Syllabus
BT 252: Bibliology and Theology Proper, Version 2
(Theologia a Deo docetur, Deum docet, et ad Deum ducit,
“Theology is taught by God, teaches of God, and leads to God”—Thomas Aquinas)

MISSION STATEMENT OF EMMAUS BIBLE COLLEGE

“The mission of Emmaus Bible College is to glorify God through the teaching of the Bible and through educating and equipping learners for service and leadership in their ministries, communities, and vocations.”

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Three major subjects are to be considered: (1) Prolegomena—an introductory consideration of the nature, necessity and method of Systematic Theology, (2) Theology Proper—the doctrine of God considered in its two aspects of theism and trinitarianism, and (3) Bibliology—the doctrines of revelation, and the inspiration and authority of Scripture.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS FOR THE COURSE

   Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*
   Edward John Carnell, *An Introduction to Christian Apologetics*
   Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 1
   John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*
   Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 1
   Don Kistler, ed., *Sola Scriptura! The Protestant Position on the Bible*
   Harold Lindsell, *The Battle for the Bible*
   Harold Lindsell, *The Bible in the Balance*
   Alister McGrath, *A Passion for Truth*
   William J. McRae, *A Book to Die For*
   John Miley, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 2
Francis Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics*, vol. 1
Clark Pinnock, *Biblical Revelation*
William G. Rusch, ed. *The Trinitarian controversy*
Robert L. Saucy, *Is the Bible Reliable?*
C. Samuel Storms, *The Grandeur of God*
Augustus H. Strong, *Systematic Theology*
A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*
B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*
Richard Watson, *Theological Institutes*, vol. 2
H. Orton Wiley, *Christian Theology*, vol. 2

See course reading schedule for readings that correspond to the lectures.

- To order a textbook referred to above, please contact our Librarian.
  John Rush, Librarian Emmaus Bible College
  2570 Asbury Road
  Dubuque, IA 52001
  jrush@emmaus.edu

**CLASSNOTES FOR THE COURSE**

1. Printed notes and outlines for this course are also available for sale through John Rush (see info. above)
2. The student should purchase a set of the notes before class meets next time. It is suggested that the student buy a three-ring binder for storing his/her notes at a local office supply store. A 3-inch binder should be adequate for the notes of this course.

**OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE**

*That the student will:*

1. Develop an awareness of the entire field of Systematic Theology (prolegomena).
2. Become familiar with the important areas of the doctrines of the revelation and inspiration of Scripture (bibliology).
3. Become familiar with the teaching of the Bible concerning the nature and work of the Triune God (theology proper).
4. Develop proficiency in critical thinking in the area of Systematic Theology.
5. Understand the history of the doctrines discussed as well as contemporary thinking about them.

6. Become acquainted with some of the theological literature concerning bibliology and theology proper.

7. Develop a deepening relationship with the Triune God through theological study.

8. Be able in various Christian service settings (personal evangelism, evangelistic preaching, Bible teaching, counseling) to use his/her Bible with confidence in its divine origin and trustworthiness.

9. Be able in various Christian service settings (personal evangelism, evangelistic preaching, Bible teaching, counseling) to articulate and defend the orthodox doctrines of the Christian faith relating to the Triune God of Scripture.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

I. Prolegomena
   A. The Idea of Theology
   B. The Necessity of Theology
   C. The Method of Theology

II. Bibliology
   A. The Doctrine of Authority
   B. The Doctrine of Revelation
   C. The Doctrine of Inspiration
   D. The Doctrine of Inerrancy
   E. The Doctrine of Illumination
   F. The Doctrine of Animation
   G. The Canon of Scripture

III. Theology Proper
   A. The Existence and Knowability of God
      1. The existence of God
      2. The proofs of the existence of God
      3. The knowability of God
   B. The Attributes of God
      1. The attributes in general
      2. The incommunicable attributes
      3. The communicable attributes
C. The Holy Trinity
   1. The doctrine in history
   2. The doctrine in modern times
   3. The doctrine in Scripture
   4. The Person of the Father

D. The Decrees of God
   1. The doctrine of the decrees
   2. The difficulties with the doctrine

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR THE COURSE

Session   Lectures and Assigned Readings:

1   Lecture:  Introduction to the Course
   Reading:  None

2   Lecture: The Idea of Theology (Part 1)

3   Lecture: The Idea of Theology (Part 2)

4   Lecture: The Task of Theology (Part 1)
   Reading:  D. A. Carson, “Unity and Diversity in the NT: The Possibility of Systematic Theology,” in Scripture and Truth, eds. D. A. Carson and J. D. Woodbridge, 65–95. For the student’s convenience, a photocopy is included in the notes just before today’s lecture outline.

5   Lecture: The Task of Theology (Part 2)
   Reading:  Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 21–37.
   Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, 1:3–17
   Charles Hodge, Systematic Theology, 1:18–33
6  Lecture: The Task of Theology (Part 3); An Introduction to Bibliology (Part 1)

Reading: Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 141–44.

7  Lecture: Introduction to Bibliology (Part 2)

8  Lecture: Introduction to Bibliology (Part 3)

9  Lecture: The Idea of Revelation (Part 1)
Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 289–308.

10 Lecture: The Idea of Revelation (Part 2)

11 Lecture: The Idea of Revelation (Part 3)
Lecture: The Doctrine of General Revelation (Part 1)
   Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 289–308. Do this reading only if you have not done it earlier for class # 27.

Lecture: The Doctrine of General Revelation (Part 2)

Lecture: The Doctrine of General Revelation (Part 3); The Nature of Special Revelation (Part 1)
   Charnock, 1:310–62 (on Immutability).

Lecture: The Nature of Special Revelation (Part 2)
   Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, 286–90.

Lecture: The Nature of Special Revelation (Part 3)

Lecture: The Nature of Special Revelation (Part 4)
   Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, 290–92, 308.
18 Lecture: The Nature of Special Revelation (Part 5)

19 Lecture: The Nature of Special Revelation (Part 6)

20 Lecture: Introduction to the History of the Doctrine of Inspiration
Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, 219–73.

21 Lecture: The History of the Doctrine of Inspiration (Part 1)
Peter Toon and James D. Spiceland, eds., *One God in Trinity*, 1–41.

22 Lecture: The History of the Doctrine of Inspiration (Part 2)
Reading: Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 332–33.

23 Lecture: The History of the Doctrine of Inspiration (Part 3)

24 Lecture: The Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration (Part 1)

25 Lecture: The Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration (Part 2)
B. B. Warfield. Student may read assignment for class 5 if not done for that class.

26 Lecture: The Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration (Part 3); The Savior and the Scriptures (Part 1)

27 Lecture: The Savior and the Scriptures (Part 2)
Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, 27–42

28 Lecture: The Savior and the Scriptures (Part 3)
Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, 45–70, 233–47.
29 Lecture: The Inerrancy of Scripture (Part 1)
Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 224–33.

30 Lecture: The Inerrancy of Scripture (Part 2)
Warfield, *Inspiration and Authority*, pp. 131–66
(also: *ISBE*, s.v. “Inspiration,” by B. B. Warfield, 3 [1939]: 1473–83; reprinted in

31 Lecture: The Inerrancy of Scripture (Part 3); The Doctrine of Authority (Part 1)
Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 233–45.

32 Lecture: The Doctrine of Authority (Part 2)
Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, pp. 120–40.

33 Lecture: The Doctrine of Authority (Part 3); The Meaning of the Doctrine of Authority (Part 1)
Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, 141–58.

34 Lecture: The Meaning of the Doctrine of Authority (Part 2)
W. J. McRae, *A Book to Die For*, 68–89.
Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 266–73.

35 Lecture: The Meaning of the Doctrine of Authority (Part 3);
The Rivals to Biblical Authority (Part 1)

36 Lecture: The Rivals to Biblical Authority (Part 2)

37 Lecture: The Rivals to Biblical Authority (Part 3)
Reading: Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, pp. 199–212.

Lecture:
Lecture:
Reading: Chafer, Systematic Theology, 1:120–23.

Lecture:
Reading: Grudem, Systematic Theology, 54–68.
Pache, The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture, 159–85.
Geisler and Nix, A General Introduction to the Bible, 203–75.

Lecture:
Ryrie, Basic Theology, 119–24.
Geisler and Nix, A General Introduction to the Bible, 277–317.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE COURSE

Prolegomena


Berkhof, Louis. Introduction to Systematic Theology. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1932; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979. Deals with the history and method of Systematic Theology and the doctrine of revelation. This volume is now (as of 1996) bound with Berkhof’s Systematic Theology. Get the combined volume, if possible. On the Emmaus reserve shelf we have both the older editions of Berkhof’s Introduction and Systematic Theology as well as the newer edition containing both works.


Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003. The author “makes a compelling case that cultivating and embodying the wisdom of God for daily living really is the most important thing Christians should be doing; he makes an equally compelling case that pursuing excellence in theology—the spiritual science by which we come to know God—is the best way to embark on the project” (Kevin J. Vanhoozer).

Horton, Michael S., editor, *A Confessing Theology for Postmodern Times*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2000. The relativistic mindset of contemporary culture is pushing aside biblical content to make way for personal experience. The result is a watered-down Gospel, which has little impact on society or individual lives. The twelve authors of this volume seek to provide ideas and strategies for rising to that challenge.


John M. Frame, “Muller on Theology,” 56 (Spring, 1994), 133–51.


**Bibliology**


Carson, D. A. and Woodbridge, John D., eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. This volume and the one that follows, edited by two first rate scholars, are perhaps the most valuable recent discussions on the nature and authority of Scripture.


Demarest, Bruce A. *General Revelation: Historical Views and Contemporary Issues*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982. In this able study the author deals with every important thinker and every significant school.


Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. 6 vols. Waco: Word Books, 1976-83. The *magnum opus* of America's most influential evangelical theologian has Dr. Henry would himself say! Much good material here on the doctrines to be studied in this course. Henry's strengths are more philosophical than exegetical, but the set is still of value.


Lewis, Gordon and Demarest, Bruce, eds., *Challenges to Inerrancy*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. A superb response to some of the most influential denials of an inerrant Bible.


Lindsell, Harold. *The Battle for the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976. A very important and controversial book. Lindsell documented the battle over the doctrine of inerrancy that was going on at the time in evangelical circles.


Rogers, Jack B. and McKim, Donald K. *The Authority and Interpretation of the Bible*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979. Tries to establish that the best minds in church history both before and after the Reformation allowed the Bible to be incorrect on matters of historical and scientific detail. A misleading and shoddy piece of scholarship. Cf. below, the work by John D. Woodbridge, *Biblical Authority*.


**Theology Proper**
Berkouwer, G. C. *The Person of Christ*. Translated by John Vriend. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1954. Some think this is the finest work of this Dutch scholar.


Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001. This may very well be the best study of Theology Proper in print. A very important work.


**The Trinity**


Fish, John H. III, editor, *Understanding the Trinity*. Dubuque: ECS Ministries, 2006. The essays in this volume were all delivered at a symposium held on the campus of Emmaus Bible College in 2002.


Toon, Peter and Spiceland, James D. *One God in Trinity*. Westchester, Illinois, Cornerstone Books, 1980. Eleven scholars, all writing from within a commitment to orthodox Christianity, present a report and analysis of the way in which the doctrine of the Trinity has been, and is being, discussed in recent theology.


**Contemporary Debate in Evangelicalism**


Frame, John M. *No Other God: A Response to Open Theism*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2001


**Systematic Theology (Evangelical Works)**


Berkouwer, G. C. *Studies in Dogmatics*. 19 projected volumes. A competent but often wordy interaction with current continental theological issues. After discussing many views the author often leaves the reader hanging as to his own.


Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. 6 vols. Waco: Word Books, 1976-83. This major work concentrates on revelation and the doctrine of God. Other areas of Systematic Theology are dealt with, however, chiefly in vol. 6. The Baptist author is Calvinistic and premillennial (6:498, 504-5).


Melanchthon, Philip. *Loci Communes*. 1555 ed. Translated by Clyde L. Manschreck; London: Oxford University Press, 1965; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker, 1982. This is the only English translation of the final and authoritative edition of this work. The Baker reprint is entitled *Melanchthon on Christian Doctrine*. Melanchthon, the author of this the first systematic statement of Lutheran theology, was hailed by Martin Luther as the greatest theologian that ever lived.


Shedd, William G. T. *Dogmatic Theology*, 3d. edition, edited by Alan W. Gomes, Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2003. An eminently readable work. Calvinistic. Very good on Christology. A very extensive treatment of the doctrine of endless punishment. Helpful in the area of personal eschatology. The third edition is the volume to get in that all foreign language citations have been translated into English. Up-to-date paragraph headings have been added to make this great work even more readable.

mild pantheism colors some pages but most of this is unintegrated with the large evangelical bulk of the book.

Thiessen, Henry Clarence. *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949. In 1979 the work of Thiessen was extensively revised by Vernon D. Doerksen. Doerksen's work is less Arminian, but is still essentially the work of Thiessen. It is well outlined, and in theology is Baptistic, Calvinistic and dispensational.


**Systematic Theology**

(Roman Catholic Works)


**Systematic Theology**

(Moderate, Neo-Orthodox and Liberal Works)

Barth, Karl. *Church Dogmatics*. 14 vols. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley and others. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1936-73. An enormous work which has great value in the area of historical theology. It is not recommended for the neophyte in that enormous amounts of time must be spent just in finding out what Barth is trying to do. Neo-orthodox.


Thielicke, Helmut. *The Evangelical Faith*. 3 vols. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-78. The author is a well known Lutheran preacher and theologian. He has described his own work as “mediating theology” (1:14).
