



**THTH 8302 Doctrinal Foundations for Contemporary Ministry**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Professional Doctoral Studies (3 hours)**  
**Theological & Historical Studies**  
**December 2–4, 2024**

Adam Harwood, PhD  
Professor of Theology, McFarland Chair of Theology  
Divisional Associate Dean, T&H Studies  
Office: Dodd 213 Phone: 504-816-8074  
Email: aharwood@nobts.edu

**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Seminar Description**

This seminar is designed to involve students in research and reflection upon the various doctrinal foundations for contemporary ministry. A twofold approach will examine the development and articulation of specified doctrines of the Baptist Faith and Message and the development and implementation of the doctrines within the various contemporary ministries of the local church. This course also serves as preparation for the students to engage in theological reflection in other ProDoc seminars, the Final Project Proposal, and the Project Report.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students successfully completing the seminar will demonstrate:

- foundational knowledge of the methods and tasks of Christian theology;
- awareness of the critical significance of sound theological reflection for the church;
- appreciation of the Baptist theological heritage and major challenges it faces today;
- ability to develop strategies for teaching doctrine to contemporary believers;
- commitment to attentive reading, solid research, sound reasoning, and clear and substantive writing.

**Required Textbooks**

Blount, Douglas K. and Joseph D. Wooddell, eds. *Baptist Faith and Message 2000: Critical Issues in America's Largest Protestant Denomination*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Harwood, Adam. *Christian Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Systematic*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Academic, 2022.

Harwood, Adam, and Kevin Lawson, ed. *Infants and Children in the Church: Five Views on Theology and Ministry*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2017.

Putman, Rhyne R. *The Method of Christian Theology: A Basic Introduction*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2021.

One book of the student's choice, selected from the list on page 7.

Also, please bring **one or more** of the following Systematic Theology texts (If you have used other texts for systematic theology, bring them, too):

- Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*, either edition. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007 or 2014. This “systematic” theology is a collection of essays on different doctrinal topics written by some of the leading voices in the Southern Baptist Convention.
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*, either edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013 or 2020. Bird is an Anglican and Reformed NT scholar from Australia who has written a systematic theology that integrates the insights of contemporary biblical theology into a systematic textbook.
- Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. An encyclopedia of theological knowledge from an evangelical perspective. A very helpful resource for research papers.
- Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013. Frame is a Presbyterian and Reformed theologian in the Westminster Tradition.
- Garrett, James L. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*, 2 vol, any edition. North Richland Hills, TX: BIBAL Press, 1990–2014. Garrett was an SBC theologian who offered an excellent historical examination of each of the doctrines discussed.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville: B&H, 1994 or Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Grenz was a prolific Baptist author who ministered primarily in Canada. His systematic theology, as seen in his title, focuses on the theme of community.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*, either edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994 or 2020. Grudem, a Calvinistic Baptist with charismatic undertones, has written one of the most popular and accessible theology texts available today.
- Horton, Michael F. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Horton is a well-known Reformed theologian and apologist who engages many contemporary issues and important philosophical trends.
- Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2011. Oden is a Methodist/Wesleyan evangelical theologian who utilizes the resources of patristic Christianity to make a case for Christian doctrines. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the thought of early church fathers.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. 2d ed. Chicago: Moody, 1999. This volume is a systematic theology written with lay persons in mind. Ryrie writes from a classic Dispensationalist perspective.
- Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. Williams was a leading intellectual figure in the neo-charismatic movement called “renewal theology.” This is an excellent exposition of contemporary charismatic and Pentecostal theology.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: assigned readings, classroom lecture, classroom discussions, book reviews, and a doctrinal foundations paper. These methods are consistent with the belief that some learning will occur outside of as well as in the classroom. My goal is not that students will be indoctrinated to affirm all my views; rather, my goal is that students think critically about their own views, gain a better understanding of other views, and be able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the supporting claims.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- |                                     |     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| • Notes on Putman book              | 15% | Due: Nov. 4, 2024   |
| • Notes on Harwood and Lawson book  | 15% | Due: Nov. 11, 2024  |
| • Notes on Blount and Wooddell book | 15% | Due: Nov. 18, 2024  |
| • Seminar Presentation              | 20% | Due: During Seminar |
| • Text Reflection Review            | 15% | Due: Jan. 8, 2025   |
| • Doctrinal Foundations Paper       | 20% | Due: Jan. 29, 2025  |

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) [Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](mailto:VideoConferencingHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

## Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definitions, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## Course Schedule

Time	Topic	Texts	Presenters
Monday, Dec. 2 1:00-1:30 pm	Introductions & Syllabus		Harwood
Monday, Dec. 2 1:30-3:00 pm	Prolegomena	Blount, Introduction Erickson, Part 1 Harwood, Chapter 1	Harwood
Monday, Dec. 2 3:15-5:00 pm	Revelation	Blount, Article 1 Erickson, Part 2 Harwood, Part 1	
Monday, Dec. 2 5:00-6:00 pm	<i>Dinner</i>		
Monday, Dec. 2 6:00-8:45 pm	God	Blount, Article 2.1 Erickson, Parts 3-4 Harwood, Part 2	

Tuesday, Dec. 3 8-9:45 am	Humanity	Blount, Articles 3, 18 Erickson, Part 5-6 Harwood, Part 3	
Tuesday, Dec. 3 10:00-10:45 am	Christ, pt. 1	Blount, Article 2.2 Erickson, Parts 7-8 Harwood, Part 4	
Tuesday, Dec. 3 11am - 1pm	<i>Chapel and Lunch</i>		
Tuesday, Dec. 3 1:00-2:00 pm	Christ, pt. 2		
Tuesday, Dec. 3 2:15-4:00 pm	The Holy Spirit	Blount, Article 2.3 Erickson, Part 9 Harwood, Part 5	
Wednesday, Dec. 4 8:00-9:45 am	Salvation	Blount, Articles 4, 5, 13 Erickson, Part 10 Harwood, Part 6	
Wednesday, Dec. 4 10:00-11:45 am	The Church	Blount, Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 Erickson, Part 11 Harwood, Part 7	
Wednesday, Dec. 4 12:00-1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>		
Wednesday, Dec. 4 1:00-2:45 pm	Last Things	Blount, Articles 10 Erickson, Part 12 Harwood, Part 8	
Wednesday, Dec. 4 3:00-3:45 pm	<i>Seminar Wrap-up</i>		
<b>Jan. 8, 2025</b>	Focused Theology Topic Book Review Due		
<b>Jan. 29, 2025</b>	Doctrinal Foundations assignment due		

Note: because this is a reduced-time class, do *not* plan on arriving late or leaving early.

Because of rush hour traffic, flights out of town on Wednesday should be scheduled at least after 6 pm.

## Seminar Assignments

1. *Assigned Readings/Notes*– Read the following assigned texts. You are responsible for all the readings, not just those you present in class.
  - a. Read Putman, *The Method of Christian Theology* (100 points)
    - i. Due four weeks before class, **Nov. 4, 2024**
    - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
    - iii. Turn in outline-style notes on this book. There is some flexibility in format, but a bulleted list with sentences describing the basic teachings of each chapter is preferred. Use a method that would later serve you best.
  - b. Read Harwood and Lawson, *Infants and Children in the Church*
    - i. Due three weeks before class, **Nov. 11, 2024**
    - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
    - iii. Turn in outline-style notes on this book. There is some flexibility in format, but a bulleted list with sentences describing the basic teachings of each chapter is preferred. Use a method that would later serve you best.
  - c. Read Blount and Wooddell, *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*.
    - i. Due two weeks before class, **Nov. 18, 2024**
    - ii. Submit a statement about the percentage read of each book.
    - iii. Turn in outline-style notes on this book. There is some flexibility in format, but a bulleted list with sentences describing the basic teachings of each chapter is preferred. Use a method that would later serve you best.
2. *Seminar Presentation* (100 points)

During the seminar, lead the class discussion on theological topics. **Each student is required to read carefully the sections in Blount, Erickson, and Harwood corresponding to the topic on which they will present.** When registration for the seminar is settled, the professor will circulate a Google document for students to sign up for the topic presentation.

Guidelines for leading discussions:

- i. Define the doctrine and describe particular facets of the doctrine.
- ii. Why and how is the doctrine that you present important?
- iii. What problems or controversies are found within this doctrine?
- iv. Prepare questions about the doctrine to stimulate discussion.
- v. What type of projects would this doctrine most readily inform or relate?
- vi. Provide a typical one-sentence statement of the objective of a DMin or DEdMin project report and lead the discussion of how the doctrine impacts the project report.

### 3. *Focused Theology Text Reflection Review* (100 points)

Due: **Jan. 8, 2025**

Each student will sign up to review *one* of the following books (one you have not previously read) and submit a **9-15 page report**, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, with proper documentation (please use parenthetical notation for references to pages in the book).

Each book will be assigned to only one student in the seminar. Reviews will be submitted via Canvas to be available for download as a resource for seminar participants. If possible, choose a book that relates to a theme you might use for a project report.

#### **The Text Reflection Review should adhere to the following guidelines:**

1. Each Text Reflection review should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account biblical and theological principles and sound reasoning. Students are expected to be demanding readers, aiming to profit from the books, even if the student disagrees with an author's assertions or conclusions (disagreement on some points is likely). Some books will demand more effort from readers than others. The goal of reading in theology is not merely to gain information but to increase in understanding. Be a teachable reader.
2. When you disagree with an author or if you find a book laborious or difficult to read, then follow the wisdom of Adler and Van Doran (*How to Read a Book*) and allow the author to speak on his or her own terms. *When you disagree, do so reasonably and not contentiously.* Moreover, *respect the difference between knowledge and mere personal opinion by giving reasons for any critical judgment you make.* You do not have to like or recommend a book. Not all books are worth reading. For this class, however, you are expected not only to learn from the readings but to hone your understanding of theology and theological issues. Your reflections should be helpful to other students who might want to study an issue treated in the book that you read and review.
3. Your review should include the following:
  - a. **3-5 pages:** Brief biographical sketch of the author(s), major thesis or arguments of the book, and brief summary of the content of the book. If the book has multiple authors, then do not provide specific information for each author. Instead, simply describe the reason for multiple authors and the general but important distinctions between the authors (for example, the *Four Views on Hell* book includes a dispensationalist, evangelical, Roman Catholic, and openness theologian).
  - b. **3-5 pages:** What particular theological insights are offered in the book (or missing) and how do they practically relate to life and ministry in the church? How were you challenged by the book?
  - c. **3-5 pages:** Reasonably describe the major strengths and weaknesses of the book. Offer a statement of recommendation; why you would or would not recommend this book, and to whom would you recommend the book, and so forth?

Note: You might profit by looking at published reviews of these books to get ideas for your own evaluation. Be sure to footnote any sources that you use.

Theology Texts to Review (choose one)

- Allen, David L., and Steve W. Lemke, eds. *Calvinism: A Biblical and Theological Critique*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2022. Salvation
- Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2012. Ecclesiology
- Dockery, David S., and Yarnell, Malcolm B. III. *Special Revelation and Scripture*. TPG. Brentwood: B&H Academic, 2024. Revelation
- Dockery, David S., with Lauren McAfee, ed. *Created in the Image of God: Applications and Implications for our Cultural Confusion*. Nashville: Forefront, 2023. Humanity
- Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*, either edition. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005 or 2019. Ecclesiology
- Hummel, Daniel G. *The Rise and Fall of Dispensationalism: How the Evangelical Battle over the End Times Shaped a Nation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2023. Eschatology
- Jamieson, R. B., and Tyler R. Wittman. *Biblical Reasoning: Christological and Trinitarian Rules for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022. Trinity and Christology
- Jowers, Dennis, ed. *Four Views on Divine Providence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Doctrine of God
- Peckham, John C. *Divine Attributes: Knowing the Covenantal God of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021. Doctrine of God
- Rosner, Brian S. *Known by God: A Biblical Theology of Personal Identity*. Biblical Theology for Life. Edited by Jonathan Lunde. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017. Humanity
- Smith, Brandon D., ed. *The Trinity in the Canon: A Biblical, Theological, Historical, and Practical Proposal*. Brentwood: B&H Academic, 2023. Doctrine of God
- Thiselton, Anthony. *The Holy Spirit—In Biblical Teaching, through the Centuries, and Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013. Holy Spirit
- Walvoord, John F., et al. *Four Views on Hell*. Counterpoints, edited by Stanley N. Gundry. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. Eschatology

#### 4. *Doctrinal Foundations Paper* (100 points)

Due: **Jan. 29, 2025**

From the **Representative Models for Projects** listed below or the **Project Report Samples** posted in Canvas, choose an example of a project report and write an 8-10 page Doctrinal Foundations section that meets the requirements of the DMin or DEdMin Handbook for a project report.

Pertinent Sections from Project in Ministry Handbook:

#### Doctrinal Foundations Section of Final Project Proposal

Identify and discuss two to four Christian doctrines which undergird and inform the proposed project. Your Doctrinal Foundations section should identify which classic Christian doctrines (theology, soteriology, ecclesiology, etc.) are most foundational to the project, presupposed by the project, or addressed in the project. Focus your discussion on these broader foundational doctrines and the implications of these doctrines, rather than merely exegeting biblical passages. However, do provide biblical support for these doctrines, utilizing good hermeneutics and avoiding eisegesis or prooftexting. Utilize the original biblical languages as appropriate in your discussion. In your discussion you may also identify how key issues, thinkers, or movements in theology (Calvinism vs. Arminianism, Lordship salvation vs. grace salvation, etc.) are informed by the project.

#### Theological Reflections Section of Project Report

Identify and discuss two to four key theological issues that were raised in the implementation of the project. Although this section (5-7 pages) may address some of the same general issues that were raised in the Doctrinal Foundations section of the Final Project Proposal, do not merely recapitulate the Doctrinal Foundations discussion. You may address issues surfacing in the implementation of the project, your theological reflections as you directed the project, or the issues raised in the project which have informed your pastoral theology.

#### Representative Models for Projects

1. *Equipping Program*: Developing materials and using them to train a small group of believers in some phase of direct ministry (e.g., training a ministry team to minister to persons in grief and working with them in the early stages of implementation).
2. *Preaching Skills Enhancement*: Improving some personal ministry skill (e.g., the development of goals and related exercises for improving diction, word selection, gestures, etc. in preaching, and the implementation and evaluation of those plans).
3. *Strategy Planning*: Developing a strategy of Christian ministry among a targeted people group and beginning the early stages of implementation (e.g., an on-site study of a ski resort community and an ensuing strategy for reaching the population).
4. *Community Assessment*—The assessment of social needs in a community and development of specific recommendations for meeting those needs (e.g., researching the social crises in an urban area and making recommendations for establishing a crisis pregnancy ministry).
5. *Ministry Research*: Research of a general subject that issues forth into the development of conferences or workshops that address a related ministry concern (e.g., studying Mormonism and developing a workshop that equips believers to share Christ with Mormons).



## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Historical Theologies

- Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Baptist Theology: A Four-Century Study*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2009.
- McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

### Systematic Theologies

- Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B&H, 2014.
- Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologica*.
- Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Abridged in one volume. Edited by John Bolt. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- Conner, Walter T. *Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: Broadman, 1937.
- Dagg, J. L. *A Manual of Theology*. 1857; repr. Harrisonburg, VA: Gano, 1990.
- Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2013.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, 1995.
- Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. 1994; reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.
- Letham, Robert. *Systematic Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019.
- Lewis, Gordon, and Bruce Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. 3 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Oden, Thomas C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991–1997.
- Swindoll, Charles R., and Roy B. Zuck, eds. *Understanding Christian Theology*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *Systematic Theology*. Minneapolis: Eerdmans, 2015.