

Systematic Theology II—Theological Anthropology and the Person of Christ

Reformed Theological Seminary (Winter, 2010)

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Course Description

The goal of this course is for you (1) to gain a solid grasp of the basic questions, issues, and formulations in theological anthropology and Christology (2) to learn how to approach questions in theological anthropology and Christology from biblical, historical, and systematic theological perspectives; (3) to learn what are the important questions currently under discussion in contemporary anthropology and Christology; and (4) to think through the implications of theological anthropology and Christology for church life in general and pastoral ministry in particular.

Required Reading

Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*

Donald MacLeod, *The Person of Christ*

Charles Sherlock, *The Doctrine of Humanity*

St. Athanasius, *The Incarnation of the Word of God*

St. Cyril, *On the Unity of Christ*

John Calvin, *Institutes*, II. 6, 9, 12, 14-16 (available online if you do not own Calvin's *Institutes*)

Other (not required) readings on Anthropology and Christology

B. B. Warfield, *Person and Work of Christ*

G. C. Berkouwer and John Vriend, *The Person of Christ*

David F. Wells, *The Person of Christ: A Biblical and Historical Analysis of the Incarnation*

George Carey, *I Believe in Man*

Abraham Heschel, *Who is Man?*

Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*

St. Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Soul and the Resurrection*

Stephen Prothero, *American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon*

Course Requirements

Calvin questions (10%)—The questions are at the end of the syllabus

Anthropology essay (30%)—Students will write a 1,250-1,500 word essay. Describe a non-evangelical view of humanity and how you would answer it.

Christology essay (30%)—Students will write a 1,250-1,500 word essay. Describe a non-evangelical view of Jesus and how you would answer it.

Exam (30%)—The exam will cover the lectures and the readings.

Grading scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	00-59

Course Schedule

Theological Anthropology

- I. Introduction
- II. Image of God
 - A. Dimensions of the Imago Dei
 - B. Views on the Nature of Imago Dei
 - 1. substantive views
 - 2. relational views
 - 3. functional views
- III. Sin
 - A. View on “original righteousness”
 - B. origin of sin
 - C. nature of sin
 - D. original sin
 - 1. Theories of original sin
 - 2. views on the imputation of Adam’s sin
 - 3. Impact on humanity: original guilt and original corruption
 - 4. extent of depravity
 - 5. historical approaches
 - 6. transmission
- IV. Grace and Merit...and Human Nature

Christology

- I. Introduction: Relation between Anthropology and Christology
- II. Jesus Christ and Theology
- III. New Testaments Titles
 - A. Christ
 - B. Messiah
 - C. Lord
 - D. Son of Man
 - E. Son of God
 - F. God
- IV. Ecumenical Creeds: Christology in Crisis
 - A. Sabellius
 - B. Arius
 - C. Council of Nicea
 - D. Council of Chalcedon
 - E. Antiochene and Alexandrian Christologies
 - F. Hypostatic Union: Exploring the relation between Jesus being “fully man” and “fully God”
- V. Philippians 2:5-11 and Kenotic theory
- VI. Reformed Doctrine of Christ

Questions about the readings in Calvin's *Institutes*

Calvin, *Institutes* II. 6, 9, 12

1. Discuss briefly Calvin's assertion that "even the old covenant declared that there is not faith in the gracious God apart from the mediator."
2. What does Calvin mean when he says, "God has preferred us to the holy patriarchs"?
3. What are two reasons that Calvin says it was necessary that the mediator should be God and become man? Discuss briefly.

Calvin, *Institutes* II. 14-16

1. What does Calvin mean by the phrase "the communicating of properties"? Give an example.
2. Discuss briefly the blessings of Christ's kingly office.
3. What does Calvin mean by his statement that God "loved us even when he hated us"?