

TH 531 Systematic Theology I

Fall Semester 2018

Tuesdays: 8:30 am - 12:15 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Randal D. Rauser, PhD
Phone: 780-431-4428
Email: randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca

DESCRIPTION:

A systematic study of major doctrines of the Christian faith, beginning with the doctrines of God, creation, and the fall. (3 Credits)

TARGET STATEMENTS:

Upon completion of this course

Knowledge: Students will

- Describe fully in writing the primary sources, tasks and divisions of theology.
- Provide evidence in writing of their understanding of the basis of revelation in scripture.
- Provide evidence in writing of their understanding of the mystery of the divine Trinity.
- Provide evidence in writing of their understanding of God's providential relation with a fallen creation.
- Summarize their understanding of correct doctrine and give examples.

Character: Students will

- Convey and give evidence (practices, values, attitudes) of the worth they place on the intimate relationship between orthodoxy (right belief) and orthopraxis (right practice) for pastoral effectiveness and personal holiness.

Ability: Students will

- Articulate a thesis.
- Build on a topic.
- Engage relevant research sources.
- Draw practical applications between systematic theology and pastoral ministry.
- Describe and give examples of how they serve the church by living correct doctrine integrated into a life of devotion.

TEXTBOOKS:

Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

Rausser, Randal. *Faith Lacking Understanding: Theology Through a Glass Darkly*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2008. [*Available for purchase from Dr. Rausser for \$10*]

Sexton, Jason S. ed. *Two Views on the Doctrine of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

Tennent, Timothy C. *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

MOODLE READINGS:

Giberson, Karl. "Scientific Fundamentalism and its Cultural Impact," *Biologos Foundation*.

Lamoureux, Denis O. "Was Adam a real person?" *Christian Higher Education*, 10 (2011), 79-96.

Michael, Matthew. "Divine Providence or Good Luck?" *African Journal of Evangelical Theology*, 28 (2009), 23-41.

Rausser, Randal. "Can Christians call God 'Mother'?" *randalrauser.com/blog*

Smith, C. Fred. "Does Classical Theism Deny God's Transcendence?" *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 160 (Jan-Mar 2003), 23-33.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Course Readings** (850 pp.) **48 hours**

Assigned readings should be completed to ensure meaningful engagement in threaded forum discussions and adequate preparation for the exam.

2. **Book Review of Sexton, *Two Views on the Doctrine of the Trinity*** **4 hours**

Review the contents of the book in approximately 500-750 words and reserve the remaining 250-500 words for critical interaction. Which view of the Trinity did you find to be most persuasive? Why? Did you like the format of the book? Why or why not?

(1000-1250 words)

Due Date: Oct 26

This assignment accommodates knowledge target statements, develops competencies in Shepherding, Faithfulness, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #4, #8.

3. Annotated Bibliography **8 hours**

This bibliography is intended to provide the core research for your term paper and should include a *minimum* of 10 academic sources (journal articles and academic books). A maximum of two essays from book collections will be recognized as separate bibliographic entries. (For guidance on the selection of academic resources see the Taylor Research and Writing Guide.) Each annotation should consist of approximately five to six substantial sentences of summary. Please preface the bibliography with your *thesis statement*. Note: assigned readings can be included on the bibliography but will not count toward the 10 source requirement.

Due Date: Nov 2

This assignment accommodates knowledge and ability target statements, develops competencies in Proclamation and Faithfulness, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #4, #8.

4. Term Paper **14 hours**

This is a research paper on any one of the topics in prolegomena, doctrine of God, creation, providence, theological anthropology, or the fall that is listed at the end of the syllabus. You can choose a topic not on the list but *it must be approved by the professor*. Follow the guidelines of the Taylor Research and Writing Guide in composing your paper, including title page, footnotes and bibliography. If you wish, you may submit an outline or rough draft in advance for critical feedback. (I cannot guarantee that I will be able to provide feedback but I will do so as my schedule permits.)

(2500-3500 words)

Due Date: Nov 30

This assignment accommodates knowledge and ability target statements, develops competencies in Leadership, Proclamation, Faithfulness, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #2, #4, #5, #8.

5. My Credo (Doctrinal Position) Paper **9 hours**

In this paper you will summarize your doctrinal position on prolegomena (2 pages), the doctrine of God (2 pages), the doctrine of creation (2 pages) and the fall (2 pages). Include relevant scriptural passages in parenthetical references but footnote any other sources. (However, no other sources are required.)

External research is not required for this assignment. Follow the guidelines of the Taylor Research and Writing Guide in formatting your paper.

(2000-2500 words)

Due Date: Dec 7

This assignment accommodates knowledge, character and ability target statements, develops competencies in Proclamation, Shepherding and Faithfulness, Presence, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #1, #4, #8.

6. Final Exam

7 hours

This assignment accommodates knowledge target and ability statements, develops competencies in Proclamation, Shepherding, and addresses requirements in Outcomes #4, #8.

Total: 90 hours

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ASSIGNMENT: Assignments should be emailed to randal.rauser@taylor-edu.ca before midnight on the day they are due to ensure you do not receive a late penalty. Do not submit a hard copy. When you email your assignment it is recommended that you request a read receipt to ensure that your assignment has been received. *You are responsible to ensure that the assignment is received.*

TITLING YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Please follow this template for naming assignment documents:

Annotated bibliography:	Last name-Bibliography (e.g. Jones-bibliography)
Book Review:	Last name-Book Review
Term Paper:	Last name-Term Paper
My Credo:	Last name-My Credo

LATE PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES: Assignments must be emailed before 11:59 pm on the day they are due in order to avoid a late penalty. Assignments automatically receive a 5% penalty for every day that they are late. Assignments late more than one week will receive 0%. (Weekends count as one day.) Extensions will not be granted **except in the case of a documented personal or medical crisis.**

EVALUATION: Class participation	10%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Book Review	10%
Term Paper	30%
<i>My Credo</i> Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Please note that attendance and participation is an essential part of this course. (Yeah, I know, that *should* be obvious.) As a result, late arrival, unexcused absences and lack of participation may adversely affect your grade. Furthermore, *more than three unexcused absences will result in failure for the course.*

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. MOODLE

Taylor Seminary's Moodle is located on a shared platform with our partner seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. Bookmark this site on your computer for easy, regular access: <https://moodle.sfseminary.edu>

Moodle log-in is the first initial of your first name and your last name - all in lowercase, with no spaces. For example, if your name is John Calvin, you would log-in as jcalvin

The default enrolment key is the course code (all in lowercase, with no spaces). The course code consists of the course prefix followed by the course number. For example, Old Testament Introduction's key is: ot417

If you are having trouble logging into Moodle or self-enrolling, please email teresa.seibel@taylor-edu.ca

2. COURSE WRITING

Formatting

All studies and papers should be typed and formatted according to the Society of Biblical Literature writing style as outlined in the Seminary's *Guidelines for Research Writing in Religion & Theology (SBL)*. For the full stylesheet, please refer to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., ed., *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) which is in Reading Room.

Research Language.

You should employ acceptable research language for your paper which is not too informal yet reads inclusively. Avoid the use of gender specific language (e.g., Do not refer to "man" generically or to "mankind," "men," "he"; rather use "humankind," "humanity," "person," etc.)

Plagiarism.

Academic honesty and integrity is essential to the academic enterprise and the Seminary community. All written work submitted *must* be your own. *Guidelines for Research Writing* defines plagiarism as the failure to give credit where credit is due: "To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written something original which in fact you have borrowed from another without acknowledging that other person's work" (*Guide for Research and Writing*, 2016, p. 11-13). If you borrow ideas or distinctive phrases, or

include direct quotations in your written assignments, you must acknowledge your source(s) properly by in-text citation or footnote. It is also wrong to copy another person's work or to submit an assignment previously handed in for credit in another course. **Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero for the assignment and may be brought to the attention of the Seminary's Academic Committee.**

3. COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

After the period for which tuition refunds are available, a "W" will be placed on the transcript of a student who withdraws from any course. Beyond those dates, an "F" will be recorded on the student's transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE WITH READINGS:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
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What is theology and how do we do it?

Sept 4	What is theology?	Grenz, pp. 1-26 Tennent, chapter 1
Sept 11	Reason and Revelation	Grenz, pp. 27-42 Rausser, chapter 1 Tennent, chapter 10
Sept 18	Scripture	Grenz, chapter 14 Tennent, chapter 3
Sept 25	Theology and Language: Is God our Mother?	Rausser, "Can Christians call God Mother?" (online)

Who is God? What is God like?

Oct 2	God and the Divine Attributes	Smith, "Does Classical Theism Deny God's Transcendence?"
Oct 9	Debating the Doctrine of God: Impassibility and Omniscience	Grenz, pp. 77-97 Tennent, chapter 2
Oct 16	Modular Week (no class)	No reading
Oct 23	The Triune God	Grenz, pp. 53-76 Rausser, chapter 2

How does God relate to creation?

Oct 30	Creation and Providence	Grenz, pp. 98-124; 213-242 Rausser, chapter 3
Nov 6	Providence and the Decree	Michael, "Divine Providence or Good Luck?" (online)
Nov 13	Providence and Evil	No reading

Nov 20	Creation, Science, and Evolution Note: this class is on Moodle. We will not meet in the classroom.	Lamoureux, “Was Adam a real person?” (online) Giberson, “Scientific Fundamentalism and its cultural impact” (online)
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What are human beings?

Nov 27	Doctrine of Humankind	Grenz, pp. 125-180
Dec 4	The Fall	Grenz, pp. 181-212 Tennent, chapter 4

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

General Works

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- Berkof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Campbell, Ted. *Christian Confessions: A Historical Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996.
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998.
- Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1994.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.
- Gunton, Colin E. (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Guthrie, *Christian Doctrine*. Rev. ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.
- Henry, Carl F. (ed.) *Basic Christian Doctrines*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1994.
- Ott, Ludwig. *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*. Trans. Patrick Lynch. Rockford, IL: Tan Books, 1974.

Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992.

_____. *Basic Questions in Theology: Collected Essays*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1970, 1971.

Wainwright, Geoffrey. *Doxology: The Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine, and Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Prolegomena and Bibliology

Allen, Diogenes. *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.

Avis, Paul (ed.). *Divine Revelation*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1997.

Beale, G.K. *The Erosion of Inerrancy in Evangelicalism: Responding to New Challenges to Biblical Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Bloesch, Donald. *A Theology of Word and Spirit: Authority and Method in Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992.

Boice, James M. (ed.) *The Foundation of Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

Clark, David. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003.

Dulles, Avery. *The Craft of Theology: From Symbol to System*. New York: Crossroad, 1992.

Enns, Peter. *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005.

Geisler, Norman L., ed. *Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1980.

Gunton, Colin E. *A Brief Theology of Revelation*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1995.

Kimel, Alvin F. (ed.). *Speaking the Christian God: The Holy Trinity and the Challenge of Feminism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992.

McGrath, Alister. *The Genesis of Doctrine: A Study in the Foundation of Doctrinal Criticism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Proper Confidence: faith, doubt and certainty in Christian discipleship*. London: SPCK, 1995.

O'Collins, Gerald. *Retrieving Fundamental Theology: The Three Styles of Contemporary Theology*. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1993.

Rausser, Randal. *Theology in Search of Foundations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Thiel, John E. *Nonfoundationalism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Torrance, T.F. *Reality and Evangelical Theology: The Realism of Christian Revelation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1982.

Van Huyssteen, Wentzel. *Theology and the Justification of Faith: Constructing Theories in Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Warfield, B.B. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1948.

Nature and Person of God

Brown, David. *The Divine Trinity*. London: Duckworth, 1985.

Charnock, Stephen. *The Existence and Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996. (17th Century)

Cunningham, David. *These Three are One: The Practice of Trinitarian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.

Giles, Kevin. *The Trinity and Subordinationism: The Doctrine of God and the Contemporary Gender Debate*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 2002.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

Gunton, Colin. *The One, the Three and the Many: God, Creation and the Culture of Modernity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Gunton, Colin. *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1991.

Huffman, Douglas S. and Eric L. Johnson, eds. *God Under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *The Trinity: Global Perspectives*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2007.

LaCugna, Catherine Mowry. *God For Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Trinity and the Kingdom*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- O'Collins, Gerald. *The Tripersonal God: Understanding and Interpreting the Trinity*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.
- Oden, Thomas. *The Living God*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.
- Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.
- Placher, William C. *The Domestication of Transcendence: How Modern Thinking about God went wrong*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1996.
- Powell, Samuel M. *Participating in God: Creation and Trinity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
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- Vanhoozer, Kevin, ed. *The Trinity in a Pluralistic Age: Theological Essays on Culture and Religion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Weinandy, Thomas G. *Does God Suffer?* Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000.

Providence and Creation

- Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1932.
- Clayton, Philip. *God and Contemporary Science*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1997.
- Gunton, Colin. *The Triune Creator: A Historical and Systematic Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Hasker, William. *The Triumph of God over Evil: Theodicy for a World of Suffering*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2008.
- Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1994.
- Hick, John. *Evil and the God of Love*. London: MacMillan, 1986.
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Sproul, R.C. *Chosen by God*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1986.

Swinburne, Richard. *Providence and the Problem of Evil*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998.

Tiessen, Terrance. *Providence and Prayer: How does God work in the World?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

Humanity and Sin

Anderson, Ray S. *On Being Human: Essays in Theological Anthropology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982.

Brown, Warren S. et. al, eds. *Whatever Happened to the Soul? Scientific and Theological Portraits of Human Nature*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Berkouwer, G.C. *Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1971.

Cooper, John W. *Body, Soul and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Grenz, Stanley. *The Social God and the Relational Self: A Trinitarian Theology of the Imago Dei*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2001.

Herzfeld, Noreen L. *In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Human Spirit*. Minneapolis; Fortress Press, 2002.

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

MacQuarrie, John. *In Search of Humanity: A Theological and Philosophical Approach*. London: SCM Press, 1982.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996.

Ramm, Bernard. *Offense to Reason: A Theology of Sin*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985.

Selected Internet Resources

Though the Internet is an invaluable resource, it is often very difficult to discern credible information. Hence, the following web resources are provided as (generally) reliable sources for background reading. The only sources listed here which are acceptable as research are starred “**” as peer-reviewed online journals.

**<http://www.arsdisputandi.org/>

An online journal of philosophy of religion which frequently delves into theological issues.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/books/>

Books and Culture is an excellent cultural review from a Christian perspective which often includes theological pieces.

<http://www.ccel.org/>

The “Christian Classics Ethereal Library” is an excellent collection of classic Christian works made available to the general public.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ctmag/>

Christianity Today is the leading magazine of evangelical Christians, and occasionally has useful theological articles.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/>

Reformed pastor and theologian John Piper’s website includes a variety of his sermons and published writings in the “online library.”

<http://www.firstthings.com/>

First Things is an excellent Christian journal in a range of areas including popular culture, ethics, and theology.

**<http://journalofanalytictheology.com/jat/index.php/jat>

The Journal of Analytic Theology is an excellent online peer-reviewed journal.

<http://www.leaderu.com/>

“Leadership University” makes available a number of articles in numerous areas including theology.

<http://www.monergism.com>

An excellent source of Reformed thought ranging over a broad expanse of topics.

<http://www.newadvent.org/>

A Catholic website which includes the “Catholic Encyclopedia” and Thomas Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae*.

<http://www.onlinetrinity.com/>

A list of links to various articles on the Trinity.

<http://www.quodlibet.net/>

An online journal of Christian theology and philosophy.

<http://www.reformed.org>

This is an important website of Reformed theology and apologetics.

<http://theologytoday.ptsem.edu/>

This site allows you to search online and access articles from *Theology Today*.

<http://www.vatican.va/>

A wealth of information is available at this, the Roman Catholic Church's homepage

DRAFT

24**Paper Topics****Prolegomena**

1. Critique or defend one of the philosophical arguments for God's existence.
2. Defend or critique the use of natural theology.
3. Explore the relationship between general revelation and salvation (inclusivism vs. exclusivism).
4. Defend a particular theology of the world religions.
5. Defend a particular theory of biblical inspiration.
6. Defend a particular theory of biblical inerrancy.
7. Critique or defend the use of female language with reference to God.

Doctrine of God

8. Defend a particular theory of one of the divine attributes (eternity, omnipotence, omniscience, impassibility, etc).
9. Defend or critique classical theism in dialogue with a biblical portrait of God.
10. Critique or defend open theism.
11. Critique or defend a particular understanding of the Trinity (e.g. social Trinitarianism).
12. Compare and contrast Trinitarianism with Western monotheism.
13. Defend or critique a view of the divine processions (e.g. the Filioque).

Doctrine of Creation

14. Defend the Judeo-Christian doctrine of creation against charges that it undermines concern for the environment.
15. Defend or critique the theory of evolution with respect to Christian doctrine.
16. Defend the double causation model of divine providence (e.g. Calvinism; Thomism).
17. Reconcile the doctrine of divine providence with the problem of evil.
18. Defend a particular theory of divine action in the world.
19. Defend a particular theory of the image of God (e.g. reason; relationality).
20. Defend or critique substance dualism.

Doctrine of the Fall

21. Defend a particular theory of the nature of sin.
22. Defend a particular theory of original sin and/or original guilt (e.g. Federal Headship).
23. Defend (or critique) the claim that the doctrine of original sin requires a historical Adamic fall.
24. Defend (or critique) the claim that fallen human beings have free will.