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ST603 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 3

Spring 2011

Wednesdays 1-4PM

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 2011 OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday: 1:30-4:30

Other times arranged by appointment.

Contact me at 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. *Required for M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students. Three hours.*

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**
- van Genderen, J. and W.H. Velema, *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*. Phillipsburg: 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

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.

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 (15 points):** Each student will read *When The Kings Come Marching In* and will write a 400-500 word (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 first class on Feb. 2. Send assignment to inaliam@gmail.com as word attachment. FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED. Remember to change AT to @ for the email address to work.**

Requirement One (10 points): 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 *Concise Reformed Dogmatics* prior to each class and submit a statement of completion no later than **11 May. Pages 573-884 only.**

Requirement Two (20 points): Each student will read *Far as the Curse is Found*, (pages 1-119, 132-157, and 206-240) and will write a 400-500 word (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: Mar. 2. Send assignment to inaliam@gmail.com as word attachment. FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED.**

Requirement Three (15 points): Each student will read *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Part Two, Applied, only) and will write a 400-500 word (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 redemption and understand the

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relationship between the various acts/steps and processes in applied salvation. **Due date: Mar. 16.** Send assignment to inaliamATgmail.com as word attachment. **FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED.**

Requirement Four (20 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: May 11.**

Requirements Five-Seven (120 points): Each student will research and prepare a series of three Statements of Faith (40 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 (ca. 6-8 pages). 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 devices, 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 Mar. 30, Apr. 27, May 11.**

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 The student then will write a 300-400 word (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: Apr. May11. Send assignment to inaliam@gmail.com as word attachment. FOOTNOTES NOT REQUIRED.**

OR

Read the following on-line article about the Auburn Avenue controversy and the New Perspective on Paul. Write a 300-400 word (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

Statement of Faith Papers: Topics and Due Dates:

30 March: Doctrine of Salvation- Person of Holy Spirit, Work of the Holy Spirit, Union with Christ, Regeneration, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification

27 April: Doctrine of Church and Sacraments- Attributes and Marks of the Church, Sacraments or Ordinances, Baptism, Lord’s Supper

11 May: 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
- B.....No more than 2 misspellings or grammatical errors per page
 - Identified a number of important articles, books in bibliography

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- 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?
-

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES

Drop/Add/and Course Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, e-mail to schedule an appointment. Right before class is NOT a good time for a "hey, you."

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a

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context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has

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reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted

- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester

- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

REMEMBER- if you can GOOGLE IT, SO CAN I!

Incompletes

The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who miss over three hours of classroom work will be assigned additional readings to make up for work missed.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend all class sessions. If students have to be absent for any reason, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course.

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Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (12-point type, Times New Roman double-spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards” (Erskine Seminary) and Turabian 7th edition. In this course, footnotes are required in the statement of faith. The paper’s cover page is not counted towards length requirements. Bibliography is not required.

Chapel Attendance Policy (FOR TUESDAY-THURSDAY ON-CAMPUS CLASSES)

All morning and afternoon on-campus classes (except for Friday and Saturday courses) carry a chapel attendance requirement. Consult the catalog or registration booklet for the specifics of the chapel attendance policy. There is a per chapel fee if you attend fewer chapels than required.

COURSE WEIGHTING/DUE DATES: 200 Points Total

Mouw	15 points	February 2
Williams Reading	20 points	March 2
Murray Reading	15 points	March 16
Paper on Salvation	40 points	March 30
Paper on Church	40 points	April 27
Paper on Last Things	40 points	May 11
Calvin Reading	20 points	May 11
<i>Concise Reformed Dogmatics</i>	10 points	May 11
Extra Credit: Up to 3/10 points added		May 11