



CALVARY UNIVERSITY Ph.D. Syllabus

15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

BT712 ADVANCED THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS I Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper, Angelology

Course: BT712 Advanced Theological Analysis I
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2026 Session 1
Date: January 12–March 6, 2026
Time: Tuesday 6:00–9:00PM (CST)
Place: Microsoft Teams
Professor: Dr. Jordan P. Ballard

DESCRIPTION

In this course the student will study various views and issues concerning Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper and Angelology. The student will examine different systematic theologies looking at their systematization of doctrines in prolegomena. The student will explain and assess the various doctrinal positions on the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the Trinity, open theism, and spiritual warfare. The student will discuss the importance of progressive revelation and create a possible chronological order of writing of the 66 books of the Bible.

This is class is only online, not in the physical classroom. Students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments are done in the online classroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved are listed below. The student will:

1. Explain the relationship of doctrines and their systematization in prolegomena.
2. Define the important theological terms associated with Bibliology, Theology Proper, and Angelology.
3. Explain the history of Church debates and doctrinal statements regarding Bibliology, Theology Proper, and Angelology.
4. Define and defend the attributes of God and the Trinity.

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

Specific competencies to be achieved are listed below. The student will:

1. Assess various theological interpretations and traditions regarding priorities in theological method. (PLO 1; Assignments 1–6)
2. Articulate the key issues in the inerrancy debate both historically and at present. (PLOs 1–3; Assignments 1–3, 6)
3. Discuss the conclusions of Church councils regarding the Trinity and the doctrinal development of bibliology and angelology. (PLOs 2–4; Assignments 1, 2, 4, 6)
4. Explain and evaluate the open theism views of Boyd, Pinnock, and Sanders as well as other positions related to God’s knowledge and human freedom. (PLOs 1–4; Assignments 3, 4, 6)
5. Critique various views on spiritual warfare. (PLOs 1–3; Assignments 4–6)

REQUIRED 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 Bible (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations like NLT and NIV may be used as supplemental sources. Ask the professor if you have any questions about a particular translation or version.

Students will be required to purchase the following textbooks:

Geisler, Norman L. and William C. Roach. *Defending Inerrancy: Affirming the Accuracy of Scripture for a New Generation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011. ISBN: 0801014344, Amazon price: \$19.65

Merrick, James R.A., and Stephen M. Garrett, editors. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013. ISBN: 0310331366, Amazon price: \$19.99

Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 0274821044, Amazon price: \$31.10

REQUIRED ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS) and *Nestle Aland 28* (NA28)—both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta* (LXX); *A Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (BDAG) by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; and *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT) by Koehler and Baumgartner. Students should utilize one of the following Bible software programs to facilitate studies of the original languages of the Bible: Logos, Accordance, or Bible Works.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Book Review (100pts)

Read *Defending Inerrancy* and type a book review (5 pages, double-spaced).

Assignment 2: Biblical Inerrancy Debate (200pts)

Read *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. The professor will select students to present and defend each view presented in the book. Students will debate the views and arguments given in the book in a debate format in class.

Presentation of View 1: R. Albert Mohler Jr. (pp. 29–58)

Discussion of View 1 and Responses (pp. 59–82)

Presentation of View 2: Peter Enns (pp. 83–116)

Discussion of View 2 and Responses (pp. 117–144)

Presentation of View 3: Michael F. Bird (pp. 145–173)

Discussion of View 3 and Responses (pp. 174–198)

Presentation of View 4: Kevin J. Vanhoozer (pp. 199–235)

Discussion of View 4 and Responses (pp. 236–258)

Presentation of View 5: John R. Franke (pp. 259–287)

Discussion of View 5 and Responses (pp. 288–308)

Assignment 3: Open Theism Debate (100pts)

The professor will select students to present the views and arguments of Open Theism. The professor will also select students to critique the views and arguments against Open Theism.

Assignment 4: Student Lectures (200pts)

Students will present half-hour lectures on assigned chapters from the textbook *Historical Theology* (chapters 1–14). See the schedule in the Syllabus for when the chapters should be covered in the course. Students should share a PowerPoint presentation on the theological topic of each chapter in leading the discussion and also prepare three to five discussion questions to present on theological issues in the chapter.

Assignment 5: Spiritual Warfare Discussion (100pts)

Students will present half-hour lectures on assigned topics related to spiritual warfare. Students should share a PowerPoint presentation on the theological topic in leading the discussion and also prepare three to five discussion questions.

Assignment 6: Research Paper (300pts)

Students will write a research paper (25–30 pages, double spaced, following Turabian style) on a topic in Bibliology, Theology Proper, or Angelology. The topic must be approved by the professor. Students will present the results of his research in a half-hour PowerPoint presentation in the last class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

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.

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.

STYLE

All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

GRADING SCALE

960–1000 points	A
940–959 points	A-
920–939 points	B+
880–919 points	B
860–879 points	B-
0–859 points	F

PROPOSED SCHEDULE & TOPICS

Week 1: Lecture and Discussion of Prolegomena and Theological Method

Week 2: Lectures and Discussion of Bibliology
Discussion of Geisler's book *Defending Inerrancy*
Student Lectures on *Historical Theology* (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4)

Week 3: Debate on *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*

Week 4: Lectures and Discussion of Bibliology & Angelology
Student Lectures on *Historical Theology* (chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 14)

Week 5: Lectures and Discussion of Theology Proper
Student Lectures on *Historical Theology* (chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)

Week 6: Debate on Open Theism

Week 7: Spiritual Warfare Discussion

Week 8: Presentation of Student Research Papers

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Baker, David L. *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. Third edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010.
- Beilby, James K. and Paul R. Eddy, editors. *Divine Foreknowledge: Four Views*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2001.
- _____. *Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Four Views*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Boyd, Gregory A. *God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Fifth edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Brunn, Dave. *One Bible, Many Versions: Are All Translations Created Equal?* Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.
- Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
- Dean, Robert, Jr., and Thomas Ice. *What the Bible Teaches About Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000.
- Evans, Craig A. and Emanuel Tov. *Exploring the Origins of the Bible: Canon Formation in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2006.
- Frame, John M. *No Other God: A Response to Open Theism*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2001.
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- _____. *From God to Us: How We Got our Bible*. Revised and expanded. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012.
- Geisler, Norman L. and William C. Roach. *Defending Inerrancy: Affirming the Accuracy of Scripture for a New Generation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.

- Heiser, Michael S. *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015.
- Jowers, Dennis E., editor. *Four Views on Divine Providence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2001.
- Kruger, Michael J. *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.
- _____. *The Question of Canon: Challenging the Status Quo in the New Testament Debate*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.
- Letham, Robert. *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History and Worship*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2004.
- Lightner, Robert. *Angels, Satan and Demons*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.
- Merrick, James R.A. and Stephen M, Garrett, editors. *Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Patzia, Arthur G. *The Making of the New Testament: Origin, Collection, Text and Canon*. Second edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2011.
- Pinnock, Clark H. *Most Moved Mover: A Theology of God's Openness*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2019.
- Pinnock, Clark H., Richard Rice, John Sanders, William Hasker, and David Basinger. *The Openness of God: A Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1994.
- Piper, John, Justin Taylor, and Paul Kjoss Helseth, editors. *Beyond the Bounds: Open Theism and the Undermining of Biblical Christianity*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.
- Price, J. Randall. *Searching for The Original Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2007.
- Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Ryrie, Charles C. *What You Should Know About Inerrancy*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1981.
- Sanders, John. *The God Who Risks: A Theology of Divine Providence*. Revised edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2007.

Storms, Sam. *Understanding Spiritual Warfare: A Comprehensive Guide*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021.

Ware, Bruce A. *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2000.

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