

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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ST602 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 2

Spring 2012
Wednesdays 1-4 PM

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>

SPRING 2012 OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: 1:30-4:30

Other times arranged by appointment.

Contact me at the email above for appointment and/or submitting course work.

MISSION:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course continues a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using Biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore the Doctrine of God, the Doctrine of Humanity, and the Doctrine of Christ. Required. *Three hours.*

COURSE PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study of theology and ethics and to prepare him/her for more advanced study.

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**. 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

POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF GOD NOTES 1 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF GOD NOTES 2 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY NOTES 1 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY NOTES 2 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 1 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 2 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 3 [Click Here](#)

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST NOTES 4 [Click Here](#)

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

R. J. Gore, *Outline of Systematic Theology*, rev. 5th edition. Available on-line.
D.A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006. ISBN 0801031257
John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. ISBN 0-664-22020-7, 0-664-22021-5 * Portions of Books 1 and 2
William Edgar, *The Face of Truth*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2001. ISBN 0-87552-1789
Constance K. Walker, *The Heart and Hand of God*. Durham, 2004. Available from Dr. Gore

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) 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.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Wayne House, *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
John Leith, *Creeds of the Churches*, 3rd ed. Atlanta: John Knox, 1982.

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COURSE METHOD:

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 objectively by a Final Examination. The ability to do theological study is determined directly 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.

The third is the Research and Reflection Component. 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 EXPECTATIONS:

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

Attendance: No absences are excused. However, you may miss three (3) hours of class without being required to do make-up work. I will not try to assess reasons for absences in order to grant excuses. You decide if you want to or need to miss a portion of the class. If you miss more than three (3) hours, you will be required to do extra work in the areas missed. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR ABSENCES AND CONSULT WITH ME IMMEDIATELY (before the missed class if possible) TO HAVE THE EXTRA WORK and "DUE DATE" ASSIGNED. All make-up work must be handed in by the Exam Day. You cannot complete the course without this being done. The "rule of thumb" for extra work is nine (9) hours of work for each three (3) hours class period missed. This is based on the idea that each class period requires three hours in class and six hours outside for fulfilling the work of the course.

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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 reading in the Outline of Systematic Theology prior to each class and be prepared to discuss the various doctrinal issues and possible solutions.

Requirement Two: All students will complete the reading of D.A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord?* In addition, students will write a 500 word (plus or minus 10%), single-spaced critical response to Carson. As part of your response, explain how you approach the issue of God's sovereignty and foreknowledge, especially your understanding of the interaction between human freedom/God's Will (and proper pastoral handling of the problem of pain!). **The reading and critical response will count 10 points towards the course total of 100 points. Due Date: 29 February**

Requirement Three: All students will complete the reading of Constance Walker, *The Heart and Hand of God*. In addition, students will write a one-page, single-spaced critical response to Walker. As part of your response, discuss your approach the issue of Origins, explaining how you understand the interaction of science and religion. **The reading and critical response will count 5 points towards the course total of 100 points. Due Date: 7 March**

Requirement Four: All students will complete the assigned reading, William Edgar, *Face the Truth*. In addition, students will write a 300 word (plus or minus 10%), single-spaced critical response to Edgar. As part of your response, explain how you approach the issue of Worldview. To what extent has a secular, postmodern view of reality influenced the way you approach Christianity. **The reading and critical response will count 5 points towards the course total of 100 points. Due Date: 28 March**

Requirement Five: All students will complete the reading of the required portions of Books 2 and 3 of Calvin's *Institutes*. Students will keep a Reading Log, documenting the dates and times spent reading the texts. Students will read Book 2, Chapter 1 through Book 3, Chapter 19 (pages 237- 849 in volume 1). Students will keep a handwritten account of any new learning, challenges to their beliefs, or other significant findings. Failure to do the preparatory reading may negatively influence the student's final grade by a least a full letter. **The Reading Log will count 5 points toward the course total of 100 points and should be 4-6 pages, handwritten. Due Date: 10 May**

Requirement Six: All students will research and prepare three Statements of Faith that, collectively, will constitute a comprehensive, personal statement of faith. These Statements of Faith should be adequate for presentation to an examining board or church judicatory as a summary of the student's theology. These papers will be 1500 words (plus or minus 10%) using Times New Roman 12 or similar font. The papers will be double-spaced and proper footnote form will be followed (using 7th ed. Turabian, *Manual for Writers*). Bibliography not required. **Each paper will count 25 points towards the final course total of 100 points. Scripture references may be numerous, but Scripture quotations, if used at all, will be infrequent, brief, and the Scripture chapter and verse will be noted in the text in parenthesis (John 3:16). A bibliography page is not needed. LENGTHY QUOTATIONS from ANY SOURCE are not desired.**

Note: One of these papers may serve as a Professional Assessment Portfolio and Graduation Requirement for all students who began seminary in the Fall of 2002 or afterwards. It is the

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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. This requirement does not apply if you have already satisfied that requirement.

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

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

Statements of Faith will include, as a minimum (see Sample above)

*Scripture references (DO NOT FOOTNOTE SCRIPTURE)

*Conventional theological language- standard terminology

*Reference to the student's own denominational confession or statement of faith

*Reference to at least four Reformation/Post-Reformation confessions and early church creeds, where appropriate- See Internet Resources below

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

*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.

STATEMENTS OF FAITH- TOPICS AND DUE DATES:

14 March: Doctrine of God: Triune God, Persons (and personality), Attributes, Works, Decrees

11 April: Doctrine of Humanity: Origins, Nature, Image of God, Covenant, Origin of Sin, Nature of Sin, Imputation of Sin

9 May: Doctrine of Christ: Person of Christ, natures of Christ, Christological heresies, States of Christ, Offices of Christ, Nature of Atonement, Election and Atonement

STANDARDS FOR ALL PAPERS:

A.....No more than 4 misspellings or grammatical errors in total

Made proper use of required creedal and confessional documents

Made skillful use of Scripture

Used research materials expertly, leaving no unanswered questions

Covered all doctrinal issues with skill

B.....No more than 2 misspellings or grammatical errors per page

Made some use of most required creedal and confessional documents

Made good use of Scripture

Used research materials well, leaving few unanswered questions

Covered most doctrinal issues with skill

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- C.....No more than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page
Made little use of required creedal and confessional documents
Made some use of Scripture
Used research materials, leaving some unanswered questions
Covered some doctrinal issues
- D.....More than 3 misspellings or grammatical errors per page
Failed to make use of required creedal and confessional documents
Made poor use of Scripture
Used research materials poorly, leaving many unanswered questions
Missed key doctrinal issues

KEY DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

100 Points Total

29 February	D.A. Carson Response Paper	10 pts
7 March	Connie Walker Response Paper	5 pts
14 March	Doctrine of God Paper	25 pts
28 March	William Edgar Response Paper	5 pts
11 April	Doctrine of Humanity Paper	25 pts
9 May	Doctrine of Christ Paper	25 pts
10 May	Calvin Reading Log	5 pts

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES: Click Below

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

LATE WORK: Work turned in after the due date will be accepted, but you will not receive full credit.