

TH 604 – Seminar in Systematic Theology
June 2019
Mondays, 5:30 – 9:30 PM (6/3, 6/10, and 6/17)
(final course assignment due no later than midnight, Friday, August 13, 2019)*

*This course is essentially a summer guided reading course (of 1,200 pages of reading in systematic theology, culminating in an assignment due at the end of summer). The three class periods will introduce the student to the field of systematic theology and give lectures orienting them, preparing them, and guiding them in their reading and reading assignments.

LAST REVISED: 1/22/2019

PROFESSOR

R. Todd Mangum, PhD
Clemens Professor of Missional Theology
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Summer Office Hours: By appointment only

MISSIO'S MISSION

To prepare missional leaders who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition, and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Systematic theology seeks to provide cogent, logical synthesis of exegesis, biblical-theology, historical theology, and philosophy in order to understand and articulate deep truths about God, His character, purposes, and ways. At Missio Seminary, we nuance this traditional theological enterprise by focusing on God's missional character and purposes, thus emphasizing practical theological implications and applications. Our focus is less on mysteries of God that are past finding out, and more on those aspects of God's character and ways that involve us, His people, in His mission. However, there is still room for capitalizing on some of the value brought by traditional systematic theology, which this course seeks to explore and pursue. *Elective course. Three hours.*

PRIMARY COURSE GOAL

Students will explore both the values and the short-comings of traditional systematic theology, and in so doing increase their appreciation of the distinctive values and nuances of missional theology.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

My own training was in traditional systematic theology; my PhD is in theological studies (which fused the fields of systematic and historical theology). I have benefited from traditional systematic theology, but I also know its shortcomings – and how systematic theology can trap a person into asking the wrong questions or steep a person into mysteries actually past finding out but give a false sense of confidence in their answers. I have found the benefits of the distinctives of missional theology to be transformative – even for a “professional theologian”!

Still, missional theology can be seen as a form of systematic theology – a distinctive nuance of the systematic theological enterprise that preserves the rigor, but pursues a better path of wisdom and cultivation of the knowledge of God. I hope in this course to pursue just that with you.

Todd Mangum

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain what systematic theology is, its distinctive strengths and weaknesses as an enterprise seeking to understand truth about God.
2. Articulate some distinctives of a missional approach to the enterprise of systematic theology.
3. Give some examples of what you have come to understand about God, His character, and His ways through your own study of systematic theology.

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Goal 1: Students will live grace-based lives increasingly characterized by wisdom, the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	1, 2, and 3.
Goal 2: Students will grow in wisdom and skill in interpersonal relationships, conflict management, and living in community.	2 and 3.
Goal 3: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Bible & its missional perspective and their ability to humbly interpret and apply it in light of history, culture, and genre.	1, 2, and 3.
Goal 4: Students will know the key persons, ideas, and movements in the history of theology and the Christian tradition and their significance today.	1 and 3.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME
Reading and Reading Assessments	1, 2, 3	97%	68
Class Participation	1,2, 3	3%	12
ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY			
Reading Guides and interactive assignments on course readings & texts	1,2, 3		40 hrs.
Total Course Time			120 hrs

Attendance Policy and Grades

It is beneficial to arrive on time and be actively engaged in class time. Class time in this course is dedicated to guide you in your readings in systematic theology and assist you in your assignments on the reading. It behooves you to take full advantage of the lectures and face-to-face classroom engagements.

Though the professor's summer office hours are more sporadic, students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course. Except when the professor is traveling, students will generally receive a response within 24 hours (except on Sunday).

REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

NOTE: Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell or rent the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around!

You should read 1,200 pages from one or more of the following choices*:

Scholastic	Classic/Traditional	Eclectic	Contemporary
Turretin, Francis. <i>Institutes of Elenctic Theology</i> . 3 vols. 1679-85. Reprint. Ed. James T. Edison, Jr. Trans. George Musgrave Giger. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1997. (2,300 pages)	Bavinck, Herman. <i>Reformed Dogmatics</i> . 4 vols. 1906-11. Reprint. Ed. John Bolt. Trans. John Vriend. Grand Rapids: Dutch Reformed Translation Society and Baker, 2008. (3,000 pages) <i>idem</i> , <i>abridged in one volume</i> , also acceptable. (860 pages) Berkhof, Louis. <i>Systematic Theology</i> . Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1938. (650 pages) Buswell, J. Oliver. <i>A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion</i> . Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962. (600 pages) Hodge, Charles. <i>Systematic Theology</i> . 3 Vols. 1871-73. Reprint. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1981. (2,400 pages)	Bloesch, Donald. <i>Christian Foundations (A Theology of Word & Spirit: Holy Scripture; God the Almighty; Jesus Christ; The Holy Spirit; The Church; and The Last Things)</i> , 7 vols. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1992-2004. (2,200 pages) Erickson, Millard. <i>Christian Theology</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013. (1,200 pages) Grudem, Wayne. <i>Systematic Theology</i> . Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. (1,200 pages)	Grenz, Stanley J. <i>Theology for the Community of God</i> . Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994. (700 pages) McClendon, James. <i>Systematic Theology</i> . 3 Vols. (<i>Ethics; Doctrine; Witness</i>). Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2002. (1,100 pages) Pannenberg, Wolfhart. <i>Systematic Theology</i> . 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991. (1,400 pages)

*You need to read 1,200 pages; but it's up to you which of the above you read to get to that 1,200 pages. Some of these works are well over 1,200 pages themselves; you may read a portion of just that one work to get to the 1,200 pages. Some of the works above are 600 or 800 pages; if you read them in entirety, you still will need to read (at least a portion of) another work, too, to get the 1,200 pages.

Craft a strategy for your reading regimen in this course that will have you reading what you find most interesting and most helpful. Perhaps you want to read "the doctrine of Scripture" in three different works? Perhaps you want to read a scholastic handling of the sovereignty of God but a more contemporary handling of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit? Etc. Up to you! Think about it (but not too long! ☺) – and purchase your books carefully and get to reading early and often!

COURSE PROCEDURES & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Class lectures will introduce you to the field of systematic theology and frame out principles that will assist you in your reading and reading assessment.
- 2) Reading and Reading Assessments.
The reading constitutes the bulk of this course.

The professor will provide on the course website reading guides that also contain reading assessments and assignments. Having read 1.200 pages of systematic theological texts, these reading guides and assignments will give you opportunity to “engage on paper” and articulate some of the principles you have learned. The written assignment and assessment will consist of 10-20 pages in total.

COURSE SCHEDULE WITH TOPIC, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSION METHOD, & DUE DATES

DATE	IN CLASS	OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS OR ONLINE
Monday, 6/3/2019 5:30 – 9:30 pm	Topic: Course Introduction: Introduction to Systematic Theology	Make your selection of texts (see above), plot your reading strategy, and begin reading as soon as you can.
Monday, 6/10/2019 5:30 – 9:30 pm	Topic: Types of Systematic Theology Also: What accounts for the varied approaches and differing conclusions of different systematic theologies?	
Monday, 6/17/2019 5:30 – 9:30 pm	Topic: Systematic Theology and Missional Theology Also: final tips and guidance on the reading assignment(s)	
FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE NO Later than midnight, Friday, 8/13/2019	Reading guides are provided on the e-campus course website. This reading guide serves a dual purpose: 1) to assist you and guide you to get the most out of your readings in systematic theological texts; and 2) to give you a forum for engaging (in writing) what you are reading and make evaluative (written) assessments, which in turn serves as the summative assignment for this course.	
Note: All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work.		

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog and all requirements concerning their degree programs. See the e-campus home page.
2. **Course Syllabus:** Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See above under “completion of course work” for policies on course extensions.
3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email helpdesk@Missio.edu and include their student ID# in their correspondence.
4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process

outlined in the Academic Catalog. See the Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

5. **Student PC Security Statement:** Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program.

BIBLICAL SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing