



THE  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## 27060: Systematic Theology I Sample Syllabus

School of Theology, NRT 146

Telephone: 502-897-4232

[theology@sbts.edu](mailto:theology@sbts.edu)

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A careful and systematic study of Christian doctrines, covering introduction to theology, revelation and Scripture, and the existence, attributes, and triune nature of God. Three hours.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To learn basic factual matter regarding the major doctrinal areas dealt with this semester: theological prolegomena, bibliology, and theology proper.
2. To promote critical thinking about theological issues.
3. To engender deeper confidence in and appreciation for the Scriptures as fully inspired, reliable, and authoritative.
4. To make progress in our Christian life as we reflect on the nature of the Scriptures and their critical place in assisting growth in holiness.
5. To develop greater awe and wonder, love and gratitude, fear and reverence for the greatness, goodness, grandeur and glory of the triune God.
6. To engender ongoing and increasing desires for closer personal relationship with our great God and heart-felt service in His kingdom.
7. To endeavor to relate truths we uncover in this course to Christian experience and involvement both in the Church and in the world.

### COURESE TEXTS

#### REQUIRED:

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Zondervan, 1994, 2000 (chs. 1-14)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY:

Barrett, Matthew. *God's Word Alone: The Authority of Scripture*. Zondervan, 2016 (200 pp. of your choice)

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God*. P&R, 2002 (200 pp. of your choice)  
 Ware, Bruce A. and John Starke, eds. *One God in Three Persons*. Crossway, 2015 (200 pp. of your choice)  
 Ware, Bruce A. *God's Greater Glory: The Exalted God of Scripture and the Christian Faith*. Crossway, 2004 (200 pp. of your choice)

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading (15%). Students are expected to complete the reading by the assigned due date.
2. Scripture Meditation (5%)  
 A much-neglected discipline of the Christian life and theology is Scripture meditation. Essentially, Scripture meditation involves 1) a continuous process of remembering and musing over Scripture's teaching, and 2) a reassessment and a reshaping of one's life in light of that teaching. In this course, we will encourage growth in this discipline by engaging our minds and hearts in some consistent, but non-burdensome, Scripture meditation. For each major section of our course we will commit ourselves to reading thoughtfully and prayerfully (preferably out loud) some assigned Scripture portions. We will read each of these Scripture sections **once a day, three days a week**, for approximately seven weeks. At the end of each section, each of us will write, in 2 or 3 pages, our personal reflections on these passages, particularly focusing on how our lives and ministries have been (or need to be) challenged by the truths we have thought so much about.

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>God</u>
Psalm 1	Psalm 145
Psalm 19	Isaiah 40
2 Tim. 3:1-4:8	

3. Position Paper (30%)

Each student will select an issue from one of the doctrinal areas of the course. Students should make their selections from the suggested list of topics that follows (or suggest another topic, *in writing*, for the instructor's approval). Although these are position papers and not full-blown research papers, there should be ample evidence of substantive research (i.e., six to ten substantive sources directly related to your issue) assuring competence in handling the issue (use either footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography to show research consulted and used).

### Suggested Topics:

#### Doctrine of Revelation and Scripture

- 1) Does general revelation provide, by itself, salvific truth?
- 2) Does God still reveal Himself through the avenues of dreams and visions?
- 3) How can the doctrine of biblical inerrancy be upheld in light of some given phenomenological problem? (note: pick one key problem and deal with it)
- 4) What is the value and use of affirming biblical inspiration of only the original documents of Scripture, which documents are not known to be extant?
- 5) Is illumination necessary for an unbeliever and a believer to understand revealed truth?
- 6) Why think that the 66 books of canonical Scripture comprise all of God's final and

ultimately authoritative revelation for the church age?

### Doctrine of God

- 1) Has evolutionary theory demonstrated that the so-called proofs for God's existence are misguided?
- 2) Can one rightly do natural theology?
- 3) Is the Christian doctrine of the Trinity coherent, logical, and is it demanded by Scripture?
- 4) If God is timelessly eternal and absolutely immutable, how can He relate to us, His creatures, who live in a medium of space, time, and flux?
- 5) If God is all-good, all-powerful and all-wise, why is there evil in the world He created?
- 6) How can God be sovereign over everything and human beings have moral freedom for which they are responsible?

#### 4. Reading Quizzes (20% – 5% per quiz)

There will be four quizzes covering the required reading for Grudem. Each quiz will be objective in nature. A time limit will be set for the completion of each quiz.

- Quiz 1 covers Grudem, chapters 1-4
- Quiz 2 covers Grudem, chapters 5-8
- Quiz 3 covers Grudem, chapters 9-11
- Quiz 4 covers Grudem, chapters 12-14

#### 5. Final Exam (30%)

There will be a comprehensive final exam over the class lectures for the entire course. Exam questions will be objective (true/false and multiple choice), and a time limit will be assigned for the completion of the exam. It must be taken online during the final exam period at the end of the semester.

### **Grading Scale**

A	100-95	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	59-
A-	95-90	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	64-66		
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

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|-------|---|---|
| Class | 1 | <b>Introduction to Course</b> (Begin reading and Scripture meditation by January 30)      |
|       | 2 | <b>Reading #1 due:</b> Grudem, chs. 1-4; <b>and</b> Barrett (200 pp.)                     |
|       | 3 | <b>Quiz #1 over Grudem, chs. 1-4</b> (take online)  |
|       | 4 | <b>Position Paper: Part One due</b> (see <b>Note #1, below</b> )                          |
|       | 5 | <b>Reading #2 due:</b> Grudem, chs. 5-8; <b>and</b> Frame (200 pp.)                       |
|       | 6 | <b>Quiz #2 over Grudem, chs. 5-8</b> (take online)  |
|       | 7 | <b>Scripture Meditation #1 and Meditation Paper due:</b> Scripture                        |
|       | 8 | <b>Reading #3 due:</b> Grudem, chs. 9-11; <b>and</b> Ware & Starke, <i>OGTP</i> (200 pp.) |
|       | 9 | <b>Quiz #3 over Grudem, chs. 9-11</b> (take online)                                       |

- 10 **Position Paper: Revised Part One, and Part Two, together due**
- 11 **Reading #4 due:** Grudem, chs. 12-14; and Ware, *GGG* (200 pp.)
- 12 **Quiz #4 on Grudem, chs. 12-14** (take online)
- 13 **Scripture Meditation #2 and Meditation Paper due:** God
- 14 **Reading/Meditation Report Forms Due**
- 15 **Final Exam**