

**Course:** TH220-D&DN Systematic Theology I  
Bibliology, Theology Proper, Pneumatology  
**Credits:** 3 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Spring 2025, Session 2 (Mar 17 – May 09)  
**Time:** 1:00 – 2:20 pm Central Time, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
**Professor:** Dr. Michel L. Dodds; Office: 816-425-6205 / or ext. 1348; Cell phone: 913-63803291; mike.dodds@calvary.edu

## DESCRIPTION

A study of the origin and nature of the Bible; a study of the nature and attributes of God; a study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. (Prerequisites: COM110 or concurrent enrollment in COM110, BI115) [ILO- 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

**A. General competencies to be achieved.** The student will be able to . . .

1. Explain and defend the traditional Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, and Pneumatology from the Bible (PLO- 1, 2, 5) (A- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).
2. Explain and defend the traditional Christian understanding of significant theology issues in Bibliology, Theology Proper, and Pneumatology (PLO- 1, 2, 5) (A- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).
3. Provide practical application of traditional Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, and Pneumatology to real life (PLO- 3, 4) (A- 1, 2).

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will (will be able to):**

1. Explain and defend traditional Christian Bibliology from the Bible (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 3, 4, 5).
2. Explain and defend traditional Christian Theology Proper from the Bible (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 5, 6, 7).
3. Explain and defend traditional Christian Pneumatology from the Bible (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 5, 8, 9).
4. Research and articulate the traditional Christian understanding of a significant issue in Bibliology, Theology Proper, or Pneumatology (PLO- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- 3).
5. Articulate practical, real-life application of the traditional Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, and Pneumatology] (PLO- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- 1, 2).

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

## **TEXTBOOKS**

1. 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.
2. Norman Geisler and William Nix. *From God to Us Revised and Expanded: How We Got Our Bible* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012). ISBN: 978-0802428820, Cost: \$24.99. Pages: 416.
3. Charles Ryrie. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999). ISBN: 978-0802427342. Cost: \$39.99. Pages: 656.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

[Note: Further instructions for how to do each of the following assignments is presented in the specific assignment link in Canvas.]

- #1:** Respond to each week's discussion with either a 100-word written reply OR 2/3-minute video recorded answer to a question posed by the Instructor. (8 @ 15 points each, 120 points total).
- #2:** Select 1 of the topics to be discussed in class and prepare a 5-minute introduction to the topic. Include in your presentation the following: (1) a brief introduction of yourself, (2) a definition of the topic, (3) a key passage in which the definition is seen with a brief explanation of the passage, and (4) a significant question about the topic which someone you know needs God's answer for. (35 points)
- #3:** Read *From God to Us* (entire) by Geisler and Nix and *Basic Theology* (Section III, "The Bible: God-Breathed") by Ryrie and answer the 10 Questions assignment in Canvas about Bibliology. (115 points).
- #4:** Take the Bibliology Exam. There are 50 questions (true/false and multiple choice). Use the study guide to prepare for the exam. The exam is "open book" but also timed (100 points).
- #5:** Research a significant question in Bibliology, Theology Proper, OR Pneumatology then write a 1500-word (5 pages) Research Essay (i.e., include a title page, footnotes, and Bibliography – with at least 5 sources) summarizing your biblical answer. Select just ONE of the following research topics. (200 points)
  - Bibliology: Is the Canon of Christian Scriptures "closed," or is it still "open"?
  - Theology Proper: Is the Christian doctrine of the Trinity biblical?
  - Pneumatology: Are any of the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit no longer being given today?

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- #6:** Read *Basic Theology* (Section II, "The Living and True God") by Ryrie, then create a list of 10 things you learned about Theology Proper and answer the 10 Questions assignment in Canvas about Theology Proper. (115 points).
- #7:** Take the Theology Proper Exam. There are 50 questions (true/false and multiple choice). Use the study guide to prepare for the exam. The exam is "open book" but also timed (100 points).
- #8:** Read *Basic Theology* (Section XI, "The Holy Spirit") by Ryrie and answer the 10 Questions assignment in Canvas about Pneumatology. (115 points).
- #9:** Pneumatology Exam. There are 50 questions (true/false and multiple choice). Use the study guide to prepare for the exam. The exam is "open book" but also timed (100 points).

**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:

Topic Discussion Response (8 @ 15 ea.).	=	120	points
Topic Introduction. . . . .	=	35	"
Research Essay. . . . .	=	200	"
Reading & 10 Questions (3 @ 115 ea.).	=	345	"
Exams (3 @ 100 ea.). . . . .	=	<u>300</u>	"
TOTAL POINTS.	=	<b>1000</b>	"

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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

WEEK	CLASS LECTURES
#1	Bibliology, Part 1:
#2	Bibliology, Part 2:
#3	Bibliology, Part 3: / Theology Proper, Part 1:
#4	Theology Proper, Part 2:
#5	Theology Proper, Part 3
#6	Pneumatology, Part 1:
#7	Pneumatology, Part 2:
#8	Pneumatology, Part 3:

## **POLICIES**

**All class papers** must follow the Calvary University *2019 Turabian Style Guide Addendum* to Turabian, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments will be lowered by 5 points each day.

**About Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification. (**Note:** Turn-It-In.com will be used to verify assignment credibility.)

**Disabilities:** 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 all 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.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1983.

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Vlach, Michael J. *Dispensational Hermeneutics: Interpreting Principles that Guide Dispensationalism's Understanding of the Bible's Storyline*. Los Angeles, CA: Theological Studies Press, 2023.

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