COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to study Prolegomena and the Doctrine of God. Included will be a brief study of the history of theological study, a study of revelation, the nature and attributes of God, the Being and Works of God. Items covered include: the existence and knowability of God, the doctrine of the Trinity, the Divine Decree, creation, predestination and providence.

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 discuss the nature of God, the Trinity, and God’s sovereignty in creation, predestination and providence.

5. The student will be able to discuss biblically the Reformed perspective.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:


**Recomended Texts:**


Packer, J.I. *Concise Theology.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press


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

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops your final grade one letter grade.

2. Completion of reading assignment on time.

3. Write two 3-5 page (each) synopsis and critique (Biblical/exegetical basis only) on any two of the following books:
   
   a. *Knowing God,* J.I. Packer
   
   b. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God,* J.I. Packer
   
   c. *The Sovereignty of God,* Arthur W Pink
   
   d. *Willing to Believe,* R.C. Sproul
   
   e. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism,* Timothy Keller

   Begin your critique with the bibliographic information of the book you have chosen to critique.

   Write a brief summary of the main theme and any major secondary themes of the author.

   Include your analysis of the arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scripture.

   Evaluate how they have either succeeded or failed in taking into account all of Scripture (in other words, is it a systematic argument or simply a use of some isolated
proof tests?) **citing instances** from the book to support your evaluation.

Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.

Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally AND professionally** from reading this book.

4. Write a 10-15 page research paper tracing the Augustinian-Pelegian controversy through the Middle Ages, the Reformation and the 19th/20th/21st century. In addition to the historical facts include your personal observations about the controversy as well as its impact upon the church in America in the 21st century. You should average two citations per page and at least five-seven reference works other than your textbooks. Paper should contain the following constituent parts: **title page, table of contents, introduction, research question** (what are you investigating?), **discussion** and **conclusion** (include in the conclusion an evaluation of how this study has impacted you personally), **bibliography**. (The 10-12 pages begins with introduction and ends with conclusion).

5. **Mid-Term and Final exam**

**GRADING**

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.

2. Completion of reading and ability to participate in discussion. (There will be a question on the final asking if you have completed all the assigned readings.) 10%

3. Two short papers are worth 10% each for a total of 20% of grade

4. Research paper 30%

5. Mid Term and Final Exam 20% each for a total of 40%

**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.
## COURSE OUTLINE

**Week One:** Prolegomena – Introduction & Historic Overview  
Jan 24  
Read: Berkhof (pp.v – 115) – Introductory Volume

**Week Two:** Prolegomena – Historic Overview (cont)  
Jan 31  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 116-143)

**Week Three:** Prolegomena – Revelation  
Feb 7  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 144-169)

**Week Four:** Prolegomena – Revelation (con’t), Scripture & Inspiration  
Feb 14  
**1st Report due**  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 170-186)

**Week Five:** Prolegomena – Inspiration (cont) & Canon  
Feb 21  
Read: Pink (pp. 9-92)  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 19-46) – Systematic Theology

**Week Six:** Doctrine of God – Intro, Incomprehensibility of God, Knowledge of God  
Feb 28  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 47-56)

**Week Seven:** Doctrine of God – Knowledge of God (cont.), Names of God  
Mar 7  
Read: Boettner (pp. 57-81)

**Week Eight:** Doctrine of God – Names of God (cont.), Attributes of God  
Mar 14  
**2nd Report due**  
Study for Mid Term

**Spring Break:** No Class – Take Home, Open Book, Mid Term Exam (Prolegomena only)  
Mar 21  
Read: Sproul (pp. 9-213)

**Week Nine:** Doctrine of God – Attributes of God (cont)  
Mar 28  
Read: Boettner (pp. 205-298)  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 82-99)

**Week Ten:** Doctrine of God – The Trinity  
April 4  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 100-140)  
Boettner (pp. 299-431)

**Week Eleven:** Doctrine of God – The Works of God  
April 11  
Read: Berkhof (pp. 141-180)  
**Research Paper Due**

**Week Twelve:** Doctrine of God – Predestination, Providence & Miracles  
April 18  
Read: Catch up on any incomplete readings

**Week Thirteen:** Final Exam  
April 25
Additional Annotated 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.


The Inspiration of Scripture


**The Doctrine of God**


—*The Wrath of Almighty God*. Pittsburgh: Soli Deo Gloria.


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


**Creation**


**Providence**


**Predestination**


