Course Description
The goal of this course is for you (1) to gain a solid grasp of the basic questions, issues, and formulations regarding the doctrines of God and scripture; (2) to learn how to approach questions in the doctrines of God and scripture from biblical, historical, and systematic theological perspectives; (3) to become familiar with the Reformed views; (4) to learn what are the important questions currently under discussion in contemporary theology regarding these topics; and (5) to think through the implications of the doctrines of God and scripture for church life in general and pastoral ministry in particular.

Required Texts
- W. Grudem, Systematic Theology
- Justin S. Holcomb, Christian Theologies of Scripture
- J. I. Packer, God Has Spoken
- Herman N. Ridderbos, Redemptive History and the New Testament Scriptures
- A. A. Hodge and B. B. Warfield, Inspiration
- William Placher, The Domestication of Transcendence: How Modern Thinking About God Went Wrong

Recommended Texts
- Herman Bavinck, The Doctrine of God
- Gerald Bray, The Doctrine of God
- Neil R. Lightfoot, How We Got the Bible

Evaluation
- Exam #1 35%
- Exam #2 35%
- Paper 30%

Course Schedule
Jan 27
Introduction to Theology
Read: Placer, chapter 1

Feb 3
Doctrine of God: The Existence of God
Read: Grudem, chapters 9, 10, and 15

Feb 10
Doctrine of God: Incommunicable Attributes of God
Read: Grudem, chapter 11
Placher, chapters 2-4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Doctrine of God: Communicable Attributes of God</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 12, 16, and 18</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Doctrine of God: Communicable Attributes of God</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 13, Placher, chapters 5 and 8</td>
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<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>SPRINK BREAK</td>
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<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Doctrine of God: The Trinitarian God</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 14, Placher, chapter 10, A. Ware, “God as Trinity”</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>EXAM #1</td>
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<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture: Revelation</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 2, 6, 7, 8, Holcomb, pp. 1-10, Origen, <em>First Principles</em> (Book IV, chapter 2)</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture: Canon</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 3, Holcomb, pp. 11-82</td>
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<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture: Inspiration</td>
<td>Hodge and Warfield, <em>Inspiration</em></td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture: Inerrancy</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 5, Holcomb, pp. 83-156</td>
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<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture: Authority,</td>
<td>Grudem, chapter 4, Ridderbos, <em>Redemptive History and NT Scriptures</em></td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Doctrine of Scripture: Theologies of Scripture</td>
<td>Holcomb, pp.243-322</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>EXAM #2</td>
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Lecture Outline

I. Introduction to Theology
   a. What is Theology
   b. What is Systematic Theology
   c. Category of Systematic Theology
   d. Doing Systematic Theology
   e. Reformed Theology
   f. Value of Systematic Theology
   g. Starting Points

II. Theology Proper
   a. Existence of God
      i. Atheism
         1. Dogmatic
         2. Skeptical
         3. Critical
         4. Practical
      ii. Proofs
         1. Approaches
            a. a priori
            b. a posteriori
            c. existential
         2. Arguments
            a. cosmological (a posteriori)
            b. teleological (a posteriori)
            c. moral (existential)
            d. ontological (a priori)
            e. Pascal’s wager
         3. Conclusion
   b. Attributes of God
      i. Introduction and Mystery
      ii. Incommunicable Attributes
         1. Aseity
         2. Infinity
            a. Space
            b. Time
            c. Knowledge
            d. Power
         3. Immutability
         4. Unity
            a. Oneness
            b. Simplicity
      iii. Communicable Attributes
         1. Sovereignty
            a. Basis
               i. God the creator
               ii. God the King
            b. Extent
               i. Over all creation
               ii. Over all rulers
               iii. Over salvation
            c. Sovereign Will of God
               i. Decretive will (hidden)
ii. Perceptive will (revealed)

d. Human responsibility
   i. God’s sovereignty is the cause and context for human responsibility
   ii. Human responsibility is real
      1. Real causes
      2. Real consequences
   iii. Concurrence (Philippians 2:12-13)
      1. God is primary cause behind human causes
      2. Not coercive
      3. Does not remove moral accountability
      4. Does not make God morally accountable for human sin

2. Goodness
   a. Theological Elaboration
      i. God is goodness itself
      ii. God does good
      iii. Only God is good
      iv. God’s plan is good
      v. God’s employs evil for good purposes
   b. Problem of Evil
      i. The Bible
      ii. Observations

3. Purposes

4. Holiness
   a. Introduction
   b. OT
   c. NT
   d. Holiness as Attribute
      i. Cosmic
      ii. Ethical
   e. Human Response

c. Trinity
   i. Introduction
   ii. History of Doctrine
      1. Early formulations
      2. Errors
         a. Modalism
         b. Arianism
         c. Subordinationism
         d. Adoptionism
      3. Filioque clause
   iii. Biblical Considerations
      1. Three levels of Evidence
         a. Oneness of God
         b. Deity of each of the three persons
            i. Father
            ii. Son
            iii. Holy Spirit
         c. Three in oneness
            i. OT plurality
            ii. NT tri-unity
      2. Conclusion
   iv. Doctrinal Considerations
1. Key elements
2. Trinity is eternal
3. Functional subordination

III. Self-Revealing God
   a. Introduction
   b. General Revelation
      i. Characteristics
      ii. Biblical texts
      iii. Issues
      iv. Conclusion
   c. Special Revelation
      i. Introduction
      ii. Characteristics
      iii. Canon
         1. Introduction
         2. Criteria for Canonicity
         3. History
      iv. Inspiration
         1. Introduction
         2. Theories
            a. Intuition
            b. Illumination
            c. Dynamic
            d. Dictation
            e. Plenary/verbal
         3. Biblical Considerations
            a. OT view of OT
            b. NT view of OT
            c. NT view of NT
   v. Inerrancy
      1. Introduction
      2. History
      3. Theories
         a. Limited inerrancy
         b. Accommodated Revelation
         c. Neo-orthodoxy
         d. Avoidance
         e. Full inerrancy