

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650

Fall 2019

ST3526 Systematic Theology I

Professor: Rev. Lee Bloodworth

Tuesday 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Young Meadows Presbyterian Church

2 Credit Hours

COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to explore the Doctrine of God. We will discuss His being, attributes, and works. We will cover such areas as: the existence and knowability of God, the names and attributes of God, the doctrines of the Trinity, the divine decree, creation, predestination, and providence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will understand the concept and explain the nature and necessity of Systematic Theology for more clearly understanding the Scriptures.
2. The student will gain confidence in the Bible through an understanding of how God gave us the Scriptures, their inspiration, authority, inerrancy, and sufficiency for our faith and life.
3. The student should grow in his delight, faith and sanctification through studying the knowledge of God, His character and works of creation and providence.
4. The student should develop skill in reflecting on the nature of God and applying that knowledge of God to the challenges of living.
5. The student will be able to discuss the nature of God's sovereignty and its relationship to human responsibility from a Reformed and Biblical perspective.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts

Logos Bible Software is required for Masters level students. Logos is not required for Certificate level students. BTS students qualify for a discount; see instructor for details.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids:Zondervan, 1994. ISBN 031028670. (pp. 15-436; and 669-691). (443 pp.)

Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 1932.) ISBN 0875221290. (431 pp).

The following book is **ONLY REQUIRED FOR MASTERS STUDENTS**:

Piper, John. *The Dangerous Duty of Delight: The Glorified God and the Satisfied Soul*. (Portland: Multnomah Publishing, 2001.) ISBN 1576738833. (84 pp).

Recommended Texts

Frame, John. *The Doctrine of God*. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2002.) ISBN 0875222637.

Frame, John. *The Doctrine of the Word of God*. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2002.) ISBN 978-0-87552-264-7.

Hart, David Bentley. *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.) ISBN 0300111908. (242 pp).

Smith, R. Scott. *Truth and the New Kind of Christian*. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.) ISBN 1581347405 (190 pp).

West, John G. *Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science*. (Wilmington, DE: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2007.) ISBN 9781933859323 (375 pp).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance is mandatory: without the professor's permission, more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Complete the readings from the required texts on time and participate in class discussions. The reading requirement for Certificate level students is approximately half that required for Master's level students and is listed in the Class and Reading Schedule below.
3. **MASTERS STUDENTS ONLY:** Write a 10-12 page paper discussing and applying an area of systematic theology that has caught your special attention. You should average two citations per page and at least five reference works other than your textbooks. Your paper should contain title page, introduction, research question (what are you investigating?), discussion and conclusion along with your bibliography. The 10-12 pages begins with the introduction and ends with the conclusion. The title page and the bibliography *do not* count in the 10-12 pages. **All references should come from your Logos software.** This paper is due at the last day of class.
4. **CERTIFICATE STUDENTS ONLY:** instead of the research paper above, complete the following short (2-3 pp.) papers. These papers should be crisp and clear, to the point, with **no excess verbiage**. The ministry requires not only verbal skills but written communication skills as well.

Paper 1: Explain to your high school youth group why they need systematic theology.

Paper 2: Write an answer to a friend who rejects the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

Paper 3: A friend tells you he believes in evolution and thinks Biblical creation is a myth. Write an answer to his objections that explains why evolution is not based on scientific evidence but on naturalistic philosophical presuppositions. Show why it matters where we came from and how we got here.

Paper 4: If God created all things for His glory, why is there evil in the world?

5. Complete a **mid-term exam** (based on the reading assignments and lectures).
6. Complete a **final exam**.
7. Write a 3-4 page Book Critique of the Boettner's *Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*.

The BTS Model Syllabus gives these helpful guidelines:

Your Book Critique is to be a **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**:

1. Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique.
2. 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.
3. 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**.
4. 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.
5. Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.
6. Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally and professionally** from reading this book.

GRADING

1. Class attendance: over 2 unexcused absences drop the final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of the reading and participation in class discussion: 10%
3. The *Book Critique* counts 20% of your final grade

4. The *Mid-term exam* makes up 20% of your grade.
5. The *Final exam* makes up 20% of your grade.
5. The *Term Paper* (Masters Students) **or** *Short papers* (Certificate Students) counts 30% of your grade.

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

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. Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook for information on the Code of Ethics (pp. 36ff) concerning plagiarism and proper citing of source materials. If an application paper is poorly organized or contains an excessive amount of grammatical errors, the paper will be returned to the student to be redone.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 3 - December 6, 2019

Fall Break – October 14-18

Thanksgiving Holidays November 28-29

WEEK	MASTERS	CERTIFICATE
1 September 3	Introduction; Course requirements, etc. Introduction to Systematic Theology Grudem, pp. 15-46 Boettner, pp. 1-58 Piper, Preface	Grudem, pp. 21-37 Boettner, pp. 1-58
2 September 10	The Doctrine of Revelation Grudem, pp. 47-104 Boettner, pp. 59-82 Piper, chapter 1	Grudem, pp. 47-51; 73-85; 90-100 Boettner, pp. 59-82 First Paper Due!
3 September 17	The Doctrine of Revelation II Grudem, pp. 105-140 Boettner, pp. 83-161 Piper, Chapter 2	Grudem, pp. 105-111; 116-124; 127-135 Boettner, pp. 83-161
4 September 24	The Names and Attributes of God Grudem, pp. 141-184 Boettner, pp. 162-204 Piper, Chapter 3	Grudem, pp. 141-144; 149-152; 156-180 Boettner, pp. 162-204
5 October 1	The Names and Attributes of God II Grudem, pp. 185-225 Boettner, pp. 205-253 Piper, Chapter 4	Grudem, pp. 185-207; 211-221 Boettner, pp. 205-253 Second Paper Due!
6 October 8	The Doctrine of the Trinity Grudem, pp. 226-261 Boettner, pp. 254-281 Piper, Chapter 5	Grudem, pp. 226-257 Boettner, pp. 254-281
OCT. 14-18	FALL BREAK—NO CLASS!	FALL BREAK
7 October 22	MID-TERM EXAM Piper, chapter 6	MID-TERM EXAM
8 October 29	The Divine Decree and Predestination Grudem, pp. 669-691 Boettner, pp. 82-298 Piper, Chapter 7	Boettner, pp. 282-298
9 November 5	Predestination II Boettner, pp. 299-364 Piper, Chapter 8	Boettner, pp. 318-323; 327-362

<p>10 April 1</p>	<p>Creation Grudem, pp. 262-314; 397-436 Piper, chapter 9</p>	<p>Grudem, pp. 262-309</p>
<p>11 April 8</p>	<p>Providence Grudem, pp. 315-376 Piper, Epilogue</p>	<p>Grudem, pp. 315-351 THIRD PAPER DUE!</p>
<p>12 April 15</p>	<p>Providence, concluded Boettner, pp. 365-431</p>	<p>Boettner, pp. 365-431</p>
<p>13 April 22</p>	<p>TERM PAPERS DUE! Review, and FINAL EXAM</p>	<p>FOURTH PAPER DUE! Review, and FINAL EXAM</p>

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Fall Semester 2019

Systematic Theologies

- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1941.) ISBN 080283020X. (784 pp).
- Berkhof, Louis. *Summary of Christian Doctrine*. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1997.) ISBN 0851510558. (184 pp)
- Boice, James Montgomery. *Foundations of the Christian Faith*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986.) ISBN 0877849919. (740 pp)
- Boston, Thomas. *Commentary on the Shorter Catechism*. (Edmonton: Still Waters Revival Books, 1993 reprint.) ISBN 0921148248. (2 vols: 1335 pp).
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. John T. McNeill, editor; Ford Lewis Battles, Translator. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960.) ISBN 0664220207 (vol 1) ISBN 0664220215 (vol 2). (1734 pp).
- Dabney, Robert L. *Systematic Theology*. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1985 reprint.) ISBN 0851514537. (903 pp).
- Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2013.) ISBN 978-1-59638-217-6.
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1995.) ISBN 0310286700. (1296 pp).
- Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1982 reprint.) ISBN 0802881351. (3 vol: 2260 pp).
- Reymond, Robert L. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith, 2nd Edition*. (Nashville: Nelson Reference and Electronic Publishing, 1998.) ISBN 0849913179. (1252pp)
- Ridgeley, Thomas. *Commentary on the Larger Catechism*. (Edmonton: Still Waters Revival Books, 1993 reprint.) ISBN 0921148305. (2 vol: 1313 pp).
- Vincent, Thomas. *The Shorter Catechism Explained from Scripture*. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1980 rep.) ISBN 085151314X. (282pp).

The Doctrine of God

- Bavinck, Herman. *The Doctrine of God*. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1977 reprint.) ISBN 0851512250. (407 pp).
- Bly, Stephen A. *God's Angry Side*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1982.) ISBN 0802449182. (168 pp).
- Charnock, Stephen. *Discourses on the Existence and Attributes of God*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.) ISBN 0801024374. (1149 pp).
- DeHaan, Dan. *The God You Can Know*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1982.) ISBN 0802430082. (133 pp).
- Edwards, Jonathan. *Our Great and Glorious God*. (Pittsburgh: Soli Deo Gloria.) (212 pp).
- The Wrath of Almighty God*. (Pittsburgh: Soli Deo Gloria.) (390 pp).
- Frame, John. *The Doctrine of God*. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing Co., 2002.) ISBN 0875522637. (864pp)
- MacArthur, John. *The Love of God*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1996. ISBN 0849910811. (251 pp).
- McGuiggan, *Celebrating the Wrath of God*. (Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2001.) ISBN 1578564085. (232 pp).
- Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973.) ISBN 0830816518. (279 pp).
- Pink, Arthur W. *The Attributes of God*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1975.) ISBN 0801058384. (96 pp).
- The Sovereignty of God*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1984.) ISBN 0801070880. (261 pp).
- Spiritual Union and Communion*, (Grand Rapids: Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2002.) ISBN 1589603192. (164 pp).
- Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. (Portland: Multnomah Publishing, 1986.) ISBN 0880701692. (281 pp).
- The Pleasures of God*. (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1991.) ISBN 088070537. (328pp).
- God's Passion for His Glory*. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1998.) ISBN 1581340079. (266 pp).

- When I Don't Desire God*. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004.) ISBN 1581346522. (268 pp).
- Piper, John and Taylor, Justin, ed. *A God-entranced Vision of All Things: The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards*. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004.) ISBN 1581345631. (287 pp).
- Ryken, Philip Graham. *Discovering God in Stories from the Bible*. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1999.) ISBN 158134113X. (216 pp).
- Sanders, Oswald. *Enjoying Intimacy With God*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.) ISBN 08024234469. (169 pp).
- Sproul, R.C. *One Holy Passion*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1987. ISBN 0840730497. (184 pp).
- The Holiness of God*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishing, 1985. ISBN 0842314938. (234 pp).
- Storms, Sam. *Pleasures Evermore: The Life-Changing Power of Enjoying God*. (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2000.) ISBN 1576831884. (317 pp).
- Storms, C. Samuel. *The Grandeur of God: A Theological and Devotional Study of the Divine Attributes*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.) ISBN 0801082544. (180 pp).
- Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. (San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1961.) ISBN 0060684127. (120 pp).
- The Attributes of God*. (Camp Hill: Christian Publications, 1997.) ISBN 0875097081. (196 pp).
- Trevethan, Thomas L. *The Beauty of God's Holiness*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.) ISBN 0830816070. (278 pp).
- Welch, Edward T. *When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man*. (Phillipsburg: P& R Publishing, 1997.) ISBN 0875526004. (239 pp).
- Wenham, John W. *The Goodness of God*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1974.) ISBN 0877847649. (223 pp).

Open Theism

- Frame, John. *No Other God: A Response to Open Theism*. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2001.) ISBN 0875521851. (236pp).

Piper, John; Helseth, Paul Kjoss; Taylor, Justin. *Beyond the Bounds: Open Theism and the Undermining of Biblical Christianity*. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.) ISBN 1581344627. (416pp).

Ware, Bruce. *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*. (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2001.) ISBN 1581342292. (240pp).

Wright. R. K. McGregor. *No Place for Sovereignty: What's Wrong with Freewill Theism*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.) ISBN 0830818812. (249 pp).

Responses to New Atheism

Aikman, David. *The Delusion of Disbelief: Why the New Atheism is a Threat to Your Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness*. (Saltriver, 2008.) ISBN 1414317085. (248 pp).

Berlinski, David. *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions*. (New York: Crown Forum, 2008.) ISBN 0307396266. (237 pp).

Hart, David Bentley. *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.) ISBN 0300111908. (253 pp).

Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. (New York: Dutton Books, 2008.) ISBN 0525950494. (293 pp).

McGrath, Alister and Joanna Collicutt McGrath. *The Dawkins Delusion?: Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine*. (Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2007.) ISBN 083083446X. (118 pp).

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.) ISBN 0310234697. (269 pp).

Wilson, Douglas. *Letter from a Christian Citizen: A Response to Sam Harris' Letter to a Christian Nation*. Powder Springs: American Vision, 2008. ISBN 0915815753.

Zacharias, Ravi K. *The End of Reason: A Response to the New Atheists*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.) ISBN 0310282519. (143 pp).

Creation

Johnson, Philip E. *Darwin on Trial*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1991.) ISBN 0830817581. (195 pp).

—*Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1995.) ISBN 0830819290. (245 pp).

MacArthur, John. *The Battle for the Beginning: The Bible on Creation and the Fall of Adam*. (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2001.) ISBN 0849916259. (237 pp).

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for a Creator*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.) ISBN 0310241448. (341 pp).

West, John G. *Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science*. (Wilmington, DE: Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2007.) ISBN 9781933859323 (375 pp).

Providence

Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994.) ISBN 083081533. (246 pp).

Plumer, William S. *Jehovah-Jireh: A Treatise on Providence*. (Harrisonburg: Sprinkle Publications, n.d.) (233 pp).

Sproul, R.C. *The Invisible Hand*. (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1996.) ISBN 0849912075. (210 pp).

Spurgeon, C.H. *Spurgeon on the Providence of God*. (Tampa: MacDonald Publishing Co, n.d.) (105 pp).

Predestination

Boettner, Lorraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1932.) ISBN 08875521290. (431 pp).

Bunyan, John. *Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ*. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, n.d.) ISBN 0851518532.

Edwards, Jonathan. *The Freedom of the Will*. (Pittsburgh: Soli Deo Gloria, n.d.) (348 pp).

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1961.) ISBN 0877846804. (126 pp).

Sproul, R.C. *Willing to Believe*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.) ISBN 0801011523.
—*Chosen By God*. (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1994.) ISBN 0842313354. (213 pp).

White, James R. and Sproul, Jr. R.C. *The Potter's Freedom*. (Calvary Press, 2000.) ISBN 1879737434. (350pp).