



**Online Course Syllabus**  
**THS 203 L08.A**  
**Systematic Theology I**  
**Winter 2018**

**Contact Information**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Scott Shiffer

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**Instructor Office Hours:** By Appointment.

**Course Description and Prerequisites**

This course provides advanced discussions to Theological Method (Prolegomena), Scripture (Bibliology), God (Theology Proper), Creation, Providence, Angels (Angelology), Humanity (Anthropology), and Sin (Hamartiology), defining the scriptural views and showing the arguments for them, refuting other views, and emphasizing the relevance of theology to the Christian life and witness. (Prerequisites may be taken concurrently: NTS and OTS Introduction courses per degree program requirements, BIB 105 Hermeneutics)

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce students to the aforementioned areas of Christian theology. While it is based upon the lecture format, it also will include reading, research, and interaction. Furthermore, at the end of this course, the student should demonstrate the ability to...

1. Defend the major ideas that the Scriptures emphasize regarding these doctrinal subjects.
2. Recognize and define the pertinent issues, fundamental terms, and theological categories that are used when discussing these doctrines within the context of systematic theology.
3. Explain the divergent views that have evolved in the history of these doctrines.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in articulating the ways in which these doctrines interrelate to each other as well as the Christian faith as a whole.
5. Integrate the main ideas of these doctrines to their lives in such a way that they will impact their personal walk with the Lord.
6. Discuss these doctrines with people in the local church setting in an accessible manner.

**Required Textbooks**

\* Allison, Gregg R. Historical Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

\* Craig, William L., et al. Four Views of Divine Providence. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

\* Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

### **Textbook Reading Assignments (20%)**

The approximately 900 pages of required textbook reading are a crucial component of this course. As the class progresses, it is expected that students will read the assigned pages thoughtfully and according to the order given on the Course Schedule. Likewise, by the end of the semester, students will be required to report the percentage of reading that has been completed.

### **Bible Reading Assignments (10%)**

The biblical passages listed in the course schedule are another crucial reading component of this course. Ideally, students are to read these assigned biblical texts before engaging the related lectures. At the end of the term, students will be required to report the percentage of Bible reading that has been completed.

### **Lecture Reading Assignment (10%)**

Students are required to read the written lectures that cover the topics of the class. This is why the course schedule provided in this syllabus outlines the order of lectures.

### **Discussion Board Participation (10%)**

Students will participate in three Discussion Board (DB) forums, each spanning a one week interval. On each assigned week, students will answer the forum question(s) in a new thread of 400–500 words by 11:59 pm of the Sunday night of that assigned week. Also during the same week, students must reply to two classmates' threads, in 200–250 words.

### **Quizzes (20%)**

Assorted quizzes pertain to the content that is discussed in designated chapters of Grudem and the course lectures (L1, L2, etc). To know the content that is covered in each quiz, students can consult the Assignments Column of the Course Schedule. Quizzes can only be taken in the weekly order as listed in the course schedule and only during the specified days that are listed in the syllabus. They will be available on the class Canvas website and through the use of their school account number, students are required to take each assigned quiz between the Monday (after 12:01 AM) and Sunday (before 11:59 PM) of each designated quiz week.

### **Paper (30%)**

Each student will be required to write a 5-6 page book review (double-spaced) of the required textbook Four Views of Divine Providence. In doing so, students must be aware that there are specific guidelines related to the content and format of the paper. The basic parameters are provided in The Criswell College Manual of Style (pgs. 99-103) and a rubric document entitled Book Review Grading Rubric, which are available under

## Course Documents.

The paper must...

1. Include a cover sheet with the title of the paper, student's name, and the date of submission.
2. Be written in accordance to the guidelines found in The Criswell College Manual of Style. (Note if students have questions not addressed in CCMS, they should then consult the most recent edition of Turabian's guide to writing research papers.) Students can download the CCMS. Also, under Course Documents are two form templates for students to consult when writing their papers; one for the proper form of a Title Page and the other for the actual Book Review itself.
3. Have good content as seen in the fact that the review is defined clearly and covers the material under consideration. It must be written in a logically coherent and readable manner, which includes the publication information of the book, introduction, summary, critical evaluation, and conclusion.
4. Use proper grammar and sentence structure. Note that if the paper contains excessive grammatical errors, misspellings, or typos, it will receive a grade of a zero and students will not be able to rewrite the paper to change the grade.

## Due Date for All Assignments

The Quizzes and Discussion Board Threads/Responses are to be completed by the dates listed on the Course Schedule. Because this is an online class, students are expected to fit the assigned timetables into their own schedules. Furthermore, they are encouraged not to procrastinate to the last minute because of contingencies that can occur with regard to internet access, computer issues, etc. They are to be mindful that once the time limit of accessibility for a given quiz is completed, students cannot take them at a later date. And if they should complete a Discussion Board assignment late, a reduction of points will affect the grades of those assignments. And due to the nature of an online class, while all of these assignments can be turned in early, none of them will be accepted late.

## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

### Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. Such participation may include the following: completing quizzes or exams; emailing faculty or class members as part of an assignment; discussion board posting or response; turning in an assignment; or other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. When unavoidable situations result in non-participation, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how participation affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether participation affects course grades..

### Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

### **Incomplete Grades**

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An “I” may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar’s Office. The “I” must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the “I” will become an “F.”

### **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

### **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students’ institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course, or if a student has a learning disability, please inform the professor so assistance can be provided.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## **Resources and Support**

Canvas and CAMS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with CAMS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [bstifle@criswell.edu](mailto:bstifle@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students Jeff Campbell, at [jcampbell@criswell.edu](mailto:jcampbell@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu).

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing [writingcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## **Distance Education**

Students participating in courses through Distance Education, with or without live interaction, must complete the academic requirements for those courses with the integrity and commitment necessary to participate in and benefit from all of the exercises provided by the professor for learning the subject matter of the course. Therefore, credit for Distance Education courses is the same as credit for courses taken on campus.

Distance education students can access information about Criswell College’s Wallace Library at [http://www.criswell.edu/current\\_students/library/](http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/). The Wallace Library manual is available at [http://www.criswell.edu/current\\_students/library/library\\_handbook/](http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/library_handbook/).

## Course Outline/Calendar

The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change.

WEEK	LECTURE CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS	TEXTBOOK READING	BIBLE READING
<b>Week 1</b> <b>12/17-</b> <b>12/23</b>	Lecture 1 (L1): Prolegomena L2: Sources of Theology L3: Challenges to Theology L4: Nature of Revelation L5: The Canon L6: The Bible as God's Word	* Discussion Board (DB) 1 * <b>Q#1: Grudem Chp 1</b> & <b>L5</b>	<b>Grudem:</b> Chps 1-4 <b>Allison:</b> Chps 1-2	Ex 4:10-16; 7:1-4; Num 12:6-8; Deut 18:14-21; Ps 119; Jer 1:4-10; 36; Matt 19:1-5; Lk 1:1-4; Jn 12:44-50; 14; Acts 4:24-25; 13:34-35; 17- 18; Rom 1- 2:16; 8:19-22; 9:6-9; 10:9; 1 Cor 12:3; 15:3- 4; Gal 3:6-8; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 1:1-6; 2 Pet 1:20-21; Rev 1
<b>Week 2</b> <b>12/24-</b> <b>12/30</b>	L7: What is Inerrancy? L8: Theology Proper L9: Models of Theism L10: The Existence of God L11: The Divine Attributes L12: The Trinity L13: Creationism L14: Importance of Gen 1-2 L15: Human Origins	* DB 2 * <b>Q #2: Grudem Chp</b> <b>5 &amp; L10</b> * <b>Q#3: Grudem Chp 11</b> & <b>L14</b>	<b>Grudem:</b> Chps 5-14 <b>Allison:</b> Chp 3-12	Gen 1-2; Ex 20:8-11; 31:15- 17; Num 6:24- 26; Job 38-42; Ps 19; 90; 102; 139; Isa 43-45; 61:1-2; 63; Hag 2:4-5; Matt 3:16-17; 28:18- 20; Acts 1:1-5; Rom 1:1-4; 4:13-17; 11:33- 36; 1 Cor 12:4- 6; Eph 3:13-18; Col 1:6-7; 1 Thess 1:2-6; 2 Thess 2:13-15;

				1 Tim 3:15-16; Tit 3:4-6; Heb 10:29-31; 11:1-3; Jms 1:16-17
<b>Week 3</b> <b>12/31-1/6</b>	L16: Providence L17: The Problem of Evil L18: Angelology L19: Satan & Demons L20: Anthropology L21: The Imago Dei L22: Ontology of Humanity	* DB 3 * <b>Q #4: Grudem Chp 15 &amp; L16</b> * <b>Q#5: Grudem Chp 22 &amp; L22</b>	<b>Grudem:</b> Chps 15-23 <b>Allison:</b> Chps 13-14 <b>Craig, et al:</b> Intro, Chps 1-4	Gen 3:1-15; 5:1-5; 6:1-7; 1 Kgs 22:34-38; Job 21:5-16; Ps 8; 73; 103; Isa 6:1-7; 14; 30:31-32; Jer 12:1-4; Ezek 28; Dan 7-10; Hab 2:16-17; Matt 12:24-26; Lk 13:1-5; Rom 7:13-24; 1 Cor 2; 11:1-16; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal 3:26-29; Eph 5:22-33; Col 2:11-15; 3:5-19; 1 Thess 5:23; 1 Tim 4:1-3; Heb 4:12-13; 1 Pet 3:1-7; 2 Pet 2:4; Jms 1:13-17; 3:9-10; Jd 6; Rev 12; 20
<b>Week 4</b> <b>1/7-1/11</b>	L23: The Soul L24: Issues in Gender L25: Hamartiology L26: Origin of Sin L27: The Effects of Sin L28: Perpetuation of Sin	* <b>Q#6: Grudem Chp 24 &amp; L23</b> * Book Review Due *Textbook/Bible/Lecture Reading Reports Due	<b>Grudem:</b> Chapter 24 <b>Allison:</b> Chps 10-12	Gen 3; 6:1-6; Job 25:1-6; Ps 14; 25; 51; 58; Eccl 7; 9; Isa 53:1-6; 64:1-6; Jer 13; Matt 5; Jn 3; Rom 3; 5; 1 Cor 6; Gal 5; Eph 2:1-5; 4:17-19; 1 Tim 1:8-10

## Selected Bibliography

Will be loaded in Canvas in a separate document.