



Course Syllabus

THS510 O1

Systematic 1

Fall 2025

Class Information

Day and Time: Asynchronous Course
Room Number: E206

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Caroline Buie
Instructor Email: cbuie@criswell.edu
Instructor Phone: 214.818.1396
Instructor Office Hours: M–T 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Course Description and Prerequisites

This course establishes the biblical, foundational, doctrinal coherence, and pastoral significance of theological method (Prolegomena), Scripture (Bibliology), God (Theology Proper), Angels (Angelology), Humanity (Anthropology), and Sin (Hamartiology). It leans on historic and biblical support for the conclusions of classical Christianity and Baptist evangelicalism while exposing students to alternative positions, alternative arguments, and contemporary issues. (Prerequisites: BIB 505; other prerequisites may be taken concurrently: NTS 501, NTS 601, OTS 501, OTS 601).

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate a survey-level understanding of major Christian doctrines, including their biblical foundations, historical development, cultural context, and theological significance, with particular attention to evangelical distinctives.
- Construct coherent dogmatic arguments that are rooted in primary theological texts and engage relevant contemporary literature.
- Analyze and apply theological content in relation to its ecclesiological, doxological, and devotional implications.
- Compose clear, coherent, and well-supported written responses to theological questions addressed throughout the course.
- Cultivate a posture of worship and reverence in response to the beauty and truth of God as revealed through the study of Christian doctrine.

Required Textbooks

Cortez, Marc. *Theological Anthropology: A Guide for the Perplexed*. New York: T & T Clark International, 2010.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. (9780801036439).

*If Spanish is your first/preferred language, the Spanish translation may be used for the class.

Readings from Johnson, Keith L., and David Lauber, eds. *T & T Clark Companion to the Doctrine of Sin*. London, England: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2016. (9780567685506) In Canvas Files

Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. 2nd ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. (9781433513152)

Readings from Walton, John H. *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009. (9780830837045) In Canvas Files

Theological Anthology: This is a compendium of articles put together for Systematic Theology 1 Courses. In the Canvas Files

Note: Ebooks from the library are acceptable.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- 1) **Reading Quizzes and Participation** (30%): In each module, there will be readings that provide the basis for the lectures. In addition to the class books, there will be an anthology of selected readings in the **Canvas Files** section. To reinforce the readings, you will take a guided reading quiz that will serve as your main study sheets for the exam. The quiz will include main verse recognition for each doctrine, matching, multiple choice, and with the major topics, it will require you to articulate the theories or concepts in essay form.
- 2) **Theological Issue Paper** (25% total): Choose one of the doctrines studied this semester and write a position paper on an issue concerning the doctrine. The position should be supported by biblical texts, historic contributions, and the theological/pastoral significance. The paper should be approximately 15 pages with at least 8-10 sources written in Turabian format. You can choose a topic of your own or choose from a list of possible topics in the Files section of Canvas.
- 3) **Why the Trinity Matters** (15% total): Students will write a 5-8 page research paper addressing the central theological question: "Why does the Trinity matter?" This question may be explored in its broad form or narrowed to a specific area of theology or Christian life. Possible topic can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Why does the Trinity matter to sanctification?
 - b. Why does the Trinity matter to Christians in heaven?
 - c. Why does the Trinity matter to the church?
 - d. Why does the Trinity matter to marriage and family?
- 4) If you choose to narrow the question, please make this clear in the title of your paper.

- a. Required Sources: Scripture, class readings, up to 5-10 other sources including peer-reviewed articles.
 - b. Class Readings
 - c. Engagement with Sanders should be integrated throughout the paper, and may take the form of agreement, critique, or constructive extension of his work.
- 5) **Mid-Term Exam**: (15%) Mid-semester, students will take an exam dealing with the topics of Theological Method, Revelation, Inspiration, & Inerrancy. Each exam will include multiple choice, definitions and essay questions.
- 6) **Final Exam** (15% total): At the end of the semester, students will take an exam dealing with the topics of Trinity Proper, the Plan and Providence of God, Creation, Anthropology and Sin. Each exam will include multiple choice, definitions and essay questions. Exam review sheets can be found in the Files section of Canvas.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

- 1) Read carefully the AI policy below.
- 2) Online Videos (All Students): Students are required to view video lectures for a given unit or portion of a unit (module) prior to beginning the any learning activities.
- 3) All assignments will be due on Tuesdays to respect the Sunday activities of pastors and church administrators.

Video Recording

To ensure FERPA compliance when a course is live-streamed or recorded, students can opt out of video recordings by requesting seating in a designated area off camera. Students who sit outside of this area are giving implicit permission to be recorded.

Class Attendance:

Students should only enroll in courses they are able to attend regularly.

- **On-campus** students are expected to attend class **in person** according to the course syllabus.
- Students enrolled in the **online section** must pay any applicable online course fees.
- Online students are expected to attend class **synchronously** at the scheduled time via the designated video conferencing platform, Zoom, found in the left-hand global menu in Canvas.
- Online students must have their **cameras turned on with sound muted** during class, and actively participate in discussions and activities. In order to be properly identified, students must upload a picture ID to their Canvas Account Profile *prior to the first online meeting*. For instructions on how to upload a profile picture, [click here](#).

Missed Classes:

- Each instructor may decide how attendance impacts your grade and learning objectives. Details are provided within the course syllabus.
- Students are responsible for catching up on any material missed due to absence or tardiness.
 - Instructors are **not required** to allow make-up work for missed classes.

Attendance & Financial Aid:

- Students receiving **grants, loans, or scholarships** must meet participation requirements set by the college.
- It is the student's responsibility to:
 - Review relevant sections of the Academic Catalog.
 - Contact the **Financial Aid Office** for details on how attendance affects aid.
 - Understand the consequences of non-participation.

Census Period Attendance Requirement:

- Though Criswell College does not officially take attendance, it must verify that students **begin their courses** to meet federal aid regulations.
- **During the census period** (first two weeks of a 16-week semester or first week of shorter terms), students must participate in **academically related activities**, or they may be dropped from the course.

Examples of Qualifying Activities:

- Attending class in person or via live video with the instructor present
- Submitting an assignment, quiz, or exam
- Taking part in assigned tutorials, study groups, or discussion boards
- Having documented communication with the instructor about course content

Important Note:

Simply logging into Canvas or a Zoom session without participating (e.g., camera off, no interaction) **does not count** as attendance.

Canvas:

- Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based Learning Management System (LMS).
- **For online courses** at Criswell College, instructors use Canvas to:
 - Organize course content on a module basis using organizational tools within Canvas
 - Control the timing of course requirements through module control or assignment due dates to ensure that students are engaged for the full length of the semester or term
 - Accept assignments from students only inside the Canvas course (emailed assignments are not acceptable)
 - Provide written feedback on assignments only within Canvas, preferably through Speedgrader
 - Use the Announcement or e-mail feature in Canvas to communicate with the students rather than by broadcasting to a class email listserv outside of canvas
 - Use Zoom in Canvas for all "live" (synchronous) class sessions

Important Note:

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.

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.

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.

Course Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

(Instructors may use, modify or replace these guidelines as appropriate for their course.)

Examples of AI-related functions you **may not use** without permission:

- Text Generation – You may not use AI to generate text for use in an assignment.
- Outline Generation – You may not use AI to generate an outline for an assignment.

AI-related tools you **may use** without permission:

- Spellcheck and grammar – built into Word, Pages, and Google Docs
- AI re-writing tools – tools that take what you’ve written and help make it clearer, such as what Grammarly offers. However, you must cite Grammarly or other sources in your assignment/paper and submit both original draft of paper and the final paper.
- AI research and summarize – tools that help you find sources to cite, such as the new AI tools built into Logos Bible Software.)

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 a wide range of academic resources and receive research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, located on the second floor of the Education Building.

Login credentials for accessing the library's databases are emailed to students near the beginning of each semester.

For more information or assistance, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu or visit www.criswell.edu/academics/wallace-library/.

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to enhance their skills and build confidence. All tutors are recommended by faculty to ensure they are qualified to support the student body. To meet with a tutor, students can schedule an appointment through Calendly at <https://calendly.com/criswell-tutoringcenter>. The Tutoring Center is located in room E203 of the Education Building.

For questions, email tutoringcenter@criswell.edu.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Topic Covered	Assignments Due:	Date Due
Week 1	Intro to the Class Why Study Theology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Syllabus • Read: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 1–45 • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	August 26
Week 2	Theological Method: The Task of Theology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 45–89 • Read: Anthology, Augustine, <i>On Christian Doctrine</i>, Book 1 (chs. 3–4, 35–40) In Files section of Canvas • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	Sept. 2
Week 3	Revelation: General and Special	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 90–142 • Read: Anthology, pp. 19–25 González, “Reading the Bible in Spanish” In Files section of Canvas • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	Sept 9
Week 4	Scripture and Hermeneutics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 143–87 • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	Sept 16
Week 5	Theology Proper: God’s Existence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 188–230 • <u>Read</u>: Theology Anthology, pp. 4–74 In Files section of Canvas • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	Sept 23
Week 6	Attributes of God:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 231–271 	Sept 30

	God's Perfections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: Sanders, <i>Deep Things of God</i>, 13–88 • <u>Read</u>: Anthology, 29 – 43 In Canvas Files section • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	
Week 7	God's Triunity and the Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 291–314 • <u>Read</u>: Sanders, <i>Deep Things of God</i>, 173–248 • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	Oct 7
Week 8		Student Development Week	Oct 14
Week 9	Trinitarian Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: McGrath, pp. 197–223 • <u>Reading</u>: <i>Theological Anthropology: A Guide for the Perplexed</i>, Chapters 1 – 3 • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz • <u>Assignment</u>: Turn in “Why the Trinity Matters...” 	Oct 21
Week 10	God's Plan/Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Read</u>: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 317 – 357 • <u>Reading</u>: Walton, <i>The Lost World of Genesis One</i> 14–62, 107–112, in Canvas Files • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	Oct 28
Week 11	Providence/ Evil	<p><u>Read</u>: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 358 – 402</p> <p><u>Reading</u>: Cortez, <i>Theological Anthropology: A Guide for the Perplexed</i>, Chapters 1 – 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz • 	Nov 4
Week 12	Creatures – Angels/Demons Prepare for Week 13 Humanity	<p><u>Read</u>: Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, 403 – 474</p> <p><u>Reading</u>: Cortez, <i>Theological Anthropology: A Guide for the Perplexed</i>, Chapters 4–6</p>	Nov 11

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Videos and record attendance • Take the Reading Log Quiz 	
Week 13	Humanity	<u>Read:</u> <i>Erickson, Christian Theology</i> , 438 – 509 <u>Read:</u> Johnson: <i>Doctrine of Sin</i> : 149–165, 181–198 In Canvas Files	Nov 20
		Thanksgiving Break	Nov 25
Week 14	Fallen Humanity	<u>Read:</u> <i>Erickson, Christian Theology</i> , 231–271 <u>Read:</u> Johnson: <i>Doctrine of Sin</i> : 235–267 in Canvas Files, 181–199, 251-267.	Dec 2
	Finals Week	Take the Final Exam	Dec. 9