



On-Campus Course Syllabus

THS203

Systematic Theology I

Summer 2023

Class Information

Day and Time: T/TH 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Room Number: E205

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Caroline Buie

Instructor Email: cbuie@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1397

Instructor Office Hours: [M-TH 8:00-4:00](#)

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. CO1: Students will define key words and concepts of the specific doctrines of Revelation, Bibliology, Trinitarianism, and Anthropology.
2. CO2: Students will identify key biblical texts and definitions related to the specific doctrines of Revelation, Bibliology, Trinitarianism, and Anthropology
3. CO3: Students will defend orthodox views of a specific doctrine of choice.
4. CO4: Students will synthesize the doctrines to inform Christian ministry and life.

Required Textbooks

Erickson, Millard J. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*, 3rd edition. Baker Academic, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-80104919-4.

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2022. ISBN 0830847073. Note: The older 2012 version is acceptable.

Throughout the semester, there will be specific articles uploaded in the **Files** section of Canvas. See the Course Schedule of this syllabus and check the Canvas Module section for due dates.

Recommended Reading

McLaughlin, Rebecca. *Confronting Christianity*. Wheaton, Crossway, 2019.

Svigel, Michael J. *Exploring Christian Theology: Revelation, Scripture, and the Triune God*. Edited by Nathan D Holsteen. *Exploring Christian Theology*, 1. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House, 2014.

Ward, Angie, ed. *The Least of These: Practicing a Faith Without Margins*. Colorado Springs, NavPress, 2023.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Assignments (30%) CO1, CO2

Students will read and complete the assigned reading according to the class schedule. The reading is from the class text and bible verses that support each doctrine, and in some weeks, there will be additional readings. The additional Articles are uploaded in the Files section of Canvas. After you have completed the reading, you are to take the Reading Comprehension Quiz to record comprehension of the concepts. See the Course Schedule of this syllabus and check the Canvas Module section for assignments and due dates. Completing the reading will greatly enhance the student's ability to take the weekly quiz.

Reading Comprehension Quizzes (10%) CO1, CO2

Students will take 10 weekly quizzes on the reading and lectures. These quizzes will be taken at home after you have completed the reading. The questions will be multiple choice, definitions, and two applicational essay questions. Each quiz should be taken in 30 minutes. The quizzes will be open book, but using Google and ChapGPT is prohibited. Students can take the quiz as often as they wish to obtain the desired grade. CO1, CO2.

Exams (30%) CO1, CO2, CO3

There will be two exams throughout the semester to test the content of each half of the semester. These exams are meant to test the overall understanding of the doctrine and will not be comprehensive. There will be 1- definitions and three essay questions that require synthesis of the doctrine and will address challenges to the doctrine. The exam will be taken on Canvas, is open book, and the student will get 75 minutes to complete it.

Term Project (30%): CO2, CO3, CO4

Students will choose one of the doctrines covered in the course. They will have two choices on how they want to present the project. *The student will submit a topic proposal in the first half of the semester. See Canvas Files for topic ideas. See Canvas and Course Schedule for the due date.*

- (1) The student could research and write a 7 – 10-page paper following this format: (1) Introduction, (2) description of the doctrine of choice, (3) interaction with the scripture that supports the doctrine, (4) application of the doctrine for the church, marriage, or everyday living, and (5) conclusion. The paper will be written in proper Turabian format and should be biblically supported and will use at least 5 sources, two of which are Systematic Theologies. See Canvas for the due date. CO2, CO3, CO4.

- (2) The student will research and prepare a PowerPoint presentation that includes the relevant

information needed to demonstrate mastery of the specific doctrine. The presentation should have enough information to present as a 7-page paper, along with footnotes and a bibliography. It should be creatively presented and include: (1) Introduction, (2) description of the doctrine of choice, (3) interaction with the scripture that supports the doctrine, (4) application of the doctrine for the church, marriage, or everyday living, and (5) conclusion. The presentation should be biblically supported and use at least 5 sources, two of which are Systematic Theologies.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

All assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. Any late work will receive a 5% daily penalty for up to 4 days, including quizzes. Any assignment past this date will get a zero.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

All assignments should be the individual work of each student. ChatGPT and Google should not be used. Wikipedia and blogs can be used to find sources, but the original sources should be cited in the paper.

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

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. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More

information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

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

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	5/30	Syllabus/Course Introduction	Read the Syllabus Thoroughly See Canvas for detailed instructions for every assignment.
	6/1	What is Theology? Sources of Theology	Read Erickson: Ch. 1-2 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #1 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
2	6/6	Revelation/ Inspiration Note: This session should be done at home. We will not have a face-to-face class.	Read Erickson: Ch. 3-5 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #2 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
	6/8	Bibliology	Read Erickson: Ch. 6 & 7 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #3 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
3	6/13	Theology Proper (Attributes and Names of God)	Read Erickson: Ch. 8, 9 Read “How Could a Loving God Allow So Much Suffering?” & Names and Attributes of God in Canvas Files Read Bible Verses Submit your Topic Project Proposal along with a short Bibliography. Take Quiz #4 on the Reading at the beginning of the class

	6/15	Theology Proper (God as One)	Read Erickson: Ch. 10,11 Read from "God in Three Persons" from <i>Exploring Christianity</i> in Canvas Files Take Quiz #5 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
4	6/19	Campus Closed	Juneteenth
	6/20	Theology Proper (The Persons of the Trinity)	Read Erickson: Ch. 11 Reeves, Ch. 1 & 2 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #6 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
	6/22	Creation	Read Erickson: Ch. 12, 13 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #7 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
5	6/27	Providence	Read Erickson: Ch. 14, 15 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #8 on the Reading at the beginning of the class. Prepare for Exam 1
	6/29		Take Exam #1
6	7/4	Campus Closed	Fourth of July
	7/6	Angelology	Read Erickson: Ch. 16 Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #9 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
7	7/11	Anthropology	Erickson: Ch. 17, 18 Read "Created in His Image" in Canvas Files Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #10 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.

	7/13	Hamartiology (part 1)	Read Erickson: Ch. 20, 21 Read in Canvas Files: “Doesn’t Christianity Denigrate Women?” Read Bible Verses (See Canvas for list) Take Quiz #11 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
8	7/18	Hamartiology (part 2)	Read Erickson: Ch. 22 Read in Canvas Files: “Doesn’t the Bible Condone Slavery?” Take Quiz #12 on the Reading at the beginning of the class.
	7/20		Turn in Synthesis Paper Turn in the Reading Report Review for Exam 2
	7/21	Exam 2: No Class	Take the Exam 2 before 7/21

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.

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.

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.

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.