

**Course:** TH610 N Systematic Theology I  
**Credits:** 3 Hours  
**Semester:** Summer 2025, Session 1 (May 12–Jun 27)  
**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.** You will be able to:

1. Explain orthodox Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, and Hamartiology from the Bible (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).
2. Defend orthodox Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, and Hamartiology from aberrant understandings (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).
3. Articulate the practical life implications of orthodox Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, and Hamartiology (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 1, 2).

**Specific competencies to be achieved.** You will:

1. Interact with significant texts articulating orthodox Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, and Hamartiology (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- 4, 7, 8).
2. Articulate the orthodox Christian understanding of selected topics in Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, and Hamartiology (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- 1).
3. Defend the orthodox Christian understanding of a selected topic in Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, or Hamartiology (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- 3).
4. Articulate personal understanding of Christian Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, and Hamartiology (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A- 5, 6, 8, 9).
5. Articulate practical, real-life application of the traditional Christian Anthropology, Hamartiology, Christology, or Soteriology (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**

**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.

**TEXTBOOKS** -- You will only read 2 – select the 2 volumes which would be of most benefit to you! These texts are background reading for our discussions, and the assignments you do for your selected volumes are to answer questions I ask about the content of the volumes you select. While I encourage you to have all of these volumes in your personal libraries, you only need 2 of them for your use for this course.

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. 416 pages.

Laney, J. Carl. *God: Who He Is. What He Does. How to Know Him Better*. Swindoll Leadership Library. Nashville: Word Publishing, 1999. ISBN: 978-0849913686. Cost: \$25.14. 320 pages.

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. 528 pages.

Ware, Bruce and John Stark, ed. *One God in Three Persons: Unity of Essence, Distinction of Persons, Implications for Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. ISBN: 978-1433528422. Cost: \$9.64 Amazon. 272 pages.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**#1 – Topic Introductions:** Select 3 of the topics to be discussed in class and prepare 3-5 to 7 minute introductions to each topic for the 3 days those topics are to be discussed in class. Include in your introduction the following: (1) a brief intro of yourself (only in your 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (25 points each, 75 total).

**#2 – Topic Discussions:** Respond to each week's topic discussion with a 150-word statement of the practical implications of the week's topics – personally and in ministry to others, both unbelievers and believers (15 points each week, 120 points total).

**#3 – Write a Research Essay:** Write a Research Essay of at least 3500 words 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 (200 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.

Describe the subordination of the Son and explain and defend the position you hold as to whether that subordination was merely temporal (just during the time of the Incarnation) or that it is eternal.

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 your understanding of the nature of people and compare and contrast that view with those who believe that homosexuality and transgenderism are biblical.

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

Defend your understanding of the "sin unto death" (1 John 5:16) / "unpardonable sin" (Mark 3:28) / "a number are asleep" (1 Cor. 11:30).

**#4 – Textbook #1 Reading & Questions:** Read selected textbook #1 and answer 10 questions on the volume (100 points).

**#5 – Doctrinal Statement #1:** Write a 3-page Non-Research essay summarizing your doctrinal beliefs about biblical Bibliology (the Doctrine of Scripture) (75 points).

**#6 – Doctrinal Statement #2:** Write a 3-page Non-Research essay summarizing your doctrinal beliefs about biblical theology proper (the doctrine of God) (75 points).

**#7 – Textbook #2 Reading & Questions:** Read selected textbook #2 and answer 10 questions on the volume (100 points).

**#8 – Doctrinal Statement #3:** Write a 3-page Non-Research essay summarizing your doctrinal beliefs about biblical Anthropology (the doctrine of People) (75 points).

**#9 – Doctrinal Statement #4:** Write a 3-page Non-Research essay summarizing your doctrinal beliefs about biblical hamartiology (the doctrine of Sin) (75 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:

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

**TH610 Systematic Theology I  
Summer 2025, Session 1**

Topic Presentations (3 @ 25). . . . .	=	75 points
Topic Discussions (8 @ 15). . . . .	=	120 "
Research Essay (1 @ 200). . . . .	=	200 "
Reading Questions (2 @ 100). . . . .	=	200 "
Doctrinal Statements (4 @ 100 ea.). . . . .	=	400 "
<b>TOTAL POINTS.</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>995 "</b>

**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, Personal Inherited, Imputed
#8	Hamartiology, Part 2: Christian & Sin, Unpardonable Sin

**COURSE 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 integrity.)

**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.