



Class Information

Day and Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 am – 10:45 am

Room Number: E208

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Joseph Lee

Instructor Email: jlee@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-384-3142

Instructor Office Hours: TBD

Course Description and Prerequisites

Introductory 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. (Prerequisite: BIB 105)

Course Objectives

1. Students will gain a broad comprehensive knowledge and appreciation of the listed doctrines.
2. Students will be able to identify key biblical texts and definitions related to the listed doctrines.
3. Students will be able to articulate and defend orthodox views of the listed doctrines.
4. Students will be able to demonstrate comprehension of the listed doctrines by synthesizing course material and providing biblical, theological, and historical support.
5. Students will be able to evaluate the listed doctrines in order to inform Christian ministry and life.

Required Textbooks

Erickson, Millard J., and L. Arnold Hustad. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015.

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Assignments (40%)

Students will read and complete the assigned reading according to the class schedule. A reading report indicating the percentage of reading completed will be recorded by students in Canvas twice: the first will be **Due 3/11** and the second will be **Due 5/6**. Note that it is expected for students to read the required texts critically and for comprehension. Comprehension of the required texts will be demonstrated on the Content Synthesis Paper, Response Paper, and Final Exam.

Exit Tickets (15%)

Students will recap, as a class and with the professor, the content covered for each class session. Specifically, each class session will end with a 5–10 minute discussion about the day’s lecture/discussion topics while students write key points and personal thoughts from the class’s recap on a sheet of paper. Students will then turn in their sheet of paper as their “exit ticket” as they leave class. Each exit ticket is worth .005% (30 class sessions).

Response Paper (15%):

Students will write a 5–7 page response paper to Michael Reeves’s *Delighting in the Trinity*. You are to briefly describe the author’s thesis (1 page), exposit key arguments in support of the thesis (3–4 pages), and provide personal and ministry application points of this material (1–2 pages). The response paper is **Due 4/1**.

Content Synthesis Paper (20%):

Students will synthesize and integrate class lectures and required readings to write a 7–10 page paper that covers the main topics of the course: Theological Method, Bibliology, Theology Proper, Creation, Providence, Angelology, Anthropology, and Hamartiology. In doing so, students will provide a comprehensive survey of the mentioned topics (5-6 pages), show how the topics are interrelated (1-2 pages), and discuss application points for life and ministry (1-2 pages). The content synthesis paper is **Due 5/6**.

Final Exam (10%):

The final exam will cover the entire semester and will be over the required reading and class lectures. This is an open-note/open-book exam and the nature of the exam is short essay with students responding to two questions. Students can take as long as needed to complete the exam but it must be completed in one sitting. The questions will be unlocked in Canvas and the exam is to be completed on a Word document. Upon completion of the exam, students will convert the Word document to a PDF file and upload the document on the final exam submission page when completed. The final exam must be taken within Finals Week (**5/9–5/13**). Criteria for grading will be: clarity, accuracy, response to key arguments, and depth of thinking.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

The Final Exam must be taken within Finals Week (**5/9–5/13**), the Response Paper will not be accepted past (**4/1**), and the Content Synthesis Paper will not be accepted past (**5/6**). The two reading reports need to be recorded by the respective deadlines (**3/11** and **5/6**) in order for students to receive credit. Please note: no assignments will be accepted past the assigned due dates.

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.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

Assigning grade definitions (i.e., above average, average, below average) is optional. Please delete the last column below if not assigning definitions. Additionally, delete these instructions when completing syllabus.

			Grade Definitions (optional)
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

Date	Topic	Assignment
1/18; 1/20	Syllabus/Course Introduction	<i>None</i>
1/25; 1/27	Theological Method (part 1)	Erickson: chpts. 1-2
2/1; 2/3	Theological Method (part 2)	Erickson: chpts. 3-4

2/8; 2/10	Bibliology (part 1)	Erickson: chpts. 5-6
2/15; 2/17	Bibliology (part 2)	Erickson: chpts. 7-8
2/22; 2/24	Theology Proper (part 1)	Erickson: chpt. 9 Reeves: chpts. 1-2
3/1; 3/3	Theology Proper (part 2)	Erickson: chpt. 10 Reeves: chpts. 3-4
3/8; 3/10	Theology Proper (part 3)	Erickson: chpt. 11 Reeves: chpt. 5-Conclusion Due 3/11: Reading Report 1
(3/14- 3/18)	<i>Spring Break: No Class</i>	<i>None</i>
3/22; 3/24	Creation	Erickson: chpts. 12-13
3/29; 3/31	Providence	Erickson: chpts. 14-15 Due 4/1: Response Paper
4/5; 4/7	Angelology	Erickson: chpts. 16-17
4/12; 4/14	Anthropology (part 1)	Erickson: chpts. 18-19
4/19; 4/21	Anthropology (part 2)	Erickson: chpts. 20-21
4/26; 4/28	Hamartiology (part 1)	Erickson: chpt. 22
5/3; 5/5	Hamartiology (part 2)	Due 5/6: Reading Report 2, Content Synthesis Paper
(5/9- 5/13)	<i>Final Exams: No Class</i>	Due 5/13: Final Exam

Selected Bibliography

Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2018.

Cole, Graham. *Against the Darkness: The Doctrine of Angels, Satan, and Demons*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019.

Cortez, Marc. *Christological Anthropology in Historical Perspective: Ancient and Contemporary Approaches to Theological Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.

Dembski, William and Jonathan Witt. *Intelligent Design Uncensored*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2010.

Erickson, Millard J. *God the Father Almighty: A Contemporary Exploration of the Divine Attributes*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Greene-McCreight, Kathryn. *Darkness Is My Only Companion*. Revised, expanded ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015.

Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994.

Hoekema, Anthony. *Created in God's Image*. 1986. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

Jones, Beth Felker. *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014.

Grenz, Stanley, and Roger E. Olson. *Who Needs Theology?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 6th ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2016.

Nichols, Stephen J., and Eric T. Brandt. *Ancient Word, Changing Worlds: The Doctrine of Scripture in a Modern Age*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1993.

Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Richards, Jay Wesley. *The Untamed God: A Philosophical Exploration of Divine Perfection, Simplicity and Immutability*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003.

Wilson, Jonathan R. *A Primer for Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.