



Southwest Louisiana Bible Institute

Systematic Theology 1 (ST 250)

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course completing the study of Systematic Theology with special attention given to the doctrines of the person and work of Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and last things. Such issues as nature and extent of salvation, the origin, nature and future of the church, and the eternal state are explored.

PURPOSE

In relation to God, the doctrines we will address in detail for this class will allow the Servant Leader to begin to assimilate a methodical understanding of God, His Word, and how His Word relates to His creation. This class establishes the foundational structure of Systematic Theology and as such is a requirement before the Servant Leader may take Systematic Theology II.

I. PREREQUISITES

None

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

- A. The Holy Bible (Note: ASV, NIV, and NKJV versions)
- B. Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998. ISBN: 0-8012-2182-0.
- C. Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* 2d ed. Baker Publishing Group, 2001. ISBN-13: 9780801020759

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

IV. Recommended Resource Optional

Grenz, Stanley, and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1996. (This book may be previewed at books.google.com.)

V. Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define the nature, essentiality, and method/s of theological reflections as outline in our course readings and throughout the Bible.
- B. Apply the basic tools of the theological disciplines in writings & course discussions which order to resolve problems and research issues/concerns relevant issues of theological epistemology, the authority of Scripture, the nature of God, and the comprehension of the human condition.
- C. Apply a theological method toward constructive reflection in course discussions and writings on such matters as the Scriptures, God (His nature and work), and humankind (His creation and the fall).
- D. Articulate theological, biblical, and clinical issues/concerns from course readings and assignments to current ministry settings.
- E. Discuss the nature and importance of revelation, the contemporary debate regarding inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the nature and work of God, angels, and the problem of evil, the human condition, and the nature and impact of sin on Gods creation.
- F. Outline several contemporary philosophical - ideological worldviews and describe the correlation between one's theology and one's worldview as oppose to views ascribe by those in current and past cultures.

- G. Locate systematic theology on the map of the various disciplines of theological study.
- H. Select the starting point of theology and explain why Evangelicals begin with Scripture.
- I. List several critical methodologies and their implications for theology.
- J. Assess the importance and difficulties of developing a contemporary expression of theology in a postmodern culture.

VI. Course Requirements and Assignments

- A. Scripture (Bible), textbook readings, and lecture presentations

- B. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Students will participate in two Discussion Board forums, each spanning across two modules. First, they will answer the forum question(s) in a new thread of 500 words by Sunday night of the assigned module. Then, they must reply to one classmate's threads (in 200–250 words each) by Sunday night of the following module. Note: additional replies will be desirable and rewarded by additional credit.

- C. Journal Article Critiques (2)

To complete each Journal Article Critique (JAC), students will be assigned a scholarly journal article on a topic covered in the course and write a two-page, double-spaced critique that adheres to Turabian style. Both critiques must also contain a cover page. For JAC 1, students may critique an article on a topic about which they might want to address for their Research Paper. JAC 1 is due by the end of second week of class. On the other the JAC 2 is due by the end of fourth week of class, with the same requirements as JAC #1.

D. Research Paper

The major assignment of this course is a Research Paper to be completed in three steps.

1. Topic

First, students must select a topic for their paper, some topics are requested by the Servant Leader, and others will be listed and assigned by the instructor, if the Servant Leader determines to select a topic, it must be approved before embarking on the Research Topic. Students must state the general topic in which they are interested followed by a colon and a specific focus within the topic. The Topic is due by the end of Module/Week 3.

2. Proposal

After their topic has been approved, students must complete a Research Paper Proposal. The Proposal will contain the following components: a cover page, a working thesis statement, the need for the study, the procedure of the study, and a working bibliography. The thesis statement, need, and procedure should be 1–2 double-spaced pages. The procedure must be written in the paragraph form; it's not the table of contents. The Proposal is due by the end of the third week of class.

3. Submission

Students must write their Research Paper using the Topic and Proposal they submitted. The paper must include eight sections (Cover, Thesis, Table of Contents, Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Footnotes, and Bibliography) but the portion consisting of the body of research (Introduction to Conclusion) needs to be no less than 10 double-spaced pages; it must also include at least 3 sources, including your course readings. It must be written in proper form (as specified in the Turabian manual). The completed Research Paper is due by the end of fifth week of class. Each Servant Leader will read and discuss their Research Paper scheduled from weeks 6-10. Note: the selection and order of presentations will be done through balloting.

Course Grading and Policies

A. Points

Discussion Board Forums	
Threads (2 at 100 each)	200
Sets of replies (2 at 50 each)	100
Journal Article Critiques (2 at 100 each)	200
Research Paper	
Topic	50
Proposal	50
Submission	200
Presentations	100
Class Attendance	100
Total	1000

B. Scale

A = 950–1000 A- = 940–949 B+ = 920–939 B = 890–919 B- = 870–889

C+ = 850–869 C = 820–849 C- = 800–819 D+ = 780–799 D = 750–779

D- = 730–749 F = 729 and below

C. Policies

Late Penalty: Students will lose 5% for each day an assignment is late. The instructor may consider exceptions in cases of emergency or other extenuating circumstances. No extra points will be awarded for early submission. Students **MUST** get approval before submitting late assignment, failure to do so will mean an automatic deduction.

Instructor Availability and Feedback: The instructor will answer most emails ASAP. He/she will give feedback on the Research Paper Proposal and Submission). In addition, the instructor will reply to the Discussion Board posts.