



**Course Syllabus  
Winter 2012**

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY II  
THEO 0532W**

**January 9–April 20, 2012  
WEB BASED**

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To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to  
<https://www.mytyndale.ca>

## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a continuation of Systematic Theology I. It endeavours to acquaint students with the elemental building blocks of the Christian faith. The following major doctrines will be considered: the nature of salvation and the necessity of faith, the Holy Spirit, ecclesiology and the priesthood of all believers, and eschatology.

Prerequisites: Systematic Theology I (THEO 0531)

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the course, students will:

1. Possess an understanding of the basic Christian doctrines as interpreted by the evangelical tradition.
2. Be able to communicate the Christian faith with conceptual coherence, and relate matters of doctrine and theology to Christian life, personal formation and vocation, the practice of Christian ministry and the life of the Church.
3. Be able to reflect critically and constructively on evangelical Christianity in the light of Scripture, tradition and contemporary culture.
4. Be equipped with tools for ongoing theological reflection and growth.

5. Be able to articulate a theological understanding of the missional nature of God (*missio dei*) as reflected in God's activity in the world, and our response to God's call to salvation, service and ministry.

Students who achieve a passing grade will demonstrate:

- Adequate recall of informational content, measured by means of participation in weekly online discussions related to the material covered in the notes and audio lectures. In order to achieve a passing grade, answers should demonstrate the student's knowledge of the basic information presented in the notes and lectures, and should be presented in an organized and logical manner. In order to warrant a better grade, students need to incorporate insights from the textbook and other weekly lectures.
- Reflection on material for the purpose of personal transformation, as recorded in online discussions. Students need to demonstrate adequate deductive reasoning and identification of the impact that truth about God, our call and eschatology has on personal attitudes, choices, behaviour and communal life. Where applicable, these reflections should demonstrate understanding of the areas of conflict with the surrounding culture and societal values and include suggestions for resolution of that conflict in light of the given theological framework.
- Ability to apply what has been learnt to ministry decisions, measured by responses to contextualised personal and ministry "case studies" in a group setting. Students need to correctly identify and label the theological issue or issues underlying the situation, citing examples that support their position. Students also need to demonstrate deductive reasoning, applying theological concepts to address the situation and draw appropriate conclusions about the likely outcome. The proposed approach needs to exhibit coherence with God's activity in the world and the calling of the church as discussed in the course material. The intent of these discussions is to foster a collaborative approach to dealing with ministry situations. By applying the group discussion rubric students will learn how clear, constructive reasoning and communication contributes to reaching a solution. Each student's contribution will be evaluated based on relevance to the issue at hand, cogent application of course material, appropriate analysis of and comments on prior discussions, and incorporation of these conclusions to further the discussion. Students are to remain on topic and demonstrate an ability to contribute to the discussion based on study and understanding of the course material. Students will be evaluated based on individual contributions as well as group performance.
- Analytical thinking and application of what has been learnt through critical evaluation of a given theological position. This will be measured by means of written analysis of a primary source document in light of the material covered by the course. Students will need to offer an accurate analysis of the document by correctly identifying the key theological positions of the author, comparing it with

the theological concepts learnt throughout this course, placing it in its historical context, and showing an understanding of the audience for whom the document was written. The paper needs to demonstrate a grasp of the effect that the author's theological position would have had on his/her audience, and include an application of the principles discussed to a contemporary audience. It should conclude with an evaluation of perceived outcome, and suggestions for correction based on the student's understanding of the theological concepts learnt in this course.

- Ability to think theologically. This will be measured by means of a written paper in which students will utilize the material covered and apply it to formulate a theological response to a contemporary issue. The emphasis will be on evaluating the individual student's ability to analyze contemporary situations in light of the given theological knowledge. Students will then need to apply their understanding of theology and the mission of the church in order to formulate a response in keeping with the redemptive mission of God and the call of the church as described in the course. The intent is that students learn to probe circumstances within contemporary culture and the church, while learning to respond to these circumstances in a manner that is congruent with the theological truths of the Christian faith. Clear, cogent articulation of both the issue and the proposed approach is required.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Students are also required to listen to the audio recordings of lectures by Dr. Victor Shepherd. These are accessible online through the MOODLE course webpage.

#### B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The online teaching format focuses on the student's quest for self-discovery. The approach here will involve lectures, reading, discussion and writing as a means to acquire the content and skills of theological inquiry. Specifically, the online discussions induce reflection, evaluation and collaborative interaction in order to demonstrate a growing awareness of theological issues. The primary source document analysis is intended to develop the skill of reflecting on evaluating theological writing and demonstrate an awareness of the issues in context through written work. The major paper is a summative assignment intended to allow the student to demonstrate his or her skills in research, reflection and evaluation of that research and articulating a thesis argument in essay writing. **Specific assignment instructions and grading criteria will be provided in Moodle.**

### **1. Group Reflections:** Due from Week 2 to Week 6; 20% of final grade.

From week 2 to 6 students will be expected to participate in group reflections. Students will be assembled into groups of four prior to week 2. These groups will remain fixed for the duration of the reflection discussions. Students may however, choose different conversation partners for group work unrelated to the reflections. Students are expected to post their own reflection by Monday at 5:00 pm and then reply to the reflections of the other students in the group for each topic by Friday at 5:00 pm. The purpose of the discussions is to explore the implications of the material covered for discipleship and ministry. After the initial individual postings and reply the intent is that the group identify common threads as well as areas of divergence and work towards incorporating these in a conclusion. Students in each group will take turns writing the conclusion as determined by the group. The entire discussion needs to be grounded in the theology underlying that topic. While conclusions do not have to represent consensus, it is important that the group identify implications that arise from erroneous theological understanding and that these be addressed. The process will be guided by questions from the moderator. Marks will include both individual and group components. Please refer to the Reflection Rubrics to structure your discussion.

### **2. Group Case Studies:** Due dates vary; 20% of final grade.

Six case studies will be posted based on the last six topics discussed in the lectures. These are:

- The Cruciality of Preaching
- Priesthood of all believers
- Two kingdoms
- Spiritual Mission
- Eschatology
- Heaven and Hell

Students groups will be responsible for developing the case studies. Students are expected to remain in these groups for the duration of the case study discussions. The moderator will provide input to guide sessions where required. Such feedback may be provided in the group context or in one on one discussion. The objective is to help students develop the ability to deal with real life ministry issues in a team environment utilizing the theological tools they have acquired. Five of these cases will count towards the final grade for this section. The case in which the group achieved the lowest score will be dropped. Please note that the score will be a mixture of group and individual scores to ensure adequate participation by all members. Case study discussions are to be concluded and recommendations about how the situation will be handled posted by 5pm on Saturday of the week following the discussion topic. In the case of “preaching” which stretches over two weeks the conclusion needs to be posted on 5pm Saturday of the week in which the topic is concluded. Please refer to the Group Case Study Rubrics (Individual and Group components) to structure your discussion and conclusion.

### **3. Primary Source Document Analysis:** Due on February 3, 2012; 25% of final grade.

Provide a written analysis a primary source documents (see below for choices) in light of the material covered by the course. The analysis should identify the key theological positions of the author, relating the author's position to the material covered in the course. Students should also pay attention to the document's historical context, the pastoral intention of the author, and potential applications of the author's position to a contemporary audience. For a full outline of expectations, see the assignment rubric on the course web site.

Please choose one of the following readings for your primary source analysis:

1. Martin Luther's "Treatise on Good Works" as found in *Luther's Works*, American Edition, Volume 44 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966).

All students need to read the preamble on pp. 21- 23. Students may then choose to analyze one of the following three topics:

- The First Good Work found on pages 23 – 39
- On the Second Good Work found on pages 39 - 54
- On the Third Commandment found on pages 54 – 80

This text is available at the Tyndale library. Students who cannot access a hard copy of the text can find it online at:

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-luthworks.html>

All students using the online text need to read the Dedication of the Treatise. Students may then choose to analyze one of the following three topics:

- discussion on the love of God with the whole heart
- discussion on the Second Commandment
- discussion on the Third Commandment

2. John Wesley's Sermon #45, "The New Birth," as found in *The Works of John Wesley* (Bicentennial Edition), Volume 2 (Nashville: Abingdon, 1985), pp. 186-201.

Students analyzing this text are encouraged to read the introduction by Albert Outler, on pp. 186-187. This text is available in the Library at Tyndale. Those unable to access a hard copy can find the sermon online at:

<http://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-45-the-new-birth/>

Please e-mail this assignment to the moderator by no later than 5pm on Friday February 3. The paper should be 4 to 6 pages in length, but should not exceed 6 pages double-spaced with 1" margins and 12 point font.

**4. Final Paper:** Due on Friday April 20, 2012; 35% of final grade.

Students will have an extra week to prepare this assignment after the end of class and online assignments. The questions for the Final Paper will be posted in the introductory

section of the course in Moodle. This paper should be 6 to 8 pages in length, but should not exceed 8 pages double-spaced with 1” margins and 12 point font. Please refer to the Final Paper Rubric for further guidance about the expectations for this assignment.

### Student Time Expectation Table

	<b>% of Grade</b>	<b>Average Time Required</b>	<b>Average Weekly Time Required</b>
Weekly Reading and Listening (12 weeks)	--	60 hours	5 hours/week
Weekly Discussion (12 weeks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group reflections</li> <li>• Group cases</li> </ul>	40%	28 hours	5 hours/week when making draft posts; 1 hour/week at other times.
Primary source document analysis	25%	10 hours (student schedules)	
Final paper	35%	36 hours (student schedules)	
Total Grade	100 %	126 hours	10.5 hours/week (average)

## C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

### GENERAL

Students will not be penalized for lack of insight into material not yet covered, but it is expected that weekly answers and papers will be accurate with respect to material already covered in this course and Systematic Theology I.

### FAILURE

Failure to complete assignments or to participate in online discussion as required will constitute a failing grade unless prior arrangement has been made with the moderator. Any work that does not conform to a “D” standard as described in the rubrics will constitute a failure. Failing one assignment or discussion will not automatically constitute a failure as long as the student continues to hand in their other assignments on time.



## **Spring Break March 12-18, 2011**

Week 11: Spiritual Mission	<b><i>Essentials II, Chapter VII</i></b>
Week 12: Eschatology	<b><i>Essentials II, Chapter VIII</i></b>
Week 13: Heaven and Hell	<b><i>Essentials II, Chapter IX</i></b>

## **Paper Due: Friday April 20, 2012**

***Assigned readings for each week are to be completed for the first day of the week.***

MOODLE ONLINE CLASSROOM SOFTWARE:

Students do not need to download any special software.

The “portal” for the MOODLE is found at [class.tyndale.ca](http://class.tyndale.ca).

## **V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

GENERAL OR INTRODUCTORY RESOURCES ON THEOLOGY:

Elwell, Walter A. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2001.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.

Gunton, Colin, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Harvey, Van A. *A Handbook of Theological Terms*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Revised Edition. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 2007 [1978].

McDermott, Gerald. *The Oxford Handbook of Evangelical Theology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction, 3rd ed.* Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

- McKim, Donald K. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding, An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Oden, Thomas C. *Systematic Theology*. Three Volumes. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1987.
- Olson, Roger. *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2002.
- Placher, William C. *A History of Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1983.
- Ratzinger, Joseph. *Introduction to Christianity*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2004 [1968].

#### RESOURCES DEALING WITH SPECIFIC TOPICS COVERED IN THIS COURSE:

- Aulen, Gustaf. *Christus Victor: An Historical Study of the Three Main Types of the Idea of the Atonement*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1986.
- Bloesch, Donald A. *The Holy Spirit: Works and Gifts*. Christian Foundations. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
- Bloesch, Donald A. *The Church: Sacraments, Worship, Ministry, Mission*. Christian Foundations. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- Bloesch, Donald A. *The Last Things: Resurrection, Judgment, Glory*. Christian Foundations. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- Burgess, Stanley M. *The Holy Spirit*. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Press, 1984, 1989, 1997.
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. Expanded Edition. New York: Doubleday, 2002 [1974].
- Harper, Brad, and Metzger, Paul Louis. *Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical and Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit in Ecumenical, International, and Contextual Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002.

Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Also online at:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/documents/rc\\_pc\\_chrstuni\\_doc\\_31101999\\_cath-luth-joint-declaration\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/documents/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_31101999_cath-luth-joint-declaration_en.html)

Note also the affirmation of this declaration by the World Methodist Council in 2006:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/meth-council-docs/rc\\_pc\\_chrstuni\\_doc\\_20060723\\_text-association\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/meth-council-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20060723_text-association_en.html)

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Church in the Power of the Spirit*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Household of God*. New York: Friendship Press, 1954.

Wright, N.T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. NY: HarperOne, 2008.

Volf, Miroslav. *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Bible Gateway:

<http://www.biblegateway.com>

Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*:

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/institutes.toc.html>

Christian Classics Ethereal Library (many important sources including Church Fathers)

<http://www.ccel.org>

Grace Online Library (Baptist, Reformed, and Puritan resources)

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

Project Wittenberg (Luther and Lutheran resources)

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/wittenberg-home.html>

Society for Pentecostal Studies

<http://www.sps-usa.org/>

Society of Evangelical Arminians

<http://evangelicalarminians.org/>

Tyndale Seminary Online Christian Theology Reading Room  
<http://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/theology>

Vatican Website (Official Catholic documents including Vatican II)  
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/index.htm>

Wesley Centre Online (Wesley and Wesleyan resources)  
<http://wesley.nnu.edu>