

Systematic Theology Survey for Counseling Students 2ST501

Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando

Tuesday mornings 9:00am - 12:00pm (note: we begin at 9:00am, not 8:00am)

Fall Semester 2008

Instructor: Dr. Chuck DeGroat

Office Hours: As posted

Telephone: 407-461-1366

E-mail: cdegroat@rts.edu

PURPOSE

To understand and wrestle with the major doctrines of the Christian faith in light of the unique challenges and context of Christian counseling.

OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will:

1. More fully value the importance of systematic theology
2. Be able to articulate a Reformed and evangelical understanding of the doctrines covered in the class.
3. Be able to connect the importance and usefulness of these doctrines to human struggle and suffering.

FORMAT

Teaching will include lecture, discussion, and video and visual aids where applicable.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Frame, John. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord*

Kluck, Ted & DeYoung, Kevin. *Why We're Not Emergent: By Two Guys Who Should Be*

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Braviary of Sin*

NON-REQUIRED TEXTS

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology (strongly recommended)*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **DISCUSSION:** Students will strive to be present (physically-emotionally-spiritually) and participate actively throughout class presentations and discussions. Differing perspectives and questions will not be ignored, but are encouraged to be shared with the whole class. Discussion will be a major component of the class.
2. **PAPER:** In *Not the Way It's Supposed To Be*, Plantinga talks about sin as a "vandalism of shalom." Write a 5-page paper using Plantinga's book and relating the concepts to one of your clients, or one area of counseling interest or expertise (e.g. eating disorders, sexual addiction, depression, marital issues). Using the concepts in Plantinga's book (e.g. vandalism, perversion, pollution, corruption, masquerade, folly, addiction, attack, flight, etc.), describe this counseling issue. Describe how life was supposed to be (e.g. how beauty and intimacy were created to be before their perversion by the sex addict). Conclude by describing how the Gospel can work *shalom* in the life of the client. DUE: last day of finals.
3. **EXAM:** The final exam will consist of 1 essay and 25 concepts from the class that can be answered in short answer form (1-2 sentences max). DUE: last day of finals.
 - a. The 2-3 page essay asks the question: Why have some sought to minimize the role or importance of theology? What are the strengths/weaknesses of their arguments? Why do you think theology is important?
 - b. The 25 concepts will be taken from a list of exam possibilities below (defined in Frame or Grudem). I will NOT ask for a book definition. Put it in your own words.

POSSIBLE CONCEPTS: Image of God, Trinity, perichoresis, covenant, shalom, original sin, theology, transcendence, immanence, attributes of God, inerrancy, canon, Christ as prophet priest and king, predestination, the names of Jesus (e.g. Christ, Son of God, Son of

Man), the Fall, common grace, covenant of works, covenant of grace, new covenant, Incarnation, election, reprobation, divinity and humanity of Christ, hypostatic union, justification, adoption, sanctification, TULIP, assurance of salvation, invisible vs. visible church, images or metaphors for the church, the cultural mandate, the Great Commission, importance of fellowship of believers, importance of prayer, importance of sacraments, amillennialism, premillennialism, new heavens and new earth, baptism, Lord's Supper, gifts of the Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, importance of the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of God, church government, imputation, special revelation, general revelation

READING ASSIGNMENTS and CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Frame's book should be read entirely. The first half should be completed by Fall Break. The second half should be completed by the end of the semester.
2. Kluck and DeYoung's book is to be read at your own discretion, and will be especially helpful for the final exam essay.
3. Grudem's *Systematic Theology* can be utilized as a reference tool for your exam concepts, your final paper, and presentation. Former students have really appreciated this text, especially after the program. It's good to have on your shelf as a reference. Particular sections will be relevant at different times in your ministry.
4. Plantinga's book will be read in preparation for the paper.

GRADING SCALE

Listed below are the assignments that will determine your final course grade.

Class Participation and Attendance	30 points
Paper	30 points
Final Exam	40 points

A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88-90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

If you should miss a class, you are expected to contact another student regarding the information covered.

All assignments will be due on the date specified in the syllabus. For each day a paper is late, 2 points will be deducted from the score of the assignment. Papers may be emailed to me at cdegroat@rts.edu

Plagiarism/cheating will result in the failure of the course.