

# Course Descriptions

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## Systematic Theology

Explore Scripture from a different point of view by deepening your understanding of the grand themes of our Christian faith. This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of systematic theology and of Christian beliefs. It will help you understand why you believe what you believe, and the historical background of foundational Christian doctrines. Our study will be built around The Navigators' Statement of Faith, which

includes statements related to Bibliology, Trinitarian Theology, Christology, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Eschatology, and Pneumatology.

### Learning Outcomes/Course Goals

Completion of this course will give you:

- An ability to reflect theologically and systematically on basic issues of the Christian faith
- Appreciation for historical, cultural, and contextual factors that shape theological issues
- Skill in developing an integrated, consistent, and practical personal theology for life and ministry.

### Course Format

Weekly online video instruction coordinated with textbook reading and online forum reflections/discussions. Workload: approximately five to seven hours per week.

## Required Reading

- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. [Selected readings]

## Highly Recommended Resources

- Grenz, Stanley J., David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Patzia, Aruthur G., and Anthonie J. Petrotta. *Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

## Recommended Reading

- Geisler, Norman L. *Systematic Theology: In One Volume*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2011.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.
- Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology?: An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology, 2nd ed.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004. [3rd edition is available in 2014]

## Assignments

("Satisfactory" evaluation required for completion of the course)

1. Weekly online posts and participation in online forum related to video instruction, class notes, and textbook reading
2. Final essay (3–5 pages) that demonstrates the integration of course content with a contextual personal or ministry issue of biblical interpretation
3. Participation in video-conference calls

# Syllabus Overview

## 1. WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

Goals of the course; definitions and misconceptions; motivations and approaches; theology's critical and constructive tasks and tools

## 2. REVELATION AND THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Prolegomena; revelation, the word of God, and Scripture; views of Scripture; authority, sufficiency, and inerrancy of Scripture

## 3. THE TRINITY

Scriptural definitions; progressive revelation in the testaments; singularity of God; deity of Christ; early church reactions and conclusions

## 4. THE GOD MAN

Scriptural attestation to Jesus' deity; evidence and significance of Jesus' humanity; early church Christological creeds and heresies

## 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT

Trinitarian beliefs; scriptural evidence of the Spirit's deity; early church pneumatological creeds; roles of the Spirit; relating to the Spirit

## 6. ANTHROPOLOGY

Scriptural meaning of humanity; implications of the imago dei; the person of Christ; the new creation; humanity present and future

## 7. HAMARTIOLOGY

Sin defined; roots of sin; the impact of the "fall"; original sin; generational sin; sources of opposition

## 8. SOTERIOLOGY 1

Definitions and assumptions; "good news"; visual illustrations; God's motivation; victory, restoration, and adoption; faith and works; grace

## 9. SOTERIOLOGY 2

Salvation present and future; the doctrines of heaven and hell; rewards of belief and consequences of disbelief

## 10. SANCTIFICATION

Definitions; bondage and freedom; the new creation; "dead to sin"; progressive change; enduring in the faith; glorification and hope