Systematic Theology I
Scripture, Theology, and Anthropology

Syllabus
ST508
Fall 2013
Dr. Douglas F. Kelly
Reformed Theological Seminary
Course Overview
Systematic I-ST508

TEXTBOOKS:

- The Bible
- The Westminster Confession of Faith
- Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology
- Norman Geisler, ed., Inerrancy
- Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb, Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross
- Herman Bavinck, The Doctrine of God
- Douglas Kelly, Creation and Change
- Douglas Kelly, Systematic Theology, Volume 1
- John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:
Lectures and readings will deal with three major topics:

A. RELIGION, REVELATION, AND SCRIPTURE
First, we study the basis of Systematic Theology in God's revelation of Himself. We discuss the capacity God has given us to know Him and thus the origin of religion. Then, we consider general and special revelation, inspiration, inerrancy and perspicuity of Scripture.

Required reading for Religion, Revelation and Scripture:

The Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 1.
Syllabus material by D. Kelly on "Religious Language and the Canon." P. 17-ff
Norman Geisler, Inerrancy, pp. 3-354. You will specifically be tested on chapters 3-5, 7 of Geisler in your take home exam.

B. THEOLOGY PROPER
Here we study the essential nature of God, His knowability, His names and attributes (both communicable and incommunicable). We give special attention to the Scriptural basis and historical development of the doctrine of the Trinity. Next, we discuss the works of God in terms of His decrees, creation and providence.

Required reading for Theology Proper:
1. The Person of God
   Douglas Kelly, Systematic Theology, Vol 1, Ch. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 [no appendices required.]

2. The Work of God:
   a. Election
      Herman Bavinck, The Doctrine of God, 337-407.
   b. Creation
      Douglas Kelly, Creation and Change, chapters 1-3.
      The Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 2-4.
      Syllabus material by D. Kelly on "Creation."
You will specifically be tested on Kelly, *Systematic Theology, Vol. I.*, chapters 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, as well as Kelly, *Creation and Change*, chapters 1, 2, and 3 on the take home exam.

**C. ANTHROPOLOGY**

First, we study the exegetical basis and theological implications of man in his original state (his creation, nature, and relation to God), and man in his state of sin (fall and resultant condition). Second, we consider man in his state of salvation, with stress on the plan of salvation, and in particular, the covenant of grace.

Required reading for Anthropology:


*The Westminster Confession of Faith*, chapters 4, 6, 7, 9, 19.

**PROCEDURE:**

It is our intention to base the content of this survey of doctrine on the exegesis of Scripture. We will be making continual reference to the Reformed Tradition, and will deal with the Patristic heritage where this has particular relevance. Reference will be made to other theological traditions and periods as well. All through, we shall attempt to relate these truths to contemporary life, thought, and ministry.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

A. Do the required reading.

B. Learn the content conveyed in lectures.

C. Three exams, **each worth 23.75% of the course grade.**
   a. A mid-term exam covering what has been done up to that point. This exam should last between one and two hours **and will be given in class on Wednesday, October 16, 2013.**
   
   b. A final exam, covering what has been done since the mid-term. It should take about two hours, though you may have more time if you wish. **To be taken during exam week.**
   

D. 8 page essay on topics listed in this syllabus, **worth 23.75% of course grade.** Due by 4 PM on Friday, October 4, 2013.

Term Paper for Systematic Theology I

This paper should be 8 pages in length (typed and double-spaced) with appropriate footnoting and bibliography. Do not include a string of long quotations. Make sure you (1) deal with the relevant information competently and fairly to all sides, and (2) interact with the material yourself so that you demonstrate that you have "thought about it theologically." (3) Have a proper introduction and conclusion and a clear structure for your essay. (4) Use good grammar and write clearly. (5) Use four or five sources, and footnote, where appropriate.

Choose 1 out of 5 options.

(1) Has Revelation ceased with the close of the canon of scripture, or does it continue today? (Look at this matter exegetically, theologically and pastorally.)

(2) Prepare an exegetically-based theological paper on relevant sections of the first two chapters of Romans, with special reference to the knowledge of God held by pagans. What are the implications of this knowledge for societal morals, for final judgement, and for the missionary enterprise?

(3) Discuss the central Trinitarian truth of "circumincession" or perichoresis for "mutual indwelling"). What does this mean within the Godhead? What are its wider implications for the corporate life of Christians? Be sure to deal with scriptural passages. (You may wish to consult pp. 20-22 of your Systematic Theology I syllabus; T. F. Torrance's *Trinitarian Faith* and John Ziziolas' *Being as Communion*).

(4) Discuss the basic Biblical teaching on marriage as "one flesh" (refer to appropriate Biblical texts such as Genesis 2, Matthew 19, Ephesians 5, etc.). Particularly deal with this current problem: in light of what marriage was designed to be, why do so many of them go astray? Discuss why people are attracted to one another; then why problems in their marriage develop, and especially, how to deal with such problems in light of God's grace and purpose. You may wish to refer to such works as:

- R.C. Sproul, *The Intimate Marriage*
- L. Crabb, *The Marriage Builder*
- E. Worthington, *Counseling Before Marriage*
- D. and R. Friesen, *Counseling and Marriage*
- H. Hendrix, *Getting the Love You Want*

(5) Compare and contrast the Christian view of God as Triune and the Islamic view of God as one (either unipersonal or an impersonal monad).
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
## With Mini-Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Emphasis on learning and articulating foundational truths about God and man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students not only explain theological truths, but will understand the exegetical process essential to arriving at those truths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>While Scripture is the predominant focus of the class, there is also significant emphasis upon reformed theology and the Westminster standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will not only learn theological truths about God, but will also be taught these truths with an emphasis upon personal holiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Stresses the relation between who God is as Creator, and who we are as the creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>While other views are considered, engaged, and expounded, this course focuses on Reformed Theology without alienating those who disagree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The content of this class will help students to better exegete the Word, and gives them a framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>