YOU HAVE A QUIZ DUE BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS MEETING!

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, the origin and fall of humanity, 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.

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) Identify and summarize key terms and concepts used in systematic theology.
2) Engage in personal theological reflection that leads to the articulation of personal theological beliefs.

Course Texts

Required Books

Recommended Reference Book

or

or

You do not need to purchase any of the recommended books, but they may be handy reference guides to the theological terminology you will encounter in the readings. Erickson is short and provides brief (almost cryptic) definitions for theological terms. McKim provides somewhat longer definitions and covers more terms. Elwell is much longer and provides more comprehensive definitions for theological words and concepts. Elwell is an excellent long-term resource for your personal library.

Course Requirements

1. **Reading Quizzes**
   There will be quizzes based on the required readings for each week. Questions will come from the textbooks. All quizzes are open book and consist of objective questions (true/false, matching, or multiple choice). Quizzes are time-limited, in order to take a quiz effectively it is important to be familiar with the information before beginning the exam. You can take a quiz up to two times before it is due. Your highest scoring quiz attempt will be counted for your grade. **Quizzes are due by 7:50 a.m. on the day of class.**

2. **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. You will receive a weekly class participation grade.

3. **Final Exam**
   The final exam consists of essay questions. These should be answered with essays that demonstrate the student’s mastery of the material from the semester and the ability to think critically and constructively about what has been learned.

4. **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, sin, the person and work of Christ, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and last things (all the areas covered in the class). 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 sentence must be supported by**
relevant Scripture(s) and you may not reference or quote any source besides Scripture. The completed statement of faith must be at least four single-spaced pages. For examples of statements of faith you are encouraged to consult various ones that are linked in the “Student Resources for This Course” on the course Moodle page. 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 the date specified in the schedule.

This is a pass/fail capstone assignment. Students who do not submit a statement of faith that meets the stated requirements will fail the course (regardless of prior good work).

Course Grades

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statement of Faith</td>
<td>10%</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. **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.

4. **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 through 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.

5. **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>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| September 3| Theological Method | Erickson 1, 3  
Grudem 1                                    | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| September 10| Revelation         | Erickson 7, 8, 9  
Grudem 3, 4, 6, 8                     | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| September 17| God                | Erickson 14  
Grudem 10, 11, 12, 13                | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| September 24| Creation           | Erickson 17, 19  
Grudem 15                                    | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| October 1  | Humanity           | Erickson 22, 24  
Grudem 21, 22                                    | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| October 8  | Sin                | Erickson 25, 27, 28, 29                     | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| October 15 | Person of Christ   | Erickson 31, 32, 33, 34                   | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| October 22 | Work of Christ     | Erickson 35, 37, 38                       | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| October 29 | Holy Spirit        | Erickson 39, 40, 41                       | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| November 5 | Salvation          | Erickson 42, 43, 44                      | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| November 12| Salvation          | Erickson 45, 46, 47  
Grudem 40, 43                                      | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| November 19| Church             | Erickson 49, 52, 53  
Grudem 45, 47                                     | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| November 26| Thanksgiving       | Happy Thanksgiving!                          |                      |
| December 3 | Last Things        | Erickson 55, 56  
Grudem 55, 56, 57                                | Reading Quiz  
Class Participation |
| December 10| Final Exam         |                                    | Final Exam  
Personal Statement of Faith |