



**Systematic Theology 1 THEO5300**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Theological and Historical Studies Division**  
**Fall 2019**

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**Classes Meet: Monday 1:00-2:50 PM EST**  
**8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2**

**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is **Spiritual Vitality:** *We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.*

**Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competency addressed in this course is Christian Theological Heritage.

**Course Description**

This first course in systematic theology introduces the student to the methodology of the study of theology (Prolegomena), and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ. The biblical foundation and the relevant historical development are considered in comprehensive construction of a Christian understanding of each doctrine.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to understand theological method and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ biblically, historically, and systematically.
2. Be able to apply theology by integrating these doctrines into a coherent, comprehensive, and consistent Christian worldview.

3. Be able to communicate these doctrines in the particular ministry calling and context of the learner.

### **Embedded Assignment**

**This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.** Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbook and other theological resources (like commentaries, other theological textbooks or monographs), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation. What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism? Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel. This assignment should be 800-1200 words in length (No less than 2 pages and no more than 3 pages of running text). [Do not simply restate Aquinas's arguments]

### **Textbooks**

#### **Required Texts:**

The Bible (a modern version is preferable)

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998. ISBN: 0-8012-2182-0. ISBN# 0-8010-2182-0

Macgregor, Kirk R. *Contemporary Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-310-53453-2

#### **Required Books for 2 books reviews (choose any two. They must be from different sections)**

##### Section 1:

Craig L. Blomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove, ILL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.

Beeke, Joel R., and Don Kistler, ed. *Sola Scriptura: The Protestant position on the Bible*, rev ed. Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Pub., 2009.

Wright, N.T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. London, England: SPCK, 2013 @1995.

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##### Section 2:

Plantinga, Alvin., *God and Other Minds: A Study of the Rational Justification of Belief in God*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2008.

Davis, Stephen T. *God, Reason and Theistic Proofs*. Edinburgh, England: Edinburgh University Press, 1997.

Stephen R. Holmes, *The Quest for the Trinity: the doctrine of god in scripture, history and modernity*. Downers Grove, ILL: IVP Academic, 2012.

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##### Section 3:

Barrett, Matthew, and Ardel B. Caneday, ed. *Four Views on the Historical Adam*. Counterpoint, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013. James E. Dolezal, *All That is in God* (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2017).

Copan, Paul and William Lane Craig. *Creation Out of Nothing: A Biblical, Philosophical, and Scientific Exploration*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004.

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Section 4:

Cooper, John W. *Body, Soul, and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

Schwarz, Hans. *The Human Being: A Theological Anthropology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014

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Jacobs, Alan. *Original Sin: A Cultural History*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.

Peterson, Robert A., and Christopher W. Morgan, eds. *Fallen: A Theology of Sin*. Wheaton, IL Crossway, 2013.

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Section 5:

Arnold, Clinton E. *Powers of Darkness: Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.

Lane, A.N.S., ed. *The Unseen World: Christian Reflection on Angels, Demons and the Heavenly Realm*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997.

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Section 6:

Book of your own choosing. You must submit an annotated bibliography and receive permission from the professor.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- *Reading all assigned materials*. The course is structured to correspond with assigned chapters in the textbook. Likewise, the tests are based upon your assigned reading as well as lectures and provided study materials. One of the quiz questions will be, "Did you complete the required reading?"
- *Lectures and class room discussion*. The lectures and classroom discussions are designed to enhance and provide additional materials not necessarily covered your reading assignments.
- *Tests*. There are tests to assess requisite knowledge.
- *Book Reviews*. The purpose of this exercise is to increase your knowledge in a particular area and to develop your competencies in analytical thinking, and critical writing.
- *Integrative Papers*. The purpose of this exercise is to assist you to synthesize and then integrate the lessons from theology into your own life and ministry.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
2. Class Participation. The purpose of this exercise is to assist the student in the practice of summarizing concepts (textbook chapters) and presentation of engaging discussions of 10 minutes or

less. The idea is not information overload but information that informs, edifies, and motivates the listener. You might want to review some TED Talks (TED.com) for examples.

3. Integrative Essays. [The purpose of these exercises are to assist the student in integrating their theology with life and ministry] Students will follow the directions to complete the following four (4) integrative essay. Follow Turabian style (endnotes); New Times Roman, 12point, double spaced. Unless otherwise indicated no less than 2 pages and no more than 10 pages of running text (does not include front matter, endnotes page, and bibliography page).

The first three integrative essays are required of all students.

- 1) Required Ministry Integration Paper: Using the definition of systematic theology given by B.A. Demarest in Elwell’s Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, explain how it relates to three other disciplines of theology: biblical theology, historical theology, and philosophical theology. Which of the four approaches is the most important in your current or future ministry context. 500-1000 words in length (No less than 1 page and no more than 3 pages of running text).
- 2) Required Embedded Assignment: **This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.** Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbook and other theological resources (like commentaries, other theological textbooks or monographs), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation. What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism? Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel. This assignment should be 800-1200 words in length (No less than 2 pages and no more than 3 pages of running text). [Do not simply restate Aquinas’s arguments]
- 3) Required Scholarly Research Position Paper: Does it matter whether the Bible is *errant* or *inerrant*, *fallible* or *infallible*, *inspired* or *uninspired*? Using materials from your textbooks and other sources, e.g., *Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy* and *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, construct your understanding of the doctrine of biblical authority, inspiration, and inerrancy. Avoid using a circular argument, e.g., “Because the Bible says it is God’s word.” This assignment should be no less than 10 pages of running text and no more than 25 pages and include no less than 6 primary resources.
4. Book Critique. See above. Students are required to present a critique of 3 pages following the provided rubric.
5. Quizzes – Students must take 12 quizzes throughout the course, which will cover all materials from the reading and notes. All quizzes contain 10 multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions; are closed-book/closed-notes; and must be completed in 30 minutes. Preparation and study are essential for these quizzes.

#### Embedded Assignment Rubric

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INADEQUATE (0 PTS)	BASIC (1 PT)	COMPETENT (2 PTS)	GOOD (3 PTS)	EXCELLENT (4PTS)
UNDERSTANDING	Able to understand the doctrinal topic.					
APPLICATION	Able to apply					

	knowledge by relating it to the broader Christian worldview.					
COMMUNICATION	Able to communicate the doctrine to a ministry audience.					

### Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

	Percentage	Grading
Class participation	10	A=93-100%
Quizzes	20	B=85-92%
Book reviews	10	C=77-84%
Integrative Essay	20	D=70-76%
Research Paper	40	
TOTAL	100%	F= Below 70%

### 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) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

### 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.

### 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 definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### Course Schedule

**Monday HYBRID CIV Cycle (8 Class Meetings) - NGA, SGA, PEN, JAX**  
**Bi-Weekly classes meet on: 8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2**  
**Time: 1:00-2:50 PM EST**

[M]=Kirk R. Macgregor, *Contemporary Theology*  
[E]=Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

Week	Dates		Assignments
Class meets			
1	August 26	Introduction to course Studying God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 1</li> <li>[M]</li> <li>[E] Chp 1-5</li> </ul>
2	September 2	What is Systematic Theology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 2</li> <li>Unit 2 Quiz 1 Prologomena</li> <li>[M] Chp 1-3</li> <li></li> </ul>
3	September 9	General Revelation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 3</li> <li>Unit 3 Quiz 2 General Revelation</li> <li>[E] Chp 6-7</li> <li>[M] Chp 4-7</li> <li>Integrative Essay 1 due</li> </ul>
4	16	Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 4</li> <li>Unit 4 Quiz 3: Scripture Pt 1</li> <li>[E] Chp 8-10</li> <li>[M] Chp 8-11</li> <li></li> </ul>
5	23	Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 5</li> <li>Unit 5 Quiz 4 Scripture Pt 2</li> <li>Integrative Essay 2 due for class presentation</li> <li>[M] Chp 12-15</li> </ul>
6	30	God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 6</li> <li>Unit 6 Quiz 5 God Pt 1</li> <li>Book review #1 Chp 11-12</li> <li>[M] Chp 16-19</li> </ul>
7	October 7	God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 7</li> <li>Unit 7 Quiz 6 God Pt 2</li> <li>[E] Chp 13</li> <li>[M] Chp 20-23</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Break Oct 14-18</li> </ul>			
8	Oct 21	Trinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 8</li> <li>Unit 8 Quiz 7 Trinity</li> <li>Book review #2</li> <li>[E] Chp 14</li> <li>[M] Chp 24-27</li> </ul>
9	28	Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 9</li> <li>Unit 9 Quiz 8 Creation</li> <li>[E] Chp 15-16</li> <li>[M] Chp 28-31</li> </ul>

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10	31	Providence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 10</li> <li>• Unit 10 Quiz 9 Providence</li> <li>• Integrative Essay 3 due for class presentation</li> <li>• [E] Chp 17-18</li> <li>• [M] Chp 32-35</li> </ul>
11	November 4	Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 11</li> <li>• Unit 11 Quiz 10 Anthropology</li> <li>• [E] Chp 20-24</li> <li>• [M] Chp 36-38</li> </ul>
12	11	Harmatology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 12</li> <li>• Unit 12 Quiz 11 Sin</li> <li>• [E] Chp 25-29</li> </ul>
13	18	Christology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 13</li> <li>• Unit 13 Quiz 12 Christology Pt 1</li> <li>• Integrative Essay 4 due for class presentation</li> <li>• [E] Chp 30-34</li> </ul>
Thanksgiving Break			
14	Dec 2	Christology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 14 Quiz 13</li> <li>• Catch up on Presentations etc</li> </ul>

### Selected Bibliography

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Allred, Frank. *How Can I be Sure?* London: Grace Publications Trust, 1999.

Alston, William. *Divine Nature and Human Language*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989.

Archer, Margaret S., et al. *Transcendence: Critical Realism and God*. London and New York: Routledge, 1998.

Barker, Harold. *Secure Forever*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Bros., 1986.

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. ed by G. W. Bromiley and T. F. Torrance. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1956.

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- Brunner, Emil. *The Christian Doctrine of God*, vol. 1 of Dogmatics, trans. Olive Wyon. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1950.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *God in Three Persons: A Contemporary Interpretation of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God the Father Almighty: A Contemporary Exploration of the Divine Attributes*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *What Does God Know and When Does He Know It?: The Current Controversy Over Divine Foreknowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

- Feinberg, John S. *The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problem of Evil*. rev. and expanded ed. Wheaton: Crossway, 2004.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *No One Like Him. Foundations of Evangelical Theology*, ed. John S. Feinberg. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
- Flint, Thomas. *Divine Providence: The Molinist Account*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998.
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#### Study Guide

NOTE: This study guide is not intended to be a comprehensive guide.

Prolegomena		
Wayne Grudem's understanding of Systematic Theology Dr Kendrick's six fundamental questions theology answers Theological triage	Geisler's eleven preconditions for theology	Prolegomena Apologetics Polemics Theology

General Revelation		
General revelation Special revelation A priori and a posteriori Theism Pantheism Panentheism Finite godism atheism	Arguments for God's existence Geisler on general/special revelation Kalam cosmological argument	Karl Barth Paul Tillich L. H. DeWolf Thomas Aquinas C.S. Lewis Abraham Kuyper Martin Luther

Scripture Part 1		
Anthropomorphic Anthropopathic Analogical	Karl Barth Emil Brunner	Theories of inspiration

Anthropic Particular revelation		
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Scripture Part 2		
Kierkegaard Karl Barth Emil Brunner C.S. Lewis John Rice	Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy	

God Part 1		
Attributes of God Aseity Immutability Omnipresence unity	Omnipotence Omniscience goodness	Natural attributes Moral attributes Eternity Holiness Love faithfulness

God Part 2 [needs work]		

Trinity		
For the major heresies and bad theology you should know, Who taught it? What is it? Key texts used? Where & when was it condemned? Where does it show up today?		
Dynamic Monarchianism Theodionism Filoque Perichoresis Ontologic and economic Trinity Monarchianism Subordinationism Patripassionism Socinianism Albigensianism Latin Averroism Monophysitism	Modalistic monarchiansim Hypostasis Homoiousios Economic trinity Tritheism Patripassionism Jansenism Karl Barth Gnosticism Monothelitism Pelagianism Nestorianism	Sabellianism Ousia Homoousios Immanent trinity Oneness Pentecostalism

Creation		
Young earth vs old earth Theistic evolution Gap theory Day-age theory Apparent-age theory Punctuated 24-hour theory Scientific creationism	Ex nihilo Ex material Ex Deo 24 hour interpretation Framework interpretation Historical creationism	Platonism

Providence		
Concurrence Government Preservation Foreordination Finitism Predestination	Theologies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geisler</li> <li>• B. Gordon H Clark</li> <li>• Mary Baker Eddy</li> </ul>	

Anthropology		
Naturalistic evolution Fiat creationism Deistic evolution Progressive creationism Traducian Hylomorphism Monism Conditional unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theologies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emil Brunner</li> <li>○ Millard Erickson</li> <li>○ Plato</li> <li>○ Thomas Aquinas</li> <li>○ Benedict Spinoza</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Trichotomism Dichotomism <i>Imago dei</i> Soma Nephesh Psyche Transmission of the soul?

Hamartiology		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theologies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Albert Mohler</li> <li>○ Danny Akins</li> <li>○ Augustine</li> <li>○ Millard Erickson</li> <li>○ John Wesley</li> <li>○ John Calvin</li> <li>○ Augustin</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Original sin Arminianism Pelagianism Total depravity Prevenient grace Enabling grace Regeneration	Sin as defined by Dr Kendrick Poneros Asebes Enochos Hamartia Adikia Anomos Lawlessness Planan Paraptomai Hupocrites Kakos Parabates

Christology Part 1		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theologies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adolf von Harnack</li> <li>○ Millard</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Christology from above/below</li> <li>○ Apollinarianism</li> <li>○ Arianism</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Erickson</li> <li>○ Rudolf Bultmann</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Docetism</li> <li>○ Ebionism</li> <li>○ Nestorianism</li> <li>○ Monophysitism</li> <li>○ Trinity</li> </ul>	
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Christology Part 2 Christology Part 2		