



**THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

27070: Systematic Theology II Sample Syllabus

School of Theology, NRT 146

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A careful and systematic study of Christian doctrines, covering creation and providence, angels, humanity, sin, and the person and work of Christ. 3 hours.

Course Objectives

As a result of this course the student should be able better to:

- Articulate and defend the essential theological doctrines of the historic Christian faith as covered in this course.
- Appreciate the importance of historical theology in the development of the doctrines of God, humanity, sin, and the person and work of Christ.
- Compare and contrast the Christian worldview with other views especially in relation to the doctrines of God, humanity, sin, and the person and work of Christ.
- Grasp with greater depth the interrelationships between various doctrines with the twin goal of beginning to formulate a Christian worldview, as well as bringing our life, language, and thought more in conformity to God's Word.
- Integrate theological doctrines with contemporary issues thus learning how to do theology by applying the Word to the contemporary world.
- Minister in the local church with greater biblical-theological clarity as one who is deeply concerned to proclaim the whole counsel of God in all of its beauty, breadth, and depth.

Course Texts

John Frame. *Systematic Theology* (P&R, 2013).

Anthony Hoekema. *Created in God's Image* (Eerdmans, 1986).

Stephen Wellum. *God the Son Incarnate* (Crossway, 2016).

Treat, Jeremy. *The Crucified King* (Zondervan, 2014).

REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

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|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Reading & Participation | 10 points |
| 2. Scripture Meditations (2) | 20 points (10/ea.) |
| 3. Worksheets (2) | 20 points (10/ea.) |
| 4. Position Paper | 25 points |
| 5. Final Exam | 25 points |

EXPLANATION OF REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Reading & Participation

A reading report will be completed on Moodle at the end of the semester to ensure that students have completed the reading for the course.

Scripture Meditations

For each major section of our course students will commit themselves to read thoughtfully and prayerfully over assigned Scripture portions. At the end of each section, students will write, in one page (single-spaced), 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.

1. Creation, Humanity and Sin – Psalm 8; Psalm 51; Romans 5:12-6:23
2. Person and Work of Christ – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 1:1-34; Hebrews 10

Worksheets

Students will be given **two worksheets** to complete. They will require the student to perform work outside the class. The assignments will call upon the student to bring together exegesis, theological integration, and practical reflection. Each assignment will pose a **question(s)** for reflection and response. The student will answer them as fully as possible, using the resources stipulated in the question, or other appropriate resources. Each completed assignment must be **2-3 pages, single-spaced**. Students who submit papers shorter than two full pages in length will lose points. The answers must be typed, in a **format which is conformable to *The Southern Manual of Style***. These worksheets must be written **with care and on time**, as they constitute a significant portion of the student's grade. Penalties will be enforced for late papers.

Position Paper

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 footnotes and a bibliography to show research consulted and used).

Suggested Topics:

1. Is the theory of macro-evolution as proposed in versions of contemporary (neo)Darwinism compatible with what the Bible teaches about creation?
2. Does the Bible's teaching accord best with an "old" or "young" universe?
3. How should Christians understand the relationship between theology and science?
4. How should Christians understand the kind and manner of God's providential governance of the world, particularly his governance of human affairs?
5. In light of God's providence, how should Christians understand the nature and function of prayer?
6. In light of God's providence, how should Christians understand the reality of suffering and evil?

Doctrines of Humanity and Sin

1. What does it mean that humanity was created in the image of God?
2. Are human beings constituted of one substance (monism), two substances (dichotomy) or three substances (trichotomy).
3. How should the concept of human personhood best be understood in light of many weighty ethical decisions involving human beings (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, etc.)?
4. How should racism best be dealt with biblically, theologically and practically in the church?
5. In constructing a broader theological anthropology, how should theology best be integrated with psychology?
6. How should the doctrine of original sin be understood in the postmodern culture of which we are a part?

Doctrine of the Person and Work of Christ

1. Is it possible to separate legitimately the 'Christ of faith' from the 'Jesus of history'? And, can we know with confidence the real historical Jesus?
2. How could Jesus have been really and truly tempted without ever sinning? Was Jesus impeccable, or not?
3. The Christian tradition has affirmed the fully deity of Christ, yet passages like Mark 13:32 and John 14:28 have raised questions. Can the deity of Christ be rightly maintained in light of such passages?
4. Did Christ die for *all* sin, for the sin of believers and unbelievers? What is the extent of Christ's atoning sacrificial payment for human sin?
5. Does Scripture teach the penal, substitutionary atoning death of Christ?

Final Exam

There will be a comprehensive final exam over a broad range of material covered in class and through readings. The final will be essay in nature and will call upon students to bring to bear relevant material, from classes and readings, on various questions of theological importance.

Grading Scale:

A	94-100 (4.0)	B	84-86 (3.0)	C	74-76 (2.0)	D	64-66 (1.0)
A-	90-93 (3.7)	B-	80-83 (2.7)	C-	70-73 (1.7)	D-	60-63 (0.7)
B+	87-89(3.3)	C+	77-79 (2.3)	D+	67-69 (1.3)	F	below 60 (0.0)

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic/Assignment	Reading
Week 1	January 30	Introductory Matters	Frame chaps. 7-9
Week 2	February 6	Creation and Providence	Frame, 10-11; 14
Week 3	February 13	Creation and Providence	Frame, 33-35
Week 4	February 20	Creation and Providence Meditation Paper #1	Frame, 36-38
Week 5	February 27	Humanity and Sin Worksheet #1	Hoekema, chaps. 1-4
Week 6	March 6	Humanity and Sin	Hoekema, 5-7
Week 7	March 13	Humanity and Sin	Hoekema, 8-12
Week 8	March 20	Person of Christ Meditation Paper #2	Wellum, Intro-chap. 2
Week 9	March 27	Person of Christ Position Paper Part I	Wellum, 3-5
Week 10	April 3-7	Spring Break	Wellum, chaps. 6-8
Week 11	April 10	Person of Christ Worksheet #2	Wellum, chaps. 9-11
Week 11	April 17	Work of Christ	Wellum, chaps. 12-14
Week 12	April 24	Work of Christ Position Paper Part II	Treat, Intro-ch. 4
Week 13	May 1	Work of Christ	Treat, 5-10
Week 14	May 8-12	Finals	