

Course: TH610 N Systematic Theology I
Credits: 3 Hours
Semester: Spring 2023, Cycle 6 (May 8 – Jun 30)
Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays
Instructor: Dr. Michel L. Dodds, (816) 425-6205, mike.dodds@calvary.edu,
(913) 638-3291 (cell)

DESCRIPTION

This course surveys what the Bible teaches about the Bible, God, man and sin (Bibliology, Theology Proper, Biblical Anthropology and Hamartiology). [ILOs #1, 2, 3]

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Explain Bibliology, Theology Proper, Theological Anthropology and Hamartiology from the Bible (PLO 1, 2, 3,4, 5) (A 1-8)
2. Defend the inerrancy of the Bible (PLO 1,3,4,5) (A1, 2, 3)
3. Learn how to worship and serve the one, true, triune God of the Bible (PLO 3, 4) (A4, 5, 6)
4. Critique the different evolutionary views of the origin of man (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A7, 8)
5. Explain the significance of these four key events in Genesis 1-11: creation, the Fall of man, the global flood and the Tower of Babel (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A7, 8)

Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Explain the various ways God has revealed Himself to mankind (PLO 1, 2) (A1, 2, 3)
2. Define and defend what the Bible teaches about revelation, its inspiration, inerrancy, and authority (PLO 1, 2, 3,4, 5) (A1, 2, 3)
3. Define the attributes of God and apply them to real life (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A4, 5, 6)
4. Comprehend and explain God's tri-unity (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A4, 5, 6)
5. Explain the antinomy between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A4, 5, 6)
6. Defend the creation of the literal historical Adam and the literal historical Fall of man

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview

- (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A7, 8)
7. Defend what the Bible teaches about the nature of man and image of God in man
(PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A7, 8)
 8. Explain how to have victory over sin in your life (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A7, 8)

TEXTBOOKS

BIBLE - The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Durst, Rodrick. *Reordering the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2015. ISBN: 978-0825443787. Cost: \$23.56 on Amazon

Geisler, Norman and William Nix. *From God to Us: How We Got our Bible*. Chicago: Moody, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-8024-2882-0. Cost: \$24.99.

Mortenson, Terry, ed. *Searching for Adam: Genesis and the Truth about Man's Origin*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books. ISBN: 978-0-89051-975-2. Cost: \$24.99.

ASSIGNMENTS

Reading & Questions:

Reading #1: Read *From God to Us: How We Got our Bible* and answer ten questions on the doctrine of Bibliology (100 points).

Reading #2: Read *Reordering the Trinity* by Durst and answer ten questions on the doctrine of Theology Proper (100 points).

Reading #3: Read *Searching for Adam* and answer ten questions on the doctrines of Anthropology/Hamartiology (100 points).

Topic Presentations & Discussion:

Topic Presentation: Select 3 of the topics to be discussed in class and prepare a 5 to 7-minute video presentation to be shown to the class at the beginning of the discussion of that specific topic. Include in the video presentation the following: (1) a brief intro of yourself (only in your 1st presentation), (2) a definition of the topic, (3) a key passage in which the definition is seen with a brief explanation of the passage, (4) how this topic is misunderstood / distorted / confused by unbelievers and some believers today, and (5) a significant question concerning this topic (45 points each, 135 total).

Topic Discussion: Respond to each week's topics with a statement of the practical

implications of the truth of that week’s topics in ministry to others, both unbelievers and believers (20 points each week, 160 points total).

Writing:

Writing #1: Write a 4-part (3 pages each) Non-Research essay summarizing your doctrinal beliefs about the course topics: (a) biblical Bibliology (the Doctrine of Scripture), (b) theology proper (the doctrine of God), (c) Anthropology (the doctrine of People), and (d) hamartiology (the doctrine of Sin) (200 points).

Writing #2: Write a Research Essay of at least 6 pages (not including title page or bibliography) on one of the following topics. The paper must follow the Turabian Style Guide, include Scripture references (but not extensive quotations), and include 10 sources and footnotes (150 points).

Defend the normative hermeneutic (historical, grammatical, literal) and compare and contrast it with the allegorical and anagogical hermeneutics.

Describe the various views of the NT use of the OT and defend the view you believe is correct.

Defend the biblical understanding of the Trinity and compare and contrast it with Modalism and Sabellianism.

Critique the Open View of God as held by Boyd, Pinnock, and Sanders.

Defend the historical view of Adam and compare and contrast that view with those views which hold that Adam was merely a literary figure.

Defend a biblical understanding of the nature of People and compare and contrast that view with Gnosticism and Naturalism.

Defend a biblical understanding of sin and compare and contrast that view with the Roman Catholic understanding of sin (mortal and venial).

Defend the proper understand of the “sin unto death” (1 John 5:16) / “unpardonable sin” (Mark 3:28) / “a number are asleep” (1 Cor. 11:30).

POINTS AND FINAL GRADE

See the grading scale in the University Catalog for the specific grading scale that will be used for final course grade.

Possible points for each specific assignment:

***Note:** An assignment-specific rubric will be provided for each assignment.

Readings & Questions (3 @ 100 ea).	= 300	points
Topic Presentations Discussion (3 @ 45; 8 @ 20 ea).	= 295	“
Essays (2 @ 200 ea.).	= 400	“
	TOTAL POINTS.	= 995 “

CLASS SCHEDULE

* Note: A detailed Class Schedule will be provided in Canvas.

WEEK	CLASS LECTURES
#1	Bibliology, Part 1: Prolegomena, Revelation, Inspiration
#2	Bibliology, Part 2: Inerrancy, Canonicity, Hermeneutics
#3	Theology Proper, Part 1: Existence, Revelation, Attributes
#4	Theology Proper, Part 2: Names, Triunity, Decrees
#5	Anthropology, Part 1: Origin, Nature, Image
#6	Anthropology, Part 2: Distortions, Male & Female, Distortions
#7	Hamartiology, Part 1: Fall, Inherited, Imputed
#8	Hamartiology, Part 2: Personal, Christian, Death

Help for Students

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

Expectations for Papers

All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (with footnotes) and the *Calvary University The 2019 Turabian Style Guide Addendum* to Turabian.

A sample paper is in the Learning Center or at Calvary's web site. All papers should include a title page and a bibliography. The pages reference is to the content of the paper and not to the title page or bibliography.

You should not wait until the last minute to do these papers. It is good practice to finish each paper a couple of days before it is due. If you need help with Turabian – please go the Clark Academic Center for help.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. If a student plagiarizes, he or she will receive a zero for the assignment and it will be reported to the academic dean.

Note: The use of AI-generated content is not permitted in any papers.