Systematic Theology Survey for Counseling Students
2ST501

Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando
Tuesday mornings 9:00am - 12:00pm
Fall Semester 2007
Instructor: Rev. Chuck DeGroat
Office Hours: By appointment
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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
Plantinga, Cornelius. Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin
Webber, Robert. The Divine Embrace

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.

3. **THE “BREAKFAST CLUB”:** While this class is scheduled to meet weekly from 8am-12pm, our course has been adjusted to start at 9am. Given this, the student will use the extra hour to meet with at least one other student outside of class for breakfast, lunch, coffee, etc., to talk out, process, and apply the concepts from the previous week of class. This may be done as an entire class, too. On the last class of the semester, you will be asked to make a verbal report of some of the significant insights of your groups.

4. **EXAM:** The final exam will consist of 25 concepts from the class that can be answered in short answer form (1-2 sentences max). The 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.

   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. Webber’s book should be completed ASAP.
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 25 points
Paper 25 points
Presentation 25 points
Final Exam 25 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@willowcreekchurch.org.

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

Format for the clinical assessment: Staple the paper in the upper left corner. DO NOT use a binder of any sort. Use a cover page with your name and the page number in the running head. Use a 12-point, black ink, Times New Roman font, double-spaced with
1” margins all around. Use headings from the outline above to organize your paper. The cover page is to look like this: