



Systematic Theology III

Northland Graduate School

October 24th, 2011 – December 16th, 2011

TGH 661 – 3 Credits

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Course Description

This course includes a study of anthropology, hamartiology, and soteriology. The work of Christ regarding the salvation of humanity is also addressed.

Course Rationale

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of the doctrines of humanity, sin, and salvation by means of exposure to the theological literature, class lecture/discussion, and research/writing assignments.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course the student should be able to do the following:

1. Articulate the biblical doctrines of humanity, sin, and salvation.
2. Discuss and critically evaluate different interpretations of humanity, sin, and salvation.
3. Formulate his/her own method of doing theology.
4. Discuss with accuracy the general history of the debate regarding the relationship of grace and free will.
5. Be able to draw from the insights of past theologians for their own theological inquiry.
6. Relate the importance of anthropology, hamartiology, and soteriology to the life of the local church (i.e., preaching, teaching, evangelism, discipleship, leadership, etc.).

Course Assignments

Required Reading

1. Calvin, John. *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols., edited by John T. McNeil and Ford Lewis Battles. *Library of Christian Classics* (Westminster Press).
2. Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*, second edition (Baker), pp. 479-575; 579-674; 841-58; 901-1032.
3. Hoekema, Anthony. *Created in God's Image* (Eerdmans), all.
4. McGrath, Alister. *The Christian Theology Reader*, third edition, pp. 401-86.
5. Murray, John. *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Eerdmans), all.
6. Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin* (Eerdmans), all.
7. Any other readings assigned in class.

A reading report indicating the percentage of required reading completed will be turned in on December 16, 2011.

Lectures: There will be a weekly lecture on LMS to which the student is to listen. On the LMS, there will be a form each week on which the student must indicate that he/she listened to the assigned lecture for that week.

Discussion Forums: Each week the instructor will post on the LMS a question based on the reading to which each student will respond. Each student's response will consist of two parts. The first will be his/her answer to the question posted, and the second will be a response to the answers of two or three other students. Both the student's answer to the question and responses must show specific evidence of having read the assignments for that week. By this I mean that the student in both instances needs to incorporate in his/her answer and responses specific details from the reading.

Written Assignments: Each student will write two 10 page papers, one related to Anthropology or Hermeneutics, and the third related to Soteriology. Each paper should deal with some specific aspect of these loci (i.e. imputation of Adam's sin). These will be research papers using Turabian format for documentation, etc. Some of the expectations for these papers are:

1. Be sure when writing academic papers to use gender inclusive language when writing about human beings. For instance, instead of saying “mankind,” write “humanity.” This is the current standard for academic writing, especially at the graduate level.
2. As graduate level research papers, these papers need to state a thesis and argue for its support. See “Five Characteristics of a Good Theological Research Paper” located under “Course Content.”
3. As a rule of thumb, the paper should show evidence of the student using at least ten to fifteen sources.

Research papers will be due in their specified drop boxes (one for the Anthropology or Harmartiology paper, and one for the Soteriology paper) on the LMS on the following days by 11:55 pm CST:

- Anthropology or Harmartiology, November 19
- Soteriology, December 16.

Synopses for Papers: Every student is to submit a one-page synopsis for the two required papers into the appropriate drop boxes by the assigned dates given below. This synopsis will include 1) the thesis statement, 2) a brief statement of his/her intended methodology, 3) the conclusions he/she has reached thus far through research, 4) a preliminary outline, and 5) a preliminary bibliography.

Every student must submit a synopsis for his/her Anthropology/Harmartiology paper by 11:55 pm CST Saturday, November 5. The date for the Soteriology synopsis will be 11:55 pm CST Saturday, December 3. Note: In order to receive full credit for these assignments, the student must include all 5 components in the synopsis.

Course Grading

Anthropology/ Harmartiology Paper	25 %
Soteriology Paper	25 %
Weekly Lectures	10%
Reading	10%
Post Answers and Responses	20 %
Two Synopses	10% (5% each)

A = 94-100

B = 86-93

C = 77-85

D = 70-76

F = 69 or below

Course Schedule

Unless otherwise posted all due dates are Saturday by 11:55 pm CST

Week	Topics	Reading	Papers Due	Forum
1 Oct 24 – 29	Introduction to course; Importance of the Doctrine of Humanity; Humans as Created Persons	Erickson, 479-516; Hoekema, 1-10		Post by Friday Reply by Sunday
2 Oct 30 – Nov 5	Image of God, Part I	Erickson, 517-36; Hoekema, 11-65; Calvin, vol. I, 183-96; McGrath, 407-8; 409-10; 412-13; 427-28; 433; 437-38; 466-70; 483-86	Synopsis for Anthropology or Harmartiology Paper due	Post by Friday Reply by Sunday
3 Nov 6 – 12	Image of God, Part II	Erikson, 537-75; Hoekema, 66-111; 203-43		Post by Friday Reply by Sunday
4 Nov 13 – 19	The Origin of Sin; The Spread of Sin	Erikson, 579-656; Hoekema, 112-67; Calvin, vol. I, 241-top of 309; McGrath, 404-406; 408-409; 411-12; 416-top of 417; 421-26	Anthropology or Harmartiology Paper due.	Post by Friday Reply by Sunday
5 Nov 20 – 26	The Nature of Sin; The Social Effects of Sin; The Restraint of Sin	Erickson, 657-74; Hoekema, 168-202; McGrath, 442-43; 452-53; 460-62; 474-82; Plantinga (finish)		Post by Friday Reply by Sunday
6 Nov 27 – Dec 3	Conceptions of Salvation; Grace and Free Will: Historical Overview and Discussion	Erickson, 901-40; Calvin, vol. II, 920-87; McGrath, 410-11; 414-15; 417-21; 435-top of 437; 446-47; 451-52; 453-55; 470-top of 474;	Synopsis for Soteriology Paper due	Post by Friday Reply by Sunday

		additional material from Arminius, the Remonstrants, and the Canons of Dordt which will provide the basis for our posts this week: Nichols and Bagnall tr. <i>The Writings of James Arminius</i> , vol. I, 193-275; Schaf, Philip, <i>Creeds of Christendom</i> , vol. III, 543-49; 581-97. (links on LMS)		
7 Dec 4 – 10	Objective aspects of Salvation	Erikson, 960-78; Calvin, vol. I, 725-97; 821-49; McGrath, 448-49; 450; 463-64; Murray (Start)		Post by Friday Reply by Sunday
8 Dec 11 – 16	The Subjective Aspects of Salvation; the <i>Ordo Salutis</i> ; the Christian Life	Erickson, 941-59; 979-1013; Calvin, vol. I, 537-669; 684-724; McGrath, 457-60; 464; Murray (finish)	Soteriology paper and reading report due.	Post by Friday Reply by Sunday

Course Support

Course materials can be accessed at <https://online.ni.edu>

If you have questions about this course, either in general or specific, as to how assignments should be completed or anything of a course nature, please contact me by e-mail: andre.gazal@ni.edu.

If you need support for anything related to using the LMS you should submit a ticket to Northland Online, onlinesupport.ni.edu.

Select Bibliography

Recommended Reading:

General

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Reymond, Robert L. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. Second Edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.

Anthropology

Edgecumbe, Philip. *True Image: Christ as the Origin Destiny of Man*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Green, Joel. *Body, Soul, and Human Life: The Nature of Humanity in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Kelsey, David. *Eccentric Existence: A Theological Anthropology*. 2 vols. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2009.

Machen, J. Gresham. *The Christian View of Man*. Carlisle, Pa: Banner of Truth, 1984.

Sherlock, Charles. *The Doctrine of Humanity*. Downers Grove: Inter-varsity, 1996.

Harmartiology

Bavink, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*, vol. 3, *Sin and Salvation in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin*. Downers Grove: Inter-varsity, 2001.

Jacobs, Allan. *Original Sin: A Cultural History*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009.

Soteriology

Bayer, Oswald. *Living by Faith: Justification and Sanctification*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Hick, John, Clark Pinnock, and Alister McGrath. *Four Views of Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

McGrath, Alister. *Iustitia Dei: A History of the Christian Doctrine of Justification*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Ryrie, Charles. *So Great Salvation*. Chicago: Moody, 1997.

Tamburello, Dennis. *Union with Christ*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994.