COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to study Prolegomena, Bibliology, and Theology proper. Included will be a brief study of the history of theological study, a study of revelation, the nature and attributes of God, and the Being and Works of God.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the nature, legitimacy, and importance of Systematic Theology in understanding the Scriptures.

2. The student will be able to explain the historic development of systems of theology and be able to articulate the differences in these systems.

3. The student will be able to explain how God has given and protects the Scriptures, their inspiration, authority, inerrancy and sufficiency for our faith and life.

4. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the primary doctrines involved in theology proper.

COURSE TEXTS

**Required Texts:**


**Recommended Texts:**


Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. University of Chicago Press
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

✓ **Attendance:** More than 2 unexcused absences drops the final grade one letter grade. If a student is tardy, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the professor at the end of class.

✓ **Weekly Reading Reflections:** The student is expected to complete all weekly reading assignments on time. Students will submit a one page written reflection of the week’s assigned reading.


✓ **Research Paper:** Students will research a topic relating to the material studied in this course. The topic must be approved by the professor (see following list). Research papers should demonstrate scholarly research of the subject. All papers must include a separate bibliography of at least 10-15 scholarly sources. A minimum of 7 sources must be cited in the paper, and at least 5 of the required sources should be scholarly journal articles. *As a general rule, anywhere between 2 to 4 footnotes per page is desirable. The paper should be 15-20 pages.*

** Students may research issues pertinent to any of the following topics or choose another topic with the professor’s approval:
- The providence of God and the suffering of humanity
- Defending the doctrine of the Trinity against heresy
- The inerrancy of Scripture—what it is; its importance; opposing views
- Any attribute of God and its significance for the Christian life
- The importance of the study of theology
- General and special revelation
- Issues of the canonicity of Scripture
- The doctrine of the knowledge of God
- A contemporary issue pertaining to the doctrine of God (e.g. Open Theism)

✓ **Mid-Term & Final Exams**

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

Note: All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page, citations and bibliography. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. #12 Times New Roman font and double spacing is required on all papers. All margins (side, top, & bottom) no larger than 1 inch.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.
GRADING

1) Class attendance: More than 2 unexcused absences drops the final grade by on letter grade.
2) Completion of all reading assignments with respective written reflections – 10%
3) Book Review – 20%
4) Research Paper – 30%
5) Mid-Term – 20%
6) Final – 20%

COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Material</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Prolegomena</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/28</td>
<td>Bibliology: Revelation</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>Bibliology: Revelation</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Bibliology: Inspiration &amp; Canon</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Bibliology: Inspiration &amp; Canon (cont’d)</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<td>2/25</td>
<td>No Class – Take Home, Open Book, <strong>Mid-Term</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Theology: Existence &amp; Knowability of God</td>
<td>Berkhof: 19-46</td>
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<td>3/11</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Theology: Names &amp; Attributes of God</td>
<td>Berkhof: 47-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Theology: Names &amp; Attributes of God</td>
<td>Berkhof: 57-81</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Book Review Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Theology: The Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Berkhof: 82-99</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Theology: Trinity (cont’d)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Theology: Creation &amp; Providence</td>
<td>Berkhof: 126-180</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Research Paper Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4/22</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes during the semester to the information provided in this syllabus.*
Additional Bibliography

Systematic Theology


Calvin, John.  *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1559.  2 vols. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles.  Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960.  Although there are many aspects of Systematic Theology that Calvin does not address, this is *the* oldest and most classic statement of Reformed theology.


“Protestant Scholasticism”


**The Inspiration of Scripture**


**The Doctrine of God**


Ware, Bruce A. *God’s Lesser Glory*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2000. A critique of Open Theism


**Creation**


**Providence**


**Predestination**


