



COVENANT BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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INFORMED SCHOLARSHIP • PASTORAL HEART

ST21 • Prolegomena to Systematic Theology 1
[Introduction to Systematic Theology and Apologetics]

Dr. Sam Waldron, Professor of Systematic Theology

2 Credit Hours

Course Description

This course surveys the issue of theological method, provides an introduction to and defense of systematic theology, and furnishes an historical survey, exegetical approach, and systematic development of Christian apologetics.

Educational Objectives

By means of the assigned reading, class discussion, course lectures, regular quizzes, and paper the student will be able to understand and identify the major historical and contemporary issues with regard to the introduction to systematic theology and apologetics and develop and express a biblical approach to those issues.

Required Textbooks

1. Louis Berkhof, *Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979), 15-75, 93-141, 170-186
2. Greg L. Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetics: Readings & Analysis* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1998), 1-133, 405-529
3. Gordon H. Clark, *Thales to Dewey: A History of Philosophy* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1957), 44-300, 357-433

Reading Schedule

The assigned reading totals 705 pages. All the reading must be completed by the final exam to receive credit for the course.

Course Requirements

The Substance of the Course Requirements

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| 1. Five Quizzes on the Lectures | 400 points |
| 2. Final Exam over the Quiz Questions | 400 points |
| 3. 200 Question and Comment Diary over the Reading | 200 points |

This means that there are a total of 1000 points for the course.

The Timetable of the Course Requirements

This will be shared in the first week of class.

Academic Performance

No student will be deemed to have successfully completed the work in any course who does not achieve a cumulative grade of 75 or above for his course work.

A -- 96-100	B -- 85-87	C -- 75-77
A- -- 91-95	B- -- 81-84	C- -- 71-74
B+ -- 88-90	C+ -- 78-80	

Place and Times of Class Meetings:

Place: The lectures will be held in the CBTS classroom.

Schedule:

- #1-Tuesday, September 10, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #2-Tuesday, September 17, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #3-Tuesday, September 24, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #4-Tuesday, October 1, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #5-Thursday, October 8, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 lectures
- #6-Tuesday, October 15, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #7-Tuesday, October 29, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #8-Tuesday, November 5, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #9-Tuesday, November 12, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #10-Tuesday, November 19, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #11-Tuesday, November 26, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures
- #12-Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm-8:20pm 2 Lectures

Further Reading:

- Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics Volume One: Prolegomena*, Ed. John Bolt And Trans. John Vriend (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003) 1-621.
- Richard L. Pratt, Jr., *Every Thought Captive*
- Gordon H. Clark, *Thales to Dewey: A History of Philosophy* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1957)
- Douglas Wilson, *Persuasions*
- John Owen, *Works . . .*, Vol. 4, Pp. 7-108, "The Reason Of Faith"
- Rousas J. Rushdoony, *By What Standard*, Ch. 1, 2, 5-12, App. 3
- C. Van Til, *The Defense Of The Faith*, Ch. 1-11
- Louis Berkhof, *Introduction To Systematic Theology*
- John Frame, *The Doctrine Of The Knowledge Of God*
- John Frame, *Cornelius Van Til—An Analysis of His Thought*
- Jim S. Halsey, *For A Time Such As This*

- Abraham Kuyper, *Principles Of Sacred Theology*
- Thom Notaro, *Van Til & The Use Of Evidence*
- Kelly James Clark, *Return To Reason*
- *The Infallible Word: A Symposium by the Members of the Faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary Paperback – June 1, 2003* ed. By Ned Stonehouse and Paul Wooley
- K. Scott Oliphint, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord (The Power of Scripture for defending the Faith)*, (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003)
- *Revelation and Reason: New Essays in Reformed Apologetics*, ed. K. Scott Oliphint and Lane G. Tipton ((Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2007)
- Cornelius Van Til, *The Defense of the Faith*, ((Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003, 1955)
- K. Scott Oliphint, *Covenantal Apologetics: Principles and Practice in Defense of Our Faith*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013)

Course Outline

Introduction to Systematic Theology

Part 1: The Nature of Theology

Part 2: The Nature of Systematic Theology

Apologetics

Part 1: Fundamental Considerations

Part 2: Historical Introduction

Part 3: Theological Foundations

Part 4: Practical Conclusions