

TH 607 — SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY III

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COURSE SYLLABUS

Summer 2010
M–F 9:30–12:30; 1:30–4:00

Office / Hours: GL108 / M–F, 4:00–5:00.

Course Description: Continuing the study of Systematic Theology I and II with a focus on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Prerequisites: TH504, TH605.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will have:

- Reflected on what it means to think theologically in an evangelical Christian context; and deepened your understanding of the nature, relevance and role of systematic theology in your Christian life and ministry.
- Gained a thorough understanding of the essential theological content of the doctrines of salvation, church, and last things from within a trinitarian and pneumatic framework; and with a focus on the testimony of Holy Scripture and their systematic interrelationships.
- Sharpened your understanding and considered your own positions regarding some of the key issues and viewpoints especially related to pneumatology, soteriology, and ecclesiology that define our Christian witness, and have divided historic Christianity.
- Expanded your view of God's plan for his people in the nature and present function of the church and the sacraments, and in the personal and general 'last things' that inform our Christian hope and message.
- Gained a deeper appreciation of your own theological heritage and your place in the community of faith that transcends the boundaries of time and location; and a clearer vision and intellectual context for a lifetime of theological study that is expressed in continuing personal growth, and well-informed and articulate ministry.

Required Texts

Sinclair B. Ferguson. *The Holy Spirit*. IVP, 1996.

John B. Webster. *Holiness*. Eerdmans, 2003.

Michael S. Horton. *Covenant and Salvation: Union with Christ*. WJK, 2007.

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives*, IVP, 2002.

Anthony A. Hoekema. *The Bible and the Future*. Eerdmans, 1994.

Gregory A. Boyd and Paul R. Eddy, *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology*, Baker, 2002.

A systematic theology text chosen from the list below (Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, and/or Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, new ed., are recommended for this course).

Additional supplemental reading posted on CAMS.

Optional Helpful Texts

101 Key Terms in Philosophy and Their Importance for Theology. Clark, Lints, Smith. Westminster John Knox, 2004.

Dictionary of Theological Terms (Pocket Dictionary). Grenz, Guretzki, Fee, Nording. InterVarsity, 1999.

Muller, Richard. *Dictionary of Latin & Greek Theological Terms.* Baker Books, 1985.

Course Requirements

Reading Response Essays

Two essays responding to required texts assigned for this course are **due on June 21 (the first day of class) at 9:30 am**. Each RRE will be evaluated on: 1) conciseness and clarity of thought; 2) demonstrated significant, thoughtful, critical engagement with the reading; and 3) the quality of writing and presentation. Students should keep copies of their RRE's as prepared contributions to the class discussions.

- RRE #1 will be a 3-page critical essay responding to John Webster, *Holiness*.
- RRE #2 will be a 4-page critical essay responding to Michael Horton, *Covenant and Salvation*. This essay may focus on the text as a whole, or may be divided equally as two specific engagements with each of the two parts.

NOTE: These critical essays must be *responses* to the assigned text, rather than *summaries* or *explications* of these texts. Students should reflect especially on key themes, arguments, issues, criticisms, and/or points that are of particular personal interest. The following examples of general critical questions may help guide your engagement with the texts and the formulation of your responses:

- What stands out to me? (Reflecting on interest)
- What surprises me? (Reflecting on distance)
- What puzzles me? (Reflecting on learning opportunities)
- What connections do I make? (Reflecting on integration)
- What implications are there? (Reflecting on application)

Position Statements

Five 1-page essays addressing specified topics for discussion (see the afternoon discussion questions on the Course Schedule below). These statements are less formal than the Reading Response Essays, and should simply, clearly, and concisely state your own position on an issue addressed by each discussion question. Course required reading (especially Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*) will guide you to the key issues being addressed by each question. Scripture and additional research (if necessary) should also be consulted in formulating your rationale for holding your stated position. If you remain undecided on an issue, then discuss your key concern that is still in question. You may simply use each afternoon's discussion question as the title of your statements.

Students will prepare two copies of each PS, one will be submitted **at the beginning of the class session (9:30 am)** for which they are due, and one will be kept as a prepared contribution to the class discussions. Remember that the first Position Statement is **due on 6/21 at the start of class**.

Confession of Faith

An 8-10 page (3,000-word limit) presentation of your own doctrinal commitments that engage the whole of the theological system covered in Systematic Theology I, II, and III. The emphasis in the confession should be on clarity and brevity, and should cover at a minimum the following range of topics:

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| <p>A. Introduction, including the tradition through which you understand your faith.</p> <p>B. Holy Scripture</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revelation b. Inspiration c. Inerrancy d. Canon <p>C. Doctrine of God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attributes b. Trinity <p>D. Creation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purpose of Creation b. Theology of Creation <p>E. Anthropology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Creation of Humanity b. The Fall c. Original Sin | <p>F. Jesus Christ</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Person of Christ in Two Natures b. The Mission of Christ c. The Atonement <p>G. Holy Spirit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Person of the Spirit b. The Fruits/Gifts of the Spirit <p>H. Salvation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regeneration/Conversion b. Justification/Sanctification c. Election/Predestination <p>I. Church and Sacraments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Nature of the Church b. Church Government c. Baptism d. The Lord's Supper <p>J. Last Things</p> |
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This assignment is due by August 13.

GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONFESSION OF FAITH:

- Articulate *your* beliefs as carefully, concisely, and clearly as possible. You should make use of course texts, additional research, your own church/denominational confessions/doctrinal statements, and the historic Christian creeds and confessions to point you to the key doctrines and biblical passages relevant to them. You should then write your beliefs in your own words. See the *Creeds of Christendom* website, www.creeds.net, for full texts of a variety of historic and contemporary Christian creeds and confessions.
- Demonstrate your awareness and understanding of the important issues concerning each doctrine. These are your beliefs, but they are also relative to a biblical and historical Christian perspective. Therefore showing an understanding of the central issues for each doctrine by the way you address them in light of both Scripture and tradition is essential.
- This is a *statement* of your beliefs, not a *defense* of your beliefs. You should cite a sufficient biblical basis for key statements, but you are not being asked to defend those statements (exegetically, philosophically, or otherwise).
- This should be seen as an opportunity to work through your beliefs on key doctrines of the Christian faith and to clearly articulate them. The exercise should also help you clarify your own confessional stance with respect to your church, denomination, mission agency, etc. You should address or emphasize topics, and format/arrange your confession in a way that will best suit your needs in this regard.

Additional Information Concerning Written Assignments

- Written assignments should be typed in 11-12 point, Times New Roman-type font, approximate double spacing (not more), at most 1 inch margins, and with a cover page that clearly states your campus mailbox number. Students should make consistent use of a style manual of their choice.
- Late assignments will not be accepted (an assignment is late after 9:30 am on the stated due date, or after August 13 if that is the stated due date). If students are unable to submit the written work that is due at 9:30 am on the first day of class (6/21), they will be dropped from the course with a ‘W.’ This policy is set by the Registrar and outlined on the Summer Course Schedule.
- Assignments due during the week that the course meets must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class. Students should keep an additional copy of each assignment for use during the class discussions.
- Final written work submitted by August 13 should include a Confession of Faith and a Completed Reading Form. Please attach these documents together, with your name and campus mailbox number clearly stated on both. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included if you want the evaluated Confession of Faith returned to an off-campus address. These assignments should be submitted to my campus mailbox (#223). Please submit these final assignments as an email attachment only if absolutely necessary, and do not assume the instructor has received an emailed assignment until a verification is sent in response. It is the GCTS Registrar’s policy that no written work may be accepted by the professor after August 13 without an extension granted by the Registrar’s office.

Participation

You are expected to be faithful to your calling as a student through preparation, attendance, and involvement in the course. Significant learning will take place in the context of the classroom community. Assigned reading outside of class is meant to supplement the lectures and discussions, and will provide a necessary aid for learning the material. Due to the one-week structure of this course, the final grade will be reduced by 20% for each full day, and 10% for each half day of absence. Students are strongly advised not to enroll in the course if there is a possibility that they may be unable to attend the full week (auditors are welcome). Students will account for all their reading on the Completed Reading Form to be submitted **by August 13**.

Grading

The relative weight of the course requirements will be distributed as follows:

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| • Position Statements (5) | 20% |
| • Reading Response Essays (2) | 30% |
| • Confession of Faith | 40% |
| • Completed Reading Form | 10% |

Plagiarism

Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found on the Indiana University website listed below. This document has the official recognition of the Gordon-Conwell faculty and provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare your papers/exams. In order to save paper, we have provided you with the website address: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>.

Personal Recorders and Computers

Recording of lectures/discussions is not permitted for this course. Students are permitted to use laptop computers during class for note-taking and course related purposes only.

Course Schedule

WRITTEN WORK DUE BY 9:30 AM ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS (6/21):

- Reading Response Essay on Webster, *Holiness*
- Reading Response Essay on Horton, *Covenant and Salvation*
- Position Statement (see Day One below)

DAY ONE (6/21) — *The Identity of the Redeemer*

READING COVERED: Erickson, chs. 41–42; Berkoff, 415–446
(or corresponding chapters from your chosen systematic theology text)

Morning: Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: chs. 1–4
Webster, *Holiness*: complete
Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: chs. 2–3 (optional) [same in 2009 ed.]

Afternoon: Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 15 [ch. 14 in 2009 ed.]
Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: ch. 10

Afternoon Discussion: “What is the nature of the Holy Spirit’s work today?”

WRITTEN WORK DUE AT START OF CLASS: 1-page Personal Statement on the question above.

DAY TWO (6/22) — *The Act of Redemption*

READING COVERED: Erickson, chs. 43–44; Berkoff, 447–509
(or corresponding chapters from your chosen systematic theology text)

Morning: Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: chs. 5–6
Martin Luther, “Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, 1522” (CAMS)
John Wesley’s Sermon, “Original Sin” (CAMS)

Afternoon: Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 9, (11)* [ch. 8, (10)* in 2009 ed.]
John Wesley and George Whitefield, “Controversy Concerning the Doctrines of Election and Predestination” (CAMS)
Anders, “Called by the King” (CAMS)

Afternoon Discussion: “What is the meaning and practical importance of the doctrines of election and predestination?”

WRITTEN WORK DUE AT START OF CLASS: 1-page Personal Statement on the question above.

DAY THREE (6/23) — *The Nature of Redemption*

READING COVERED: Erickson, chs. 45–49; Berkoff, 510–554
(or corresponding chapters from your chosen systematic theology text)

Morning: Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: chs. 7–8
Horton, *Covenant and Salvation*: complete

Afternoon: Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 10 [ch. 9 in 2009 ed.]
Council of Trent, “Decree on Justification” (CAMS)

Afternoon Discussion: “What is the nature of sanctification and its relationship to justification?”

WRITTEN WORK DUE AT START OF CLASS: 1-page Personal Statement on the question above.

DAY FOUR (6/24) — *The Identity of the Redeemed*

READING COVERED: Erickson, chs. 50–55; Berkoff, 555–660
(or corresponding chapters from your chosen systematic theology text)

Morning: Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: ch. 9
Kärkkäinen, *An Introduction to Ecclesiology*: Parts 1, 3

Afternoon: Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: chs. 13–14, (16) [chs. 12–13, (15) in 2009 ed.]

Afternoon Discussion: “What is the nature of the sacraments and how should they be administered in our churches today?”

WRITTEN WORK DUE AT START OF CLASS: 1-page Personal Statement on the question above.

DAY FIVE (6/25) — *The Hope of the Redeemed*

READING COVERED: Erickson, ch. 56–60; Berkoff, 661–739
(or corresponding chapters from your chosen systematic theology text)

Morning: Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*: ch. 11
Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*: complete
C. S. Lewis on Hell and Heaven (CAMS)

Afternoon: Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum*: ch. 12, (17–18) [ch. 11, (16–17) in 2009 ed.]
Yandell, “Religious Pluralism” (CAMS)
Anders, “The Real Christ *Has* Stood Up” (CAMS)

Afternoon Discussion: “What is a biblical Christian theology of other religions?”

WRITTEN WORK DUE AT START OF CLASS: 1-page Personal Statement on the question above.

*Boyd/Eddy, *Across the Spectrum* chapters listed in parentheses are required reading that will be discussed in class if time permits.

WRITTEN WORK DUE BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 13:

- 8–10 page Confession of Faith
- Completed Reading Form

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to revise the contents of this course syllabus as necessary.

Representative Systematic Theologies

(Texts in **BOLD** are integrated into the Course Outline; * = Introductory.)

- Aquinas, St. Thomas. *The Summa Theologica of Thomas Aquinas*. Five volumes. English Dominicans, translators. Ave Maria Press, 1948. (Medieval Scholastic)
- Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley and others. Four volumes. T. & T. Clark, 1956–75. (Neo-Orthodox)
- Bavink, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Four volumes. Baker Academic, 2003–08. (Dutch Reformed)
- Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. New edition containing the full text of *Systematic Theology* and the original *Introductory Volume to Systematic Theology*. Eerdmans, 1996.(Reformed)***
- Bloesch, Donald G. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. Hendrickson, 2005. (Evangelical)*
- Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*. Eight Volumes. Dallas Seminary Press, 1947. *Abridged edition*. Ed. by John F. Walvoord, Donald K. Campbell, and Roy B. Zuck. 1988. (Dispensational)
- Christian Dogmatics*. Two volumes. Edited by Carl E. Braaten and Robert W. Jenson. Fortress Press, 1984. (Lutheran)
- Christian Theology: An Introduction to its Traditions and Tasks*. Edited by Peter C. Hodgson and Robert H. King. Fortress Press, 1994. (Protestant Liberal)*
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Second edition. Baker Books, 1998. (Evangelical)***
- Finney, Charles G. *Finney's Lectures on Systematic Theology*. Edited by J. H. Fairchild. Eerdmans, 1953. Reprint of 1878 edition. (Revivalist)
- The Fundamentals: A Testimony to the Truth*. Edited by R. A. Torrey and A. C. Dixon. Baker Books (re-issue), 2003. (Christian Fundamentalist)*
- Grenz, Stanley J. *A Theology for the Community of God*. Broadman/Holman, 1994. (Neo-Evangelical)*
- Heppe, Heinrich. *Reformed Dogmatics: Set Out and Illustrated from the Sources*. Foreword by Karl Barth. Rev. and ed. by Ernst Bizer. Trans. by G. T. Thomson. Baker, 1978. (Reformed Scholastic)
- Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. 3 volumes. n.p.: Charles Scribner, 1871; reprint, Eerdmans, 1952. (Old Princeton Reformed)
- Horton, Stanley M. *Systematic Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Logion Press, 1994. (Pentecostal)
- Kuyper, Abraham. *Principles of Sacred Theology*. Baker, 1980. (Dutch Reformed)
- McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Blackwell, 1996. (Evangelical)*
- Miley, John. *Systematic Theology*. 3 vols., Hendriksen, 1989 (reprint). (Arminian)
- Mysterium Liberationis: Fundamental Concepts of Liberation Theology*. Edited by Ignacio Ellacuria and Jon Sobrino. Orbis Books, 1993. (Liberation)
- Oden, Thomas C. *John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity: A Plain Exposition of His Teaching on Christian Doctrine*. Zondervan, 1994. (Wesleyan)
- Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *Systematic Theology*. Three volumes. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Eerdmans, 1991. (Protestant Liberal)
- Preus, Robert. *The Theology of Post-Reformation Lutheranism*. Concordia, 1972. (Lutheran Scholastic)
- Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity*. Translated by William V. Dych. Crossroad Publishing, 1995. (Roman Catholic)*
- Reconstructing Christian Theology*. Edited by Rebecca S. Chopp and Mark Lewis Taylor. Fortress Press, 1994. (Revisionist)
- Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *The Christian Faith*. English Translation from the Second German Ed. Edited by H. R. Mackintosh and J. S. Stewart. T. & T. Clark, 1989. (Classical Protestant Liberal)
- Shedd, William G. T. *Dogmatic Theology*. Third edition. Edited by Alan W. Gomes. Presbyterian and Reformed, 2003. (Reformed)
- Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives*. Two volumes. Edited by Francis Schüssler Fiorenza and John P. Galvin. Fortress Press, 1991. (Roman Catholic)
- Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology*. Three Volumes. University of Chicago Press, 1951, 1957, 1963. (Neo-Orthodox)