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# ST603 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 3

*Fall 2011*

Wednesdays 8-11AM

3 Semester Credit Hours

Professor: R. J. Gore, Jr., D.Min., Ph.D.

PO Box 594, Due West, SC 29639

<http://acad.erskine.edu/facultyweb/gore/gore.htm>

## **FALL 2011 OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday: 1:30-4:30

Other times arranged by appointment.

Contact me at [inaliam@gmail.com](mailto:inaliam@gmail.com) for appointment and for submitting course work.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course concludes a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using Biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and Salvation, the Doctrine of the Church and Sacraments, and the Doctrine of Last Things.

## **COURSE PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this course is to further the student's study of Systematic Theology; to continue a dialog with various theological traditions; to consider attempts to formulate and integrate doctrine in terms of biblical, theological and historical dynamics; and to consider the claims set forth by Reformed Theology as a comprehensive system of thought, belief, and practice.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. As a part of that mission, one goal is that graduates **write and speak using theological language that is clear, well-considered, disciplined, and meaningful for those to whom they minister**. Another goal is that graduates **be prepared to communicate the Bible's message through preaching and evangelism, so as to make clear that its meaning is relevant for today**. Furthermore, **we seek to create an educational climate that brings about growth in Christian character and fosters the spiritual formation of students, faculty, and staff**. In this course conventional theological language and various methods of doing theology are emphasized. Specific objectives for this course are that, by the end of the course, students will:

1. **Know** the nature and constructs of systematic theology needed in order to **identify significant doctrinal issues**.
2. **Know the various options proposed for resolving doctrinal issues** and develop a methodology for handling theological tensions
3. Be able to **explain the major doctrines of the church** and illustrate them in light of the student's own theological commitment.

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4. Be able to **relate the major doctrines of the church to current discussions** and **apply them in authentic ministry opportunities**.
5. Be able to **develop and to formulate biblical and theological constructs** that **reflect the student's faith tradition** and theological commitments.
6. Be able to **critique systematic theological formulations** and to determine their degree of conformity to biblical, theological, and historical criteria.
7. **Grow** in their intellectual understanding of the Christian faith and **deepen** their spiritual awareness of the Reformed faith and their own faith tradition.

**SAMPLE PAPER SALVATION** [Click Here](#)

**SAMPLE PAPER CHURCH** [Click Here](#)

**SAMPLE FOOTNOTES** [Click Here](#)

**INTERNET RESOURCES** [Click Here](#)

### **COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

- Calvin, John. *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960. ISBN-13: 978-0664220280 **Book 3, Book 4:14-20**
- Mouw, Richard J. *When the Kings Come Marching In*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0802839961
- Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984. ISBN-13: 978-0802811431 **Part Two only**
- Williams, Michael. *Far as the Curse is Found*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0875525105 **Pages 1-119, 132-157, and 206-240**

### **RECOMMENDED COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

- Beeke, Joel and Sinclair Ferguson. *Reformed Confessions Harmonized*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-0801052224
- House, Wayne. *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Leith, John. *Creeeds of the Churches*, 3rd edition . Atlanta: John Knox, 1982.
- van Genderen, J. and W.H. Velema, *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*. Phillipdurg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2008. ISBN 978-0875525778 **Pages 573-884.**
- Wright, N.T. *What Saint Paul Really Said*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. ISBN-13: 978-0802844453

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

### **COURSE METHOD:**

This course consists primarily of focused readings, along with short personal reflections, and a series of projects or Statements of Faith. There are no quizzes or exams. The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through three learning components. The first is the Content Component, the student's own mastery of material, accomplished by completing the required readings and measured by the student's competency in using conventional theological language and contextualizing theological discussion.

The second is the Discussion Component. Each class will incorporate discussion and lecture. A vital exchange of ideas is essential to the process of exploration. Students will build on their classroom preparation (the Content Component) by participating in the discussion of theological issues. Such participation presupposes the student's familiarity with material from the assigned reading in *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*.

The third is the Research and Reflection Component. All students will research and prepare a series of documents that, collectively, will constitute a personal statement of faith. One of these statements will suffice to fulfill the portfolio requirement for a statement of faith. Drawing from the student's mastery of the content of theological study and building on the lessons learned from the interchange of ideas in classroom discussions, the student will engage in original research, theological reflection, and positive formulation.

These three components will provide a well-rounded learning experience for the thoughtful student. The total out-of-classroom commitment is expected to be approximately 80-90 hours per student for the semester.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**\*\*Pre- Course Requirement (10 points):** Each student will read *When The Kings Come Marching In* and will write a 500 word (plus or minus 10%, single-spaced) critical response to Mouw's discussion. In this paper the student will discuss the following: "What I learned about the end times that I did not know before reading Mouw." The point of this exercise is to challenge the student to reflect on biblical teaching about last things. **FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED. Due date: prior to second class on Sep 14. Send assignment to [inaliam@gmail.com](mailto:inaliam@gmail.com) as word attachment. Remember to change AT to @ for the email address to work.**

**Requirement One:** Attend class regularly and participate in the opening dialogs. Students who miss more than a total of three hours will be assigned additional work at the rate of 3 hours of work for every hour missed. Students will be expected to complete the required readings prior to each class. **WORK SUBMITTED LATE WILL NOT RECEIVE FULL CREDIT.**

**Requirement Two (15 points):** Each student will read *Far as the Curse is Found*, (pages 1-119, 132-157, and 206-240) and will write a 500 word (plus or minus 10%, single-spaced) critical response to the presentation. As part of the response, the student will select one **issues** concerning covenant theology and briefly discuss their significance for theology and Christian living. The point of this exercise is to enable the student to grasp the coherent structure of Scripture as well as the nature of covenant relationship as established by God. **Due date: Oct 12. Send assignment to [inaliam@gmail.com](mailto:inaliam@gmail.com) as word attachment. FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED.**

**Requirement Three (5 points):** Each student will read *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Part Two, Applied, only) and will write a 300 word (plus or minus 10%, single-spaced) critical response to Murray's presentation of the *ordo salutis*. In response, the student will explain what his/her denomination believes concerning the order of the application of redemption. The point of this exercise is to help the student reflect on the application of

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redemption and understand the relationship between the various acts/steps and processes in applied salvation. **Due date: Oct 24. Send assignment to [inaliamATgmail.com](mailto:inaliamATgmail.com) as word attachment. FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED.**

**Requirement Four (10 points):** All students will complete the reading of **Book 3, Book 4:14-20** of Calvin's *Institutes*. Students will keep a Reading Log, documenting the dates and times spent reading the texts. Students will keep handwritten account of any new learning, challenges to their beliefs, or other significant findings. **Due date: Last day of Exam Week.**

**Requirements Five-Seven (60 points):** Each student will research and prepare a series of three Statements of Faith (20 points each) that, collectively, will constitute a personal doctrinal confession. These Statements of Faith should be adequate for presentation to an examining board or church judicatory as a summary of the student's theology. Each paper will be 1,500-2,000 words in length. The papers will be double-spaced and will use proper footnote form (see 7th ed. Turabian, *Manual for Writers*). Scripture references may be numerous, but Scripture quotations, if used at all, will be infrequent and brief. **Put street address for Scripture in parenthesis within the text. e.g., (John 3:16), NOT IN FOOTNOTES. NOTE: Do NOT use Parenthetical Reference form for other references-FOOTNOTE FORM ONLY.**

**ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT:** In lieu of the **third Statement of Faith** on "Last Things," students who wish to do so, may do a manuscript sermon on one of the following. 1) Death of a child; 2) Death of a long-time church member, or 3) death of an unchurched neighbor. The student will make use of standard homiletic device, including illustrations, but will also make use of creeds and confessions to indicate the student's belief about last things. More details re this assignment will be given in class. **Due Dates Nov 1, Nov 20, Dec 15.**

**Note: A Statement of Faith from Requirement Seven can meet a Professional Assessment Portfolio and Graduation Requirement for all students who began seminary in the Fall of 2002 or afterwards.** It is the student's responsibility to turn in a clean, corrected copy of their paper to the seminary office for inclusion in your portfolio. Failure to do so will delay your graduation. Portfolio requirements are listed on the back of the academic worksheet of all degree programs. This satisfies the portfolio requirement for a Statement of Faith from a theology class. **Moreover, this requirement helps the student develop the skills needed to relate doctrine at the theoretical level to personal spiritual awareness and growth in the student's own faith tradition.**

**All Students: Each Statement of Faith will include, as a minimum-**

- \*Scripture references**
- \*Conventional theological language**
- \*Reference to the student's own denominational confession or statement of faith**
- \*Reference to at least four Reformation/Post-Reformation confessions**
- \*Reference to early church creeds, where appropriate**
- \*Reference to key issues noted below- where appropriate to YOUR system of belief**

**PAPERS THAT DO NOT MEET THESE MINIMUM STANDARDS WILL BE GRADED DOWN ACCORDINGLY. See Sample Papers linked on page 2.**

### **CRITERIA FOR GRADING RESEARCH:**

- Writing that is grammatically correct and stylistically clear
- A form that adheres to the guidelines in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* (7th edition)
- Adherence to the parameters of the assignment (length, scope)
- Use of primary and secondary sources besides textbooks and lecture notes
- Analysis of historical and theological information, not just summary of that information
- Depth and creativity in handling the assignment

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**LATE WORK GRADING POLICY:**

All work is due in my Inbox by midnight on the date assigned.  
Work that is turned in after that time but within the next week will receive no higher than grade B.  
Work that is turned in within the second week will receive no higher than grade C.  
Work that is turned in after the beginning of the third week will receive no higher than D.

**Grading Scale:**

100-95	A	83-80	C
94-93	A-	79-78	C-
92-91	B+	77-76	D+
90-88	B	75-72	D
87-86	B-	71-70	D-
85-84	C+	69-0	F

**EXTRA CREDIT (up to 10 points):**

The student will read *What Saint Paul Really Said* and the on-line response to the New Perspective located at [http://www.alliancenet.org/partner/Article\\_Display\\_Page/0,,PTID307086|CHID560462|CIID1660662,00.html](http://www.alliancenet.org/partner/Article_Display_Page/0,,PTID307086|CHID560462|CIID1660662,00.html) The student then will write a 300 word (plus or minus 10%, single-spaced) critical response to the question: Should we abandon the Reformation understanding of justification. The point of this exercise is to lead the student to examine the strength of the historic Reformed faith on justification and to assess the value of contemporary challenges. **Due date: Last Day of Exam Week. Send assignment to [inaliam@gmail.com](mailto:inaliam@gmail.com) as word attachment.**

**FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED.** Students may have up to **3 points** added to the total of points earned.

**OR**

Read the following on-line article about the Auburn Avenue controversy and the New Perspective on Paul. Write a 300 word (plus or minus 10%, single-spaced) critical response to it. Students may have up to **3 points** added to the total of points earned: [http://www.biblelighthouse.com/covenants/within\\_the\\_bounds\\_of\\_orthodoxy.htm](http://www.biblelighthouse.com/covenants/within_the_bounds_of_orthodoxy.htm)

**Statement of Faith Papers: Topics and Due Dates:**

**Nov 1: Doctrine of Salvation-** Person of Holy Spirit, Work of the Holy Spirit, Union with Christ, Regeneration, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification

**Nov 20: Doctrine of Church and Sacraments-** Attributes and Marks of the Church, Sacraments or Ordinances, Baptism, Lord’s Supper

**Dec 15: Doctrine of Last Things-** Intermediate State, Second Advent, Judgment, Heaven, Hell

**STANDARDS FOR ALL PAPERS:**

- A.....No more than 4 misspellings or grammatical errors in total
- Identified the most significant articles, books in bibliography
- Used research materials expertly, leaving no unanswered questions
- Thesis statement clear and proved

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- B.....No more than 2 misspellings or grammatical errors per page  
Identified a number of important articles, books in bibliography  
Used research material fairly, addressed most problem areas  
Thesis statement clear and sustained
- C.....No more than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page  
Used the minimum required number of bibliographical entries  
Used research material adequately  
Thesis statement not clear and/or not sustained
- D.....More than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page  
Failed to use minimum number of bibliographical entries  
Research poorly done  
What thesis statement?

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**ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES: Click Below**

[http://seminary.erskine.edu/content\\_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf](http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf)

**Work Turned in Late: Work turned in after the due date will be accepted, but you will not receive full credit.**

**COURSE WEIGHTING/DUE DATES: 100 Points Total**

Mouw	10 points	Sep 14
Williams Reading	15 points	Oct 12
Murray Reading	5 points	Oct 24
Paper on Salvation	20 points	Nov 1
Paper on Church	20 points	Nov 20
Paper on Last Things	20 points	Dec 15
Calvin Reading	10 points	Last Day, Exam Week
Extra Credit: Up to 3 points added to final total		Last Day, Exam Week