

# **ST3511 SURVEY OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

**Birmingham Theological Seminary  
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Fall 2019

ST3511 SURVEY SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

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Class Hours: 2

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## **COURSE PURPOSE**

### **ST3511 SURVEY OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

This course is an overview study of the doctrines of Scripture, God, creation, man, sin, Christ, salvation, the church and sacraments and eschatology. This course will focus on the distinctiveness of these doctrines in the Reformed tradition. Emphasis will be placed on the Biblical foundation of doctrine and the integral nature of God's revelation.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will gain an overview of theological development.
2. The student will be able to articulate historic theological systems.
3. The student will gain knowledge of the interrelationship of God's revelation.
4. The student will develop a deeper understanding of the cardinal doctrines and distinctives of Reformed theology.

## **COURSE TEXTS**

### **Required Texts:**

- Murray, John. Redemption Accomplished and Applied. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1955.
- Shaw, Robert. The Reformed Faith: An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith. London: Christian Focus Publications, 2008.
- Hoekema, Anthony A. Created in God's Image. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986.
- **Logos Bible Software** - Libronix Digital Library System (See [www.birminghamseminary.org](http://www.birminghamseminary.org))

### **Recommended:**

- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7th Edition* University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London ISBN: 0226823377
- Vyhmeister, Nancy J. *Quality Research Paper* Zondervan, Grand Rapids ISBN: 0310274407
- Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren *How to Read A Book* Touchstone Publishing ISBN 0671212095

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

3. Book Critique is to be a **three page critique** of the book. Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book's strengths and weaknesses. As you read, ask yourself and answer these questions, read **critically**: (**Masters complete all steps**)
- ☞ Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique. (**Certificate**)
  - ☞ Write a **brief summary** of the **main** theme and any **major secondary themes** of the author. I do not want a book review. I already know the content. Just give me enough to show you have read and digested the material. (**Certificate**)
  - ☞ 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 texts?) **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. (**Certificate**)
  - ☞ Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally and professionally** from reading this book. (**Certificate**)

Certificate students will submit 2 book critiques.

2. **Masters students:** Write a theological paper on the inerrancy of Scripture or the doctrine of election. This paper should include the following:
1. Title page
  2. Table of contents
  3. Introduction
  4. Thesis statement
  5. Body (should include)
    - 1) Definition of the doctrine
    - 2) Historical overview of the doctrine
    - 3) Biblical defense of the doctrine
    - 4) Application of the doctrine to your discipline of study
  6. Conclusion - giving a summary of the paper's contents
  7. Footnotes
  8. Bibliography with at least 15 references (**10 of which must come from Logos Bible Software**)
  9. Paper should be no less than twelve pages and no more than fifteen pages - typed (double spaced; *Times New Roman* 12 point type)
  10. Papers without footnotes or bibliography will receive a **zero**.

Certificate students will submit a paper from six to ten pages with at least seven references.

3. Final Exam: This will be an essay and short answer exam covering the material discussed in the class lectures.

### **GRADING**

1. Completion of reading and critiques 30%
2. Theological Paper / Essay 35%
3. Final Examination 35%

### **Course Schedule**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment</u></b>
October 1	Murray Critique Due
October 22	Shaw Critique Due
November 5	Hoekema Critique Due
November 19	Research Paper / Essay Due
December 3	Final Exam

### **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

Note: BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition.

### **Course Outline**

See printed *Survey of Systematic Theology* instructional syllabus for course outline/supplement for development.

### **Bibliography**

’a Brakel, Wilhelmus. The Christian’s Reasonable Service. 4 vols. Morgan, Pennsylvania: Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995.

Ardnt, W.F. and Gingrich F.W.. A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature. 4<sup>th. ed.</sup> Chicago, Illinois: The University Of Chicago Press, 1957.

Bavinck, Herman. Our Reasonable Faith. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1956.

Berkhof, Louis. The History of Christian Doctrine. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1937.

\_\_\_\_\_. Manual of Christian Doctrine. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1952.

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Bromiley, Geoffery. Historical Theology: An Introduction. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.

Calvin, John. Calvin's Commentaries. 12vols. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.

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Ferguson, Sinclair B. New Dictionary of Theology. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

George, Timothy. Theology of the Reformers. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1988.

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M'Clintoch, John. Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature. 10 vols. New York, N.Y.: Harpers and Brothers Publishers, 1867.

McGrath, Alister E. Historical Theology. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

Reymond, Robert L. A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998.

Sheldon, Henry C. History of Christian Doctrine. 3 vols. New York, N.Y.: Eaton and Mains, 1906.

Vincent, Marvin R. Word Studies in the New Testament. 4 Vols. New York, N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914.

Vos, Geerhardus. Biblical Theology. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1948.

Warfield, Benjamin, B. The Works of Benjamin B. Warfield. 10 Vols. New York, New York: 1932; reprint, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1981.

The Westminster Confession of Faith. Atlanta, Georgia: C.E.&P, 1990.