student has personally done that work. Unless credit is explicitly given to sources, the student is asserting that the thoughts are the student's original work. Unless quotation marks are used, the student is asserting that the words are the student’s own work. Academic dishonesty is falling short of these standards. It includes, but is not limited to: cheating, submitting work which was prepared by any other person, not giving credit on papers to sources, and submitting without approval work originally prepared by the student for another course.

5. **Americans with Disabilities Act**

BMA Seminary supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with physical or learning disabilities desiring additional assistance must consult with the Dean’s office prior to enrollment or as early as possible after the disability is diagnosed. Procedures for assisting students will require a physician’s written verification of the disability and probable benefit(s) of specific assistance for student learning, a student’s specific written request(s) for assistance from the seminary, and the informing of the seminary faculty. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws though the Dean’s Office. Contact the Dean’s Office in the main administration building in person or:

- by mail: P.O. Box 670, Jacksonville, TX 75766
- by phone: 800-259-5673
- by email: bmats@bmats.edu

BMA Seminary is dedicated to helping all students we serve to achieve their Christian, educational, and life goals.

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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Christianity and Liberalism</td>
<td>Book Summary</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
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<td>Book Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Salvation</td>
<td>Safe in the Arms of God</td>
<td>Book Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>tba</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Ecclesiology</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
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<td>Book Critique</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Salvation</td>
<td>Chosen But Free</td>
<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Salvation</td>
<td>Salvation and Sovereignty</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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