I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a study of Theological Prolegomena (theological method) and the doctrines
of Revelation/Scripture (general and special, inspiration, and inerrancy), God’s Nature
(existence and attributes), God’s Work (creation and providence), Anthropology (imago
dei, human constitution), and Hamartiology (nature and results of sin). The purpose of the
course is to explore the biblical foundations of these doctrines, to understand them in the
context of their historical development, and to understand their implications for the life of
the Christian believer as well as for the contemporary problems of church and society.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES
To arrive at an understanding of theology and its importance in the life of all believers.

To examine the basic tenets of the Christian faith and their practical implications for
everyday life and the life and mission of the church.

To gain an appreciation of the history and development of the Christian faith since its
inception. Special attention will be given to Evangelical theology in its various
manifestations.

To develop some of the tools needed for doing a biblical theology, i.e., to learn to think
Christianly about life and the world.

To create an environment conducive to the deepening of our faith in and love for the Lord
and his Word.

To think through the implications of various theological positions, both in their historical
and present development.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

Tennent, Timothy C. Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global
Church is Influencing the Way we Think About and Discuss Theology. Grand

IV. PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION
Class Participation and Attendance: This course strives to enhance the believer’s life-long process of developing the fundamental categories of the Christian worldview and consistently applying them throughout one’s life so that Jesus Christ truly is our Lord and King. Class time will be lecture format with time allotted for questions, comments, and discussions. The goal of each unit covered will be to understand the topic at hand, consider the historical context, and discuss the present, practical implications of the area being studied. Borderline grades may be influenced by class participation. NB: Participation means *not* that you *ask* a lot of questions (though these are welcome) but that you are prepared to *answer* questions posed by the professor and your classmates. In addition to student preparedness, a student’s attentiveness, promptness to class, and respect for classmates and instructor may affect a final grade. Regular attendance is assumed, expected, and will be recorded each class session. Poor class attendance will affect a student’s final grade.

Three means of evaluation will be used to assess student involvement and comprehension of material. Please see schedule below for due dates.

†Four Quizzes: Quizzes will begin *promptly* at the beginning of class and will take no longer than half an hour. Format will be true/false and multiple choice. Quizzes will *not* be cumulative. There will be no midterm or final for this course. If you arrive late to class, you will *not* be provided extra time to complete the quiz. If you have special needs, accommodations will, of course, be arranged. *No make-up quizzes will be allowed.* Each quiz is 5% of the student’s final grade for a total of 20%.

†WET: “WET” is a mnemonic of the three textbooks students are expected to read over the course of the semester (Wells, Erickson, Tennent). *Each week* students will submit *three* questions or comments or issues (or combination thereof) for each of the following week’s reading assignments. If all three texts are assigned that week, each must be written on; if only one or two texts are assigned, then you only need to write on assigned texts. Please keep each question/comment to 5–8 sentences *maximum* and do not write more than one page per week. In addition, for the Erickson text only, students will list (*not* define) five key vocabulary/concepts presented, representing all of the Erickson chapters for the week. If Erickson isn’t assigned on a particular week, then no vocabulary/concepts need to be submitted that week.

WET assignments will be due *by noon* the Tuesday *prior* to the chapters being covered in class. Assignments submitted after the Tuesday noon deadline will receive half credit. No assignments will be accepted after noon on Wednesday. Each of the eleven WET assignment is 5% of the student’s final grade for a total of 55%.
†Statement of Faith Essays: Students will be required to write five brief (2 page) essays on assigned topics that will be made available within the first two weeks of the semester. These essays are to be submitted via e-mail by 5:00 PM on Friday the week of the class meeting. Assignments submitted after Friday 5:00 PM will be penalized ten points for each day the assignment is late. No assignments will be accepted beyond five days (i.e. Wednesday) from the due date. Each statement of faith essay is 5% of the student’s final grade for a total of 25%.

Grading Scale
A+: 98–100    A: 97–94               A-: 93–90
B+: 88–89     B: 87–84               B-: 80–83
C+: 78–79     C: 77–74               C-: 70–73
D+: 69–68     D: 67–64               D-: 63–60

V. CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM
Cheating and/or plagiarism (using or presenting someone else’s ideas without giving credit to that source) will result in an F for this portion of your grade. Consider carefully Indiana University website’s plagiarism guidelines <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>.

VI. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content, students are asked to refrain from audio and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.

VII. INTERNET USAGE
Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” texting, checking email, and internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE AND *SCHEDULE

9/14    INTRODUCTION TO COURSE—and one another
†WETT #1: Due by noon on Tuesday (9/20) via e-mail [2nd “T” is Thielicke!]

9/21    PROLEGOMENA: The Doing of Theology
Erickson: Ch. 1: What is Theology?
          Ch. 2: Contemporizing the Christian Message
          Ch. 3: Postmodernity and Theology
Tennent: Ch. 1: The Emergence of a Global Theological Discourse
Thielicke: All
Wells:    Ch. I:   An Accident in History
†WET #2: Due by noon on Tuesday (9/27) via e-mail
9/28  REVELATION: The Doctrine of Scripture and God’s Revelation
Erickson:  Ch. 4: God’s Universal Revelation
          Ch. 5: God’s Particular Revelation
          Ch. 6: The Preservation of the Revelation: Inspiration
Tennent:  Ch. 3: Hindu Sacred Texts in Pre-Christian Past
Wells:    Ch. II: An Accident of Faith
†Statement of Faith Essay #1: Theology—Due by 5:00 PM on Friday (10/4) via e-mail
†E - #3: Due by noon on Tuesday (10/4) via e-mail

10/5  REVELATION: The Doctrine of Scripture and God’s Revelation—cont’d
Erickson:  Ch. 7: The Dependability of God’s Word: Inerrancy
          Ch. 8: The Power of God’s Word: Authority
Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (Sakai)
†W-E- #4: Due by noon on Tuesday (10/18) via e-mail

10/12  READING WEEK—NO CLASS

10/19  GOD: Doctrine of God—The Nature of God
Erickson:  Ch. 9: The Doctrine of God
          Ch. 10: The Greatness of God
          Ch. 11: The Goodness of God
Wells:    Ch. III: The Alternative to God
†Quiz #1: Theology and Revelation—Begins at 2:00/ends by 2:30
†Statement of Faith Essay #2: Scripture—Due by noon on 5:00 PM (10/25) via e-mail
†WET #5: Due by noon on Tuesday (10/25) via e-mail

10/26  GOD: The Work of God
Erickson:  Ch. 12: God’s Three-in-One: The Trinity
          Ch. 13: God’s Plan
          Ch. 14: God’s Originating Work: Creation
Christian Mysticism and Feminism—challenges to a Scriptural view (lecture)
Tennent:  Ch. 2: Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?
Wells:    Ch. IV: Clerics Anonymous
†WE- #6: Due by noon on Tuesday (11/1) via e-mail

11/2  GOD: The Work of God—cont’d
Erickson:  Ch. 15: God’s Continuing Work: Providence
          Ch. 16: Evil and God’s World: A Special Problem
          Ch. 17: God’s Special Agents: Angels
Wells:    Ch. V: The Weightless of God
†WET #7: Due by noon on Tuesday (11/15) via e-mail

11/9  READING WEEK—NO CLASS
11/16  **ANTHROPOLOGY: The Doctrine of Humanity**  
   **Erickson:** Ch. 18: Introduction to the Doctrine of Humanity  
   Ch. 19: The Image of God in the Human  
   **Tennent:** Ch. 4: Human Identity in Shame-Based Cultures of the Far East  
   **Wells:** Ch. VI: The Outside God  
   †**Quiz #2: God**—Begins at 2:00/ends by 2:30  
   †**Statement of Faith Essay #3:** God—Due by 5:00 PM on Friday (11/18) via e-mail  
   †**WE- #8:** Due by noon on Tuesday (11/22) via e-mail

11/23  **ANTHROPOLOGY: The Doctrine of Humanity—cont’d**  
   **Erickson:** Ch. 20: The Constitutional Nature of the Human  
   **Wells:** Ch. VII: God on the Inside  
   †**WE- #9:** Due by noon on Tuesday (11/29) via e-mail

11/30  **HAMARTIOLOGY: The Doctrine of Sin**  
   **Erickson:** Ch. 21: The Nature and Source of Sin  
   Ch. 22: The Results of Sin  
   **Wells:** Ch. VIII: The Coming Generation  
   †**Quiz #3: Anthropology**—Begins at 2:00/ends by 2:30  
   †**Statement of Faith Essay #4:** Anthropology—Due by 5:00 PM on Friday (12/2) via e-mail  
   †- **E - #10:** Due by noon on Tuesday (12/6) via e-mail

12/7   **HAMARTIOLOGY: The Doctrine of Sin—cont’d**  
   **Erickson:** Ch. 23: The Magnitude of Sin  
   **Augustine vs. Pelagius (lecture)**  
   †**Statement of Faith Essay #5:** Sin—Due by 4:00 PM Friday (12/9) via e-mail  
   †**W–T #11: NB:** Due by 4:00 PM *Friday* (12/9) via e-mail

12/14  **LAST CLASS!**  
   **Tennent:** Ch. 9: The Emerging Contours of Global Theology  
   **Wells:** Ch. IX: Speaking with a Different Voice  
   †**Quiz #4:** Hamartiology—Begins at 2:00/ends by 2:30  
   **NO WET!**

*Schedule is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion*