



15800 Calvary Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

**Course:** TH220-D&DN Systematic Theology I  
Bibliology, Theology Proper, Pneumatology  
**Credits:** 3 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Fall 2025, Session 1 (Aug 18–Oct 10)  
**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: GE101 or concurrent enrollment in GE101, 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- 3, 6, 7).
3. Explain and defend traditional Christian Pneumatology from the Bible (PLO- 1, 2) (A- 3, 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- PR8, 1, 2).

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

## TEXTBOOKS

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.

Charles Ryrie. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1999). ISBN: 978-0802427342. Cost: \$39.99. Pages: 656.

Gary Gromacki study notes for TH220 [posted in Canvas].

## ASSIGNMENTS

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

**Assignment #1:** Respond to each week's topic with a 100-word discussion as directed by the course instructor. (8 @ 10 points ea., 80 points total).

**Assignment #2:** Select 1 of the topics to be discussed in class and prepare 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. (50 points)

**Assignment #3:** Read *Basic Theology* (Section III, "The Bible: God-Breathed") by Ryrie and Dr. Gromacki's study notes on Bibliology then answer the 10 Questions assignment in Canvas about Bibliology. (100 points).

**Assignment #4:** Read *From God to Us* (entire) by Geisler and Nix and make observations for each chapter (thesis & 1 significant observation). (70 points).

**Assignment #5:** 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).

**Assignment #6:** Read *Basic Theology* (Section II, "The Living and True God") by Ryrie and Dr. Gromacki's study notes on Theology Proper then answer the 10 Questions assignment in Canvas about Theology Proper. (100 points).

**Assignment #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).

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**Assignment #8:** Read *Basic Theology* (Section XI, "The Holy Spirit") by Ryrie and Dr. Gromacki's study notes on Pneumatology then answer the 10 Questions assignment in Canvas about Pneumatology. (100 points).

**Assignment #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).

**Assignment #10:** Research a significant topic in Bibliology, Theology Proper, OR Pneumatology then write a 1500-word (5 pages) Research Essay (i.e., include a title page, footnotes, and Bibliography) summarizing your biblical conclusions. Select just ONE of the following topics. (200 points)

- Bibliology: Describe and defend the "closing" of the Canon of the Christian Scriptures.
- Theology Proper: Define and defend the existence of the God of the Bible.
- Pneumatology: Describe and defend the "cessation" of the giving of the "sign" / "confirmation" gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**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.).	=	80	points
Topic Introduction. . . . .	=	50	"
Textbook Observations. . . . .	=	70	"
Reading & 10 Questions (3 @ 100 ea.).	=	300	"
Exams (3 @ 100 ea.). . . . .	=	300	"
Research Essay. . . . .	=	<u>200</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:
#4	Theolog Proper, Part 1:
#5	Theolog Proper, Part 2:
#6	Theolog Proper, Part 3 / 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.

**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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- Wegner, Paul. *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999.
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