



On-Campus Course Syllabus

THS 512 L1

Prolegomena and Trinitarianism

Spring 2025

Class Information

Day and Time: Tuesdays 7:30PM-10:00 PM

Room Number: E205

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Dien To

Instructor Email: dto@criswell.edu

Instructor Office Hours: [email professor to setup a date and time](#)

Course Description and Prerequisites

Provides advanced discussion 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

1. Understand key theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to the doctrines of this course.
2. Memorize selected Scriptural references concerning the doctrines covered in this class.
3. Articulate and analyze major doctrinal content and historical development through the readings and lectures.
4. Analyze a major issue or area of a selected doctrines, synthesizing and relating the topic to life.

Required Textbooks

- Barrett, Matthew. *Simply Trinity: The Unmanipulated Father, Son, and Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2021. ISBN-13: 9781540900074
- Wellum, Stephen J. *The Person of Christ: An Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021. ISBN-13: 9781433569432
- Bray, Gerald. *The Attributes of God: An Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021. ISBN-13: 9781433561177
- Sanders, Fred. *The Holy Spirit: An Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023. ISBN-13: 9781433561436
- Dockery, David S., and Yarnell, Malcolm B. *Special Revelation and Scripture*. Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2024. ISBN-13: 9781462796182

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Reading Log (25%):

1. The student is expected to turn in a weekly reading log each week. See the due dates on the course outline. There are two aspects of the reading log.
 - Every week the student will report the percentage of reading from 0%–100%.
 - Every **other week**, in addition to the reading percentage, the content of the reading log should include:
 - The author's position on the subject (half a page)
 - Pros and cons of the author's position (half a page)
 - Summary and Analysis of the reading (1 page)
 - It should be a minimum of two pages (double space, 12 fonts, Times New Roman)

2. Theological Doctrinal Paper or Theological Consideration Paper (20%):

The student will compose a 12–15 page paper (2500–3000 words) and turn it in May 8th 2025 by 11:59 PM on Canvas. Prior to this, the student will turn in the topic, thesis statement, an outline, and a bibliography comprised of at least 10–15 sources comprised of textbooks and relevant peer-review articles on April 2nd. The paper should have a clear thesis developed throughout the paper. Moreover, the paper should be grammatically clean and should follow the Turabian formatting schema.

- a. The student may choose one of these two options:
 - i. A Doctrinal Statement on a chosen doctrine. This paper will include the content of the doctrine, biblical support, philosophical influences, and historical development, including major controversies that occurred to help hone the doctrine. At the end of the paper, the student will include a section on how this doctrine reveals our God and leads the believer to worship.
 - ii. Theological Consideration Paper: This paper will address a theological controversy over one of the major doctrines studied. This paper will incorporate the content of the doctrine, biblical support, philosophical influences, and historical development.

3. Essay Questions (25%):

Every other week, the professor will post between four to five discussion questions based upon the reading and the lectures for the student to response to. The responses should demonstrate theological understanding of subject based upon the reading/lectures and from Scripture. At a minimum each response should consists of at least half a page (double space) each per question. See course outline for due dates.

4. Exams (30%):

There will be two exams (15% each exam) throughout the semester. The first one will cover Prolegomena and the Doctrines of Revelation and Bibliology (Inspiration, Authority, Inerrancy). The second exam will cover the topic of the Trinitarianism, Christology, and Pneumatology. The exams will be composed of Scripture memory matching (20%), ten definitions (50%), and three essay questions (30%).

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

LATE WORK: Late work will not be accepted unless otherwise approved by the professor. If approved, there will be a 20% reduction on the overall assignment. The highest possible grade earned, if late work is approved, would be a B- (80%).

PLAGIARISM: Carefully note the paragraph below on “Academic Dishonesty.” Students are expected vigilantly to avoid plagiarism of any kind and therefore to seek out information and ask questions as needed to maintain unquestionable academic integrity. No credit will be given for assignments deemed to be the work (in part or whole) of someone (or something, e.g. AI) other than the student or, for particular assignments, other than the collaborating team.

ATTENDANCE: In addition to the paragraph below on “Attendance,” note that a student’s formal attendance in (“showing up for”) this course will be marked (and points earned or lost) according to each week’s requirements. The assignments for this course are structured to maintain student engagement in and regular attendance to the course content. The course is deliberately designed to maximize student participation and accountability, which naturally result in maximal achievement of the course objectives.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Concerning AI: I find AI to be a helpful tool for researching quotations and getting a general idea about the topic. I do not want you to use AI to write your papers or use it to answer any essay questions. Writing encourages you to concretize the concepts and articulate in your own words what you know. This alone leads to worship. You may use AI to check grammar, search for sources, and find quotations.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they (1) anticipate being able to attend every on-campus class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, or (2) participating in academically related activities as identified in online-course schedules including synchronous class sessions conducted remotely by video, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any missed information. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students’ ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades. Professors apprise students of such information in course syllabi.

Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships must meet specified requirements of various departments at the college and should consult relevant sections of the *Academic Catalog*. To ensure such funds will not be forfeited, students are responsible for contacting the proper departments to ascertain any specific course participation requirements and consequences of not meeting such requirements. Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships should consult the Financial Aid office.

While Criswell College is a non-attendance taking institution, it nevertheless must demonstrate that students begin their courses in order to comply with Federal Aid regulations. Accordingly, students must participate in academically related activities during census periods. Failure to meet this requirement will result in students being administratively dropped from courses.

Academically related activity is defined as any course-related activity that may be used as evidence of attendance. Examples include:

- physical presence in a classroom during a class session with the instructor present,
- participation in a synchronous remote video class session with the instructor present,

- submission of an academic assignment, quiz, or exam,
- participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- participation in a study group or discussion board that is assigned by the instructor,
- documentation showing that the student and a faculty member corresponded about the academic subject of the course.

NOTE: Logging into a Canvas course alone and logging into a Synchronous Online class session without active participation or with the camera off are not considered attendance.

NOTE: A census period begins on the first day of a semester/term and runs through the end of the last day to drop courses. During the census period, attendance data is collected in order to demonstrate compliance with Federal Aid regulations. There is no census period for winter terms since there is no last day to drop courses.

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.

Research and Writing Standards

The default writing style for written assignments in Criswell College Courses is the latest edition of *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian. However, instructors are free to require alternative writing styles in their courses. These styles include but are not limited to the American Psychological Association (APA), Chicago Manual of Style, Modern Language Association (MLA), and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) writing guides.

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. Login credentials are emailed to students near the beginning of the semester.

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence. 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 schedule an appointment through Calendly (<https://calendly.com/criswell-tutoringcenter>) or by visiting the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203. For questions, call 214.818.1373 or email at tutoringcenter@criswell.edu.

Course Outline/Calendar

Thursdays	Topic	Reading	Exams/Assignments	Due Date
1/23	Introduction to course/Prolegomena	Syllabus; Dockery & Yarnell (1–90)	Reading Log	1/29 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
1/30	Revelation: Natural and Special	Dockery & Yarnell (91–206)	Essay Questions 1; Reading Log (percentage only)	2/5 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
2/6	Scripture: Characteristics of Scripture	Dockery & Yarnell (207–261; 369–403);	Reading Log	2/12 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
2/13	Scripture: Canonicity & Sufficiency of Scripture	Dockery & Yarnell 263–367	Essay Questions 2; Reading Log (percentage only)	2/19 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
2/20	Theology Proper: Attributes of God	Bray (9–76)	Reading Log	2/26 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
2/27	Theology Proper: Works of God; Review for exam one	Bray (77–146)	Essay Questions 3; Reading Log (percentage only);	3/5 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
3/6	Christology: Historical Christology	Wellum (11–84)	Reading Log; Exam 1	3/12 11:59 PM on Canvas;
3/13	Christology: Humanity & Deity of Christ	Wellum (85–146)	Essay Questions 4; Reading Log (percentage only)	3/26 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
Spring Break: 3/17–3/21 (No class/No course work)				
3/27	Christology: Critical Issues	Wellum (147–180)	Reading Log; Thesis Statement & outline and bibliography	4/2 by 11:59 PM on Canvas

4/3	Pneumatology: Meeting the Holy Spirit	Sanders (1–88)	Essay Questions 5; Reading Log (percentage only)	4/9 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
4/10	Pneumatology: Works of the Spirit	Sanders (89–164)	Reading Log	4/16 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
4/17	Trinity: Biblical Foundations	Barrett (17–124)	Essay Questions 6; Reading Log (percentage only)	4/23 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
4/24	Trinity: Historical Developments	Barrett (125–212)	Reading Log	4/30 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
5/1	Trinity: Critical Issues	Barrett (213–318)	Essay Questions 7; Reading Log (percentage Only)	5/7 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
5/8	Exam 2 Review	No reading	Theological Doctrinal Paper or Theological Consideration Paper	5/15 by 11:59 PM on Canvas
Finals week: 5/12–5/16 (Exam 2 taken in class)				