



**Course Syllabus
FALL 2012**

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I (web based)
THEO 0531W
September 10–December 14, 2012**

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Recorded Lecturer: Victor A. Shepherd, Th.D.

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to
<http://class.tyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course endeavours to acquaint students with the elemental building blocks of the Christian faith. The nature and necessity of theology will be considered (i.e., Why theology?), together with major doctrines such as revelation, scripture, Trinity, creation, sin, and the person and work of Christ.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should:

1. Demonstrate a familiarity with foundational issues, questions, and themes in Christian theology, and how these developed in response to particular cultural and pastoral challenges faced by the church.
2. Be able to critically read and evaluate advanced texts written by major theologians.
3. Be able to reflect theologically on concrete situations in the life of the church, and to apply theological insights to ministry situations.
4. Have gained an increased awareness of the value of theological reflection for Christian ministry and Christian life.
5. Have an increased appreciation for the evangelical theological tradition in relation to other theological traditions, as well as an appreciation for the diversity that exists within evangelical theology.
6. Be able to access and utilize electronic resources for the purposes of theological research.
7. Have further developed their capacities for constructive group discussion and problem-solving.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Bloesch, Donald G. *Essentials of Evangelical Theology*. 2 Vols in 1. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2009 [1978]. ISBN: 9781598560404.

Torrance, T. F. *The Mediation of Christ*. 2nd ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Helmers and Howard Publishers, 1992. ISBN: 9780939443505.

Students are also required to listen to the audio recordings of lectures by Dr. Victor Shepherd, and follow along with the handouts, both of which are provided on the course webpage. The handouts provide a basic outline of the lecture content, but students should take their own notes as they listen to the audio recordings.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignment Instructions

NB: This course is not self-paced, but designed to take advantage of the group-interaction features of the online classroom software. Students are expected to contribute in a timely fashion to every weekly assignment.

It is expected that students will read carefully all of the assigned reading by the Monday of the week in which it is assigned.

1. Group Discussions (30% of Final Grade)

From weeks 3 to 12 students will be expected to participate in online group discussions. Students will be assembled into groups of four or five at the end of the second week of class. These groups will remain fixed for the duration of the course. A question will be posted each week for group reflection. Students are expected to post their own response by 11:59 PM on Tuesday evening of the week in question, and then reply to the reflections of each of the other students in their group by 11:59 PM on Thursday of that same week. The purpose of the discussions is to engage the theological content of the course and explore the implications of the material covered for discipleship and ministry. After the individual responses and replies have been posted, one member of the group will be required to write a conclusion, summarizing the discussion, identifying points of agreement and disagreement, etc. While one member is responsible for writing the conclusion, it is advisable that a draft be posted so that other members can have input and make suggestions or corrections. The conclusion is due by 11:59 PM on Saturday evening of the week in question. The process will be guided by comments questions from the moderator. Students will be assigned both individual and group marks for each week's discussion. NOTE: weeks 8-9 and 10-11 will be set up as two week discussions, with posts due in the second week (that is, weeks 9 and 11; further details will be provided on the course page).

2. Research Paper (10-12 pages, 35% of Final Grade): Due 11:59 PM, November 10, 2012.

Students will be asked to write a 10-12 page research paper on one of the following topics:

- The theological meaning of the term “evangelical.”
- What does it mean to confess that God is sovereign?

Students may choose to narrow the focus of their paper, but it should address one of these two broad topics. Course lectures, along with chapters 2 and 3 of Bloesch’s *Essentials of Evangelical Theology* will serve as a starting point, but students should consult **at least 8** other academic sources in writing this paper. Students are encouraged to make use of the Tyndale Library’s extensive e-resources in their research (more details below and on the course page). A detailed marking rubric will be provided during the class.

The research paper should demonstrate thoughtful reflection, critical analysis, and should embody a conceptual argument (thesis) in which various angles of the topic are explored in fairness and at length. The paper should be 10-12 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1 to 1.25 inch margins. Do not exceed the 12 page maximum.

3. Book Review – Torrance, *The Mediation of Christ* (6-8 pages, 35% of Final Grade): Due 11:59 PM, December 12, 2012.

This book review needs to offer an accurate analysis of the key theological positions of Torrance’s book, relating it to the theological concepts learnt throughout this course. The book review should not merely summarize the book (e.g. chapter by chapter) but needs to discuss the content of the book while critically engaging the it in light of theological issues. The review should identify the main argument(s) of the book, assess the extent of the development of the author’s argument(s), identify any problematic issues that the author has or has not addressed, indicate the extent to which the reviewer finds the book helpful or fruitful, and suggest ways that the book might relate to contemporary church life and ministry. The book review needs to be 6 to 8 pages long, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1 to 1.25 inch margins. Do not exceed the 8 page maximum.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Assignments should be double-spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font, with 1” or 1.25” margins.

All assignments are to be emailed to the instructor (james.pedlar@gmail.com) in Microsoft Word format by 11:59 PM on the assigned due date. Papers emailed to the instructor after 11:59 PM on the due date will receive a full grade point deduction (i.e., B to C) for each week (or part thereof) following the due date. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no application for extension has been made. If you

do not have Microsoft Word please contact the instructor so that alternate arrangements can be made.

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.46 to 10.51](#) and [14.253 to 14.254](#).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

Group Discussions	30 %
Research Paper	35 %
Critical Book Review	35 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1(September 10-15): What is Theology?

Readings: Bloesch, Introduction.

Week 2 (September 17-22): The Meaning of Evangelical

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter II

Week 3 (September 24-29): The Sovereignty of God

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter III

Week 4 (October 1-6): The Creator and His Creation

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter III,
Supplemental reading: Emil Brunner, "Man and Creation" (online)

Week 5 (October 8-13): Doctrine of the Trinity

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter III

Week 6 (October 15-20): Primacy of Scripture

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter IV

READING WEEK: OCTOBER 22-27

Week 7 (October 29-November 3): Total Depravity - The Doctrine of Sin

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter V.

Week 8 (November 5-10): The Person of Jesus Christ, Part I

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter VI

*****Research Paper Due November 10, 2012*****

Week 9 (November 12-17): The Person of Jesus Christ, Part II

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter VI.

Week 10 (November 19-24): The Work of Christ, Part I

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter VII.

Week 11 (November 26-December 1): The Work of Christ, Part II

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter VII.

Week 12 (December 3-8): Salvation by Grace

Readings: Bloesch, Chapter VIII,

*****Book Review Due December 12, 2012*****

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aulén, Gustaf. *Christus Victor: An Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of Atonement*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Barth, Karl. *Dogmatics in Outline*. Translated by G. T. Thomson. New York: Harper & Row, 1959.

———. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979.

Bloesch, Donald G. *Christian Foundations*. 7 vols. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Braaten, Carl and Robert Jensen, eds. *Christian Dogmatics*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

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- Dorrien, Gary J. *The Remaking of Evangelical Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
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- Flannery, Austin P., ed. *The Documents of Vatican II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*. New Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- Ford, David, ed. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology Since 1918*. 3rd ed. Malden MA: Blackwell, 2005.
- Grenz, Stanley. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Grillmeier, Alois. *Christ in Christian Tradition: from the Apostolic Age to Chalcedon (451)*. 2nd ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1975.
- Gunton, Colin. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
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- Olson, Roger. *Against Calvinism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- . *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity & Diversity*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- . *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition & Reform*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971.
- Placher, William. *A History of Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press, 1983.
- Ratzinger, Joseph. *Introduction to Christianity*. Translated by J. R. Foster. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990.
- Torrance, Thomas F. *The Trinitarian Faith: The Evangelical Theology of the Ancient Catholic Church*. Edinburgh: T.& T. Clark, 1997.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodern Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Williams, Rowan. *On Christian Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.
- Young, Frances. *Sacrifice and the Death of Christ*. London: SCM Press, 1983.

Selected Theological Journals and Electronic Resources

Evangelical Review of Theology
Modern Theology
Theology Today
International Journal of Systematic Theology
Scottish Journal of Theology
Theology
Theology Today
Toronto Journal of Theology

To search topically for relevant journal articles, book reviews or collected essays, use the comprehensive *ATLA Religion Database* – available via Tyndale Library's

[eJournal Databases](#). See also *Proquest Religious Database*, *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and *JSTOR*. [Full-text versions of many theological journals](#) and book reviews can be downloaded from these databases.

For relevant electronic resources, visit the [Tyndale MTS Modular Christian Theology Reading Room](#). See also the list of eBooks in theology available from the Tyndale Library (over 500 at last count), posted on the course page, or visit [the eBooks section of the Tyndale Library website](#).