Theology 101 - Course Syllabus

Course Title: *Christian Theology I (3 Credits)*

Course Description: This course will cover 3 main topics in relation to Christian Theology: The Doctrine of the Word of God, The Doctrine of God, and The Doctrines of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Class time will consist of lectures and discussions on these various topics. Evaluation will be based on completion of the assigned reading material, chapter review questions, quizzes, a mid-term examination, a final examination, and a final project (6-8 page paper on aspects of a personal statement of faith).

Prerequisites: None

Instructors:
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Course Materials:
- Bible (ESV, NIV, HCSB, CSB, NAS, NET, NKJV or KJV)
- *Systematic Theology, 2nd Edition (2020)*, Wayne Grudem, ISBN: 978-0-310-51797-9
- *Systematic Theology Workbook (2020)*, Wayne Grudem, Brianna Smith, Erik Thoennes, ISBN: 978-0-310-11407-9

Class Time: Class will meet once a week on Sundays from 4pm-7pm. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd., Ypsilanti, MI, 48197. Class time will be divided according to the following schedule:
- Sundays:
    - Housekeeping / Opening Prayer / Devotional (4:00 - 4:15)
    - Lecture (4:15 - 5:15)
    - Break (5:15 - 5:30)
    - Lecture (5:30 – 6:30)
    - Hymns, Discussion and Prayer (6:30-7:00)

Assignments:

- **Written Assignments:** There will be weekly reading assignments and questions from the *Systematic Theology Workbook.*

- **Weekly Quizzes:** There may be periodic brief weekly quizzes at the beginning of the class over the previous week's material. The quiz format may include short answer, definitions, fill in the blank, true/false, and/or matching.

- **Mid Term Examination**: The Mid Term Exam will take place at the beginning of class on October 15th. The exam covers the lecture material from Chapters 1-13 (assuming we maintain the syllabus schedule). The exam may include short answer, definitions, fill in the blank, true/false, and/or matching.

- **Final Examination**: The Final Exam will take place at the beginning of class on December 17th. The final exam covers the lecture material after the midterm. The exam may include short answer, definitions, fill in the blank, true/false, and/or matching.

- **Final Assignment:** There will be a final assignment taking the 3 Theological Doctrines we have learned and incorporating those into your personal statement of faith. The statement of faith should be detailed with Scripture references; including a sufficient, well-reasoned explanation as to why those supporting references are valid.
  The paper is to be 6-8 pages in length, using size 12 font and is due December 17th.
  Note: We will be covering the other basic doctrines in Christian Theology II. The final assignment in that class will be to complete your personal statement of faith.

- **Reading / Participation Assignment:** The final portion of your grade will be based on completion of the assigned reading and any discussion questions posted on Canvas. Regular attendance and participation in class time is expected for all. Students who miss a given class time are expected to watch the lecture recording. Students are also expected to communicate with the teaching staff if they will be absent. Each student will submit, at the midpoint and at the end of the semester, an attestation to their completion of the assigned readings.

Canvas: Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Reading Log and Canvas Discussion Responses	10%	Complete Reading Log. Due at Mid-Term and Final. Possible Periodic Canvas discussions based on weekly material.
Chapter Review Questions and Periodic Quizzes	20%	Chapter Review Questions to be completed Weekly. Periodic Quizzes at the beginning of Class
Mid-Term Examination	25%	October 15th
Final Examination	25%	December 17th
Final Project	20%	Due December 17th

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

- A+: >= 98%
- A: >= 92%
- A-: >= 90%
- B+: >= 88%
- B: >= 82%
- B-: >= 80%
- C+: >= 78%
- C: >= 72%
- C-: >= 70%
- D+: >= 68%
- D: >= 62%
- D-: >= 60%
- F: < 60%

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however, it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Study Material	Assignments Due
09/03/23	- Chp. 1 Introduction to Systematic Theology - Chp. 2 The Word of God	- Read Chapters 1-4 in *Systematic Theology*	
09/10/23	- Chp. 3 Canon of Scripture - Chp. 4 The Characteristics of Scripture: Authority	- Read Chapters 5-6 in *ST*	- *Systematic Theology Workbook* Chp. 1, 2
09/17/23	- Chp. 5 Inerrancy - Chp. 6 Clarity of Scripture	- Read Chapters 7-8 in *ST*	- *STW Chp 3, 4*
09/24/23	- Chp. 7 Necessity - Chp. 8 Sufficiency Catch up Time and Review of The Doctrine of the Word	- Read Chapters 9-11 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 5, 6
10/01/23 **#5**	- Chp. 9 Existence of God - Chp. 10 Knowability of God - Chp. 11 The Character of God: Incommunicable Attributes	- Read Chapters 12-13 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 7, 8
10/08/23	- Chp. 12 Character of God: Communicable Attributes - Chp. 13 Communicable Attributes, Part 2	- Read Chapter 14 in *ST* - *Study for Mid Term Exam*	- *STW* Chp. 9, 10, 11
10/15/23	- **Mid Term Examination** - Chp. 14 The Trinity	- Read Chapter 15-16 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 12, 13 - Reading Log Due
10/22/23	- Chp. 15 Creation - Chp. 16 God's Providence	- Read Chapters 17-18 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 14
10/29/23	- Chp. 17 Miracles - Chp. 18 Prayer	- Read Chapters 19-20 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 15-16
11/05/23 **#10**	- Chp. 19 Angels - Chp. 20 Satan and Demons Catch up Time and Review of the Doctrine of God	- Read Chapter 26 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 17, 18
11/12/23	- Chp. 26 The Person of Christ	- Read Chapter 27 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 19, 20
11/19/23	- Chp. 27 The Atonement	- Read Chapters 28-29 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 26
11/26/22	- **No Class**	- **Thanksgiving Holiday**	- **Go Lions!**
12/03/23	- Chp. 28 Resurrection and Ascension - Chp. 29 Offices of Christ	- Read Chapters 30 in *ST*	- *STW* Chp. 27
12/10/23	- Chp. 30 The Work of the Holy Spirit - Semester Review	- Complete Final Project - *Study for Final Exam*	- *STW* Chp. 28, 29
12/17/23 **#15**	- **Final Examination**		- *STW* Chp. 30 - Final Project Due - Reading Log Due

Late Policy:

  Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

  Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

  This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructor's discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to set up your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the "Get Started" button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL: https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas
Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your THEOLOGY 101 course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you'll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to "Find my School." Select this option and put in "Free Canvas Accounts." Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

Appendix: How to submit assignments on Canvas

From the course's Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the specific assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

For typed documents:
- Click "Start Assignment" ("Submit Assignment" in the mobile app)
- Click "Upload File" ("Files" in the mobile app)
- Click "Choose File" (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting "Add Another File"

For handwritten documents:
You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting "Submit Assignment."

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

Appendix: Academic Integrity

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below are outlined the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models for Written Assignments

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else's work as your own.

These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but *all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise*.