



On-Campus Course Syllabus

THS 512 L1

Prolegomena and Trinitarianism

Spring 2021

Class Information

Day and Time: Thursday 4:45 PM – 7:15 PM

Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Jim Larsen

Instructor Email: jlarsen@criswell.edu

Instructor Office Hours: Contact Professor for Appointment

Course Description and Prerequisites

Provides advanced discussions to Prolegomena (including Bibliology), Theology Proper, Christology, and Pneumatology, 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. (Prerequisite BIB 505)

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to . . .

1. Discuss major concepts and significant terms associated with these systematic subjects, including key biblical passages that relate to them.
2. Demonstrate the ability to articulate ways in which these doctrines interrelate with each other as well as with Christian faith as a whole.
3. Identify and discuss significant historical and/or contemporary controversies associated with these systematic subjects.
4. Engage in sympathetic but critical dialogue with diverse Christian articulations of concepts and scriptural interpretations associated with these systematic subjects.
5. Formulate a personal statement of faith and ministry associated with each of these systematic subjects.

Required Textbooks

- *The Bible*: The professor typically uses the *English Standard Version* for course lectures. However, students may use their preferred translation in class and on assignments.
- Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003. ISBN 9781581344844.
- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2006. ISBN 9781581348118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Required Text Reading (25%): The course texts form the foundation upon which lectures are built, thus it is imperative that students complete the assigned reading prior to the beginning of each class session. The percentage of assigned reading completed will be reported at the beginning of the class session for which it is due. If a student is going to be absent, he/she must e-mail the percentage of reading completed to the professor **prior to the beginning of class** in order to receive credit. There is no credit for reading that is not **completed and reported** by the beginning of the class in which it is due.

Discussions/Interactions (20%): This course is intended to provide the student with advanced discussions on the systematic subjects of Prolegomena (including Bibliology), Theology Proper, Christology, and Pneumatology. Consequently, assignments are designed to challenge students' thinking as well as promote more biblically mature engagement with related contemporary theological discussions. Since lectures, discussions, and reading assignments build upon each other, students must complete assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned. Assignments will be in the form of online discussions/interactions. Online discussions/interactions should be governed by the following guidelines:

- The professor will post an item for *discussion* on Canvas for which *all* students must provide an appropriate response. This response should be between 400 and 600 words in length. Your postings must reflect (a) facts, providing appropriate support where needed; (b) logical reasoning, (c) be related to the topic, (d) be written well, and (e) *must be completed* by the beginning of the class session following the professor's posting of each discussion item.
- Once the student has provided a response to the professor's post, she/he must then *interact* with the post of at least two other students as well as respond to comments relating to her/his own post. Keep in mind that these posts are intended to promote *discussion*, and thus grades for these discussions will reflect the quality and thoughtfulness of these interactions.
- Again, your interactions with other students must reflect (a) facts, (b) logical reasoning, (c) be related to the topic, (d) be written well, and (e) give other students adequate time to respond.
- While it is acceptable to disagree with the posts of either the professor or another student, disagreement *must be* civil and gracious. Remember: challenge the thought/idea, not the person.
- When posting, be sure to present your thoughts and point of view clearly, concisely, and graciously. Try to avoid sharing your personal opinions if you cannot back them up biblically or by citing other appropriate sources.
- Grades will be based on the quality of the student's initial response to the professor's post, the quality of engagement with other students' work, *and* the quality of the responses to other students' engagement with the student's own work. Consequently *all* engagement/discussion *must be completed* by the beginning of the second class session following the professor's posting of each discussion item.

Position Papers (25%): Each student will write an initial introductory paper briefly stating what he/she currently believes regarding the following topics: Theological Method (Prolegomena), Scripture (Bibliology), God (Theology Proper), Christology, and Pneumatology. There is no specified length to this introductory paper. Each topic should be dealt with in a paragraph or two, without extrabiblical references. The purpose of this paper is twofold: (1) to provide the student and professor with a starting point for evaluating progress in understanding the course topics; and (2) to provide the professor with an example of the student's ability to express himself/herself in written form. There are no formatting requirements for this paper beyond providing a cover sheet/title page, double spacing, and Times New Roman 12-point font. However, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. will be evaluated (point 2 above!).

Additionally, the student will write a position paper at the conclusion of the following topics: (1) Prolegomena (including Bibliology); (2) Theology Proper; (3) Christology; and (4) Pneumatology. The requirements for each position paper are as follows:

1. Update/elaborate on the student's belief regarding each topic (as expressed in the introductory paper), including biblical support for that belief. While it is expected that the student will also draw on sources other than Scripture, this should be a personal articulation and not a quotation or paraphrase of external sources.
2. Where appropriate, each paper should also address how other topics discussed in this course relate to/affect how one understands the topics being addressed in the paper.
3. Discuss how the student's current belief regarding each topic affects/will affect his/her approach to ministry.
4. Each paper is to be between ten (10) and fifteen (15) double spaced pages.
5. Each paper is to be well written and formatted in accordance with the *Criswell College Manual of Style*.
6. A bibliography is not required for this paper. However, any sources cited must be properly identified by way of footnote citations in accordance with the *Criswell College Manual of Style* requirements.

Exams (25%): There will be a midterm and a final exam for this course. The midterm exam will cover required reading and lesson material discussed up to that point in the course. The final exam will cover the remaining required reading and lesson material as well as significant concepts presented during the first portion of the course. Each exam will be a timed, closed book exam, and will be administered online in Canvas. **No late exams will be accepted.**

Class Participation (5%): Students must show up on time and be adequately prepared to contribute to the conduct of class sessions. This may be demonstrated by asking questions, interacting with the professor and/or other students during class discussions, and/or by responding to questions posed by the professor. As one needs to be present in order to participate in class discussions, absences will affect the class participation grade.

Additional Assignments: While there are currently no additional requirements anticipated for this course, the professor reserves the right to incorporate additional requirements as necessary to assist students in accomplishing the stated goals of this course.

Assignments/Exams Due Dates: Due dates for all course requirements are identified on the **Course Outline/Calendar**. It is expected that all requirements be completed/submitted on time. Students are *strongly* encouraged not to wait until the last minute to work on and/or post assignments or take exams, as unforeseen circumstances may prevent meeting deadlines (power outages, computer problems, internet access problems, etc.). The professor *stresses* the importance of meeting assignment/exam due dates. Unless there is an *extreme* circumstance involved (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.), **no late assignments or exams will be accepted.**

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Textbooks and Supplemental Bibliography: The selection of textbooks and items on the Supplemental Bibliography should not be interpreted as implying the professor's endorsement of any of the views of the authors. Textbooks and supplemental sources are selected for their perceived value in helping to meet course goals and objectives.

Recording: As a general policy, students may not record class sessions for this course. If a student has a particular need that necessitates recording class sessions, please contact the Director of Student Services. If permission is granted to record class sessions, under no conditions may recordings be duplicated, given, lent, or shared with anyone else. Further, permission is **expressly denied** to upload these recordings to the internet **in any form** or to use them for purposes other than the student’s own personal study to meet the requirements of this course. For additional information, see the “**Disabilities**” section below.

Course Outline/Calendar: The schedule provided below is intended to give the student a general idea of the flow of course topics/discussions. While the professor intends to keep as closely as possible to the indicated topic dates, he reserves the right to modify class topics as necessary to meet course objectives as well as deal with potential issues raised by students deemed appropriate to meet these objectives. Unless otherwise indicated, deviations from indicated topics *will not* affect due dates for listed assignments.

On Campus/Zoom Conference Classes: Due to the small number of students in the class, this course may be conducted in a “hybrid” fashion. As agreed upon by students and approved by the professor, class sessions may be conducted by way of Zoom conference sessions. Regardless of on campus or Zoom conference “venue,” class sessions will be conducted on the dates and times specified in the course outline. The professor reserves the right to modify this method of class participation as deemed necessary in order to fulfill course requirements.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students’ ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

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

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, 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 Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS 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 SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@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. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Thu	Topic	Assignments
Jan 21	*Course Introduction *Theological Method	
Jan 28	*Theological Method	(C) Intro – Ch 2 Introductory Position Paper
29 January: Last Day to Drop Classes		
Feb 4	*Theological Method	(C) Chs 3–5
Feb 11	*Theological Method	(C) Chs 6–9
Feb 18	*Theological Method	(C) Chs 10 – Conclusion
Feb 25	*Theology Proper	(F) Forward – Ch 2 Position Paper #1
Mar 4	*Theology Proper	(F) Chs 3–4
Mar 11	*Theology Proper	Midterm Exam (Online)
March 15–19 — Spring Break		
Mar 25	*Christology	(F) Chs 5–6 Position Paper #2
1 April: Last Day to Withdraw from Classes		
Apr 1	*Christology	(F) Chs 7–8
Apr 8	*Christology	(F) Chs 9–10
Apr 15	*Christology	(F) Chs 11–12
Apr 22	*Pneumatology	(F) Chs 13–14 Position Paper #3
26 April (8:00 AM): <u>All</u> Course Requirements for Graduating Students Complete		
Apr 29	*Pneumatology	(F) Chs 15-17
May 6	*Pneumatology	
Position Paper #4 May 10–14 — Final Exams (Final Exam Online)		

NOTE: (C) Clark, *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*
(F) Feinberg, *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*

Selected Bibliography

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On-Campus Course Syllabus

ADDENDUM FOR SP-21

THS 512 L1

Prolegomena and Trinitarianism

In the event that Criswell College has to close the campus to on-campus classes during the SP-21 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, calendar, and attendance requirements from the syllabus for this course are replicated below. Notes and changes to the information in the syllabus are highlighted. Information that is no longer relevant is indicated with a strike through the font and *replacement or new information is placed in italics*.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Required Text Reading (25%): No change to this requirement. The course texts form the foundation upon which lectures are built, thus it is imperative that students complete the assigned reading prior to the beginning of each class session. The percentage of assigned reading completed will be reported at the beginning of the class session for which it is due. If a student is going to be absent, he/she must e-mail the percentage of reading completed to the professor **prior to the beginning of class** in order to receive credit. There is no credit for reading that is not **completed and reported** by the beginning of the class in which it is due.

Discussions/Interactions (20%): No change to this requirement. This course is intended to provide the student with advanced discussions on the systematic subjects of Prolegomena (including Bibliology), Theology Proper, Christology, and Pneumatology. Consequently, assignments are designed to challenge students' thinking as well as promote more biblically mature engagement with related contemporary theological discussions. Since lectures, discussions, and reading assignments build upon each other, students must complete assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned. Assignments will be in the form of online discussions/interactions. Online discussions/interactions should be governed by the following guidelines:

- The professor will post an item for *discussion* on Canvas for which *all* students must provide an appropriate response. This response should be between 400 and 600 words in length. Your postings must reflect (a) facts, providing appropriate support where needed; (b) logical reasoning, (c) be related to the topic, (d) be written well, and (e) *must be completed* by the beginning of the class session following the professor's posting of each discussion item.
- Once the student has provided a response to the professor's post, she/he must then *interact* with the post of at least two other students as well as respond to comments relating to her/his own post. Keep in mind that these posts are intended to promote *discussion*, and thus grades

for these discussions will reflect the quality and thoughtfulness of these interactions.

- Again, your interactions with other students must reflect (a) facts, (b) logical reasoning, (c) be related to the topic, (d) be written well, and (e) give other students adequate time to respond.

- While it is acceptable to disagree with the posts of either the professor or another student, disagreement *must be* civil and gracious. Remember: challenge the thought/idea, not the person.

- When posting, be sure to present your thoughts and point of view clearly, concisely, and graciously. Try to avoid sharing your personal opinions if you cannot back them up biblically or by citing other appropriate sources.

- Grades will be based on the quality of the student's initial response to the professor's post, the quality of engagement with other students' work, *and* the quality of the responses to other students' engagement with the student's own work. Consequently *all* engagement/discussion *must be completed* by the beginning of the second class session following the professor's posting of each discussion item.

Position Papers (25%): **No change to this requirement.** Each student will write an initial introductory paper briefly stating what he/she currently believes regarding the following topics: Theological Method (Prolegomena), Scripture (Bibliology), God (Theology Proper), Christology, and Pneumatology. There is no specified length to this introductory paper. Each topic should be dealt with in a paragraph or two, without extrabiblical references. The purpose of this paper is twofold: (1) to provide the student and professor with a starting point for evaluating progress in understanding the course topics; and (2) to provide the professor with an example of the student's ability to express himself/herself in written form. There are no formatting requirements for this paper beyond providing a cover sheet/title page, double spacing, and Times New Roman 12-point font. However, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. will be evaluated (point 2 above!).

Additionally, the student will write a position paper at the conclusion of the following topics: (1) Prolegomena (including Bibliology); (2) Theology Proper; (3) Christology; and (4) Pneumatology. The requirements for each position paper are as follows:

1. Update/elaborate on the student's belief regarding each topic (as expressed in the introductory paper), including biblical support for that belief. While it is expected that the student will also draw on sources other than Scripture, this should be a personal articulation and not a quotation or paraphrase of external sources.
2. Where appropriate, each paper should also address how other topics discussed in this course relate to/affect how one understands the topics being addressed in the paper.
3. Discuss how the student's current belief regarding each topic affects/will affect his/her approach to ministry.
4. Each paper is to be between ten (10) and fifteen (15) double spaced pages.
5. Each paper is to be well written and formatted in accordance with the *Criswell College Manual of Style*.
6. A bibliography is not required for this paper. However, any sources cited must be properly identified by way of footnote citations in accordance with the *Criswell College Manual of Style* requirements.

Exams (25%): **No change to this requirement.** There will be a midterm and a final exam for this course. The midterm exam will cover required reading and lesson material discussed up to that point in the course. The final exam will cover the remaining required reading and lesson material as well as significant concepts presented during the first portion of the course. Each exam will be a timed, closed book exam, and will be administered online in Canvas. **No late exams will be accepted.**

Class Participation (5%): **No change to this requirement.** Students must show up on time and be adequately prepared to contribute to the conduct of class sessions. This may be demonstrated by asking questions, interacting with the professor and/or other students during class discussions, and/or by responding to questions posed by the professor. As one needs to be present in order to participate in class discussions, absences will affect the class participation grade.

Additional Assignments: **No change to this requirement.** While there are currently no additional requirements anticipated for this course, the professor reserves the right to incorporate additional requirements as necessary to assist students in accomplishing the stated goals of this course.

Assignments/Exams Due Dates: **No change to this requirement.** Due dates for all course requirements are identified on the **Course Outline/Calendar**. It is expected that all requirements be completed/submitted on time. Students are *strongly* encouraged not to wait until the last minute to work on and/or post assignments or take exams, as unforeseen circumstances may prevent meeting deadlines (power outages, computer problems, internet access problems, etc.). The professor *stresses* the importance of meeting assignment/exam due dates. Unless there is an *extreme* circumstance involved (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.), **no late assignments or exams will be accepted.**

Class Attendance

On-Campus/Zoom Conference Classes: ~~Due to the small number of students in the class As a consequence of the closure of the campus due to Covid-19, this course may be conducted in a "hybrid" fashion. As agreed upon by students and approved by the professor, class sessions may will be conducted by way of Zoom conference sessions. Regardless of on campus or Zoom conference "venue,"~~ *Class sessions will be conducted on the dates and times specified in the course outline. The professor reserves the right to modify this method of class participation as deemed necessary in order to fulfill course requirements. If at some point the campus reopens for on cite classes, the professor will make a determination on whether or not to resume on campus sessions or to continue with Zoom sessions.*

Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification

During Zoom class sessions indicated above, students will be expected to participate using both audio and video. Students having difficulty meeting this requirement must contact the professor in order to work out an acceptable alternative.

Course Outline/Calendar

Thu	Topic	Assignments
Jan 21	*Course Introduction *Theological Method	
Jan 28	*Theological Method	(C) Intro – Ch 2 Introductory Position Paper
29 January: Last Day to Drop Classes		
Feb 4	*Theological Method	(C) Chs 3–5
Feb 11	*Theological Method	(C) Chs 6–9
Feb 18	*Theological Method	(C) Chs 10 – Conclusion
Feb 25	*Theology Proper	(F) Forward – Ch 2 Position Paper #1
Mar 4	*Theology Proper	F) Chs 3–4
Mar 11	*Theology Proper	(Midterm Exam (Online))
March 15–19 — Spring Break		
Mar 25	*Christology	(F) Chs 5–6 Position Paper #2
1 April: Last Day to Withdraw from Classes		
Apr 1	*Christology	(F) Chs 7–8
Apr 8	*Christology	(F) Chs 9–10
Apr 15	*Christology	(F) Chs 11–12
Apr 22	*Pneumatology	(F) Chs 13–14 Position Paper #3
26 April (8:00 AM): <u>All</u> Course Requirements for Graduating Students Complete		
Apr 29	*Pneumatology	(F) Chs 15-17
May 6	*Pneumatology	
Position Paper #4 May 10–14 — Final Exams (Final Exam Online)		

NOTE: **(C)** Clark, *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*

(F) Feinberg, *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*