

ST 5201 -- THEOLOGY I: THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL
TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL
Extension Program at the Chapel in Hudson, OH
Dr. Henry M. Knapp, Instructor
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STUDENT SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Theology I: The God of the Gospel.
Course number: ST 5201
Credit hours: Three
Course dates/times: TBA.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Henry M. Knapp
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COURSE DESCRIPTION (from TEDS catalog)

ST 5201 Theology I: The God of the Gospel - 3 Hours

This course establishes the foundations for systematic theology, reflecting upon the triune God and the God-world relation. It introduces theological methodology and treats the doctrines of general and special revelation, particularly that of Holy Scripture. The course also engages theology proper (the divine perfections and personal attributes of the Holy Trinity) and the works of God in creating and providentially caring for the cosmos, including humans.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*. (chs, 1-30).
2. Kelly Kapic, *The Little Book for New Theologians*.
3. RC Sproul and Norman Geisler, *Explaining Biblical Inerrancy*. {available as pdf online}
4. JI Packer, *Knowing God*.
5. Gerald Bray, *The Doctrine of God*.
6. Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*.

COURSE EVALUATION

Overall assessment

The final grade for this course will be based upon the following elements:

1. Four reflection papers (20%)
2. Reading report (20%)
3. Biblical inerrancy paper (15%)
4. Packer reflection paper (15%)
5. Final assessment essays (30%)

NOTE: because of the accessibility of email, late papers for any reason will be automatically docked the equivalent of one letter grade.

Reflection papers. There are four (4) reflection papers. After each weekend, reflect on what we have discussed so far in the course. These notes should be worked on as soon after the classtimes as possible (emailed to me within seven days). They can easily take the form of random thoughts about the subject covered in class—bullet points, phrases, questions, comments, objections. Simply fill two to four pages (single-spaced) with your thoughts concerning the topics we have covered in class. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE CLASS!** Rather, I'm looking especially for your interaction with the topic—what did you see new? What didn't make sense? What objections could you, or someone else, have? Where might the teaching of the Bible here be helpful in ministry? Do not overthink these papers! They are simply to help you reflect (and to give me insight into your reflections) on the material. These papers can be very, very rough—I just want to be able to read them.

Reading report. Students will be asked to hand in a self-assessment concerning the amount of the assigned material actually read. The Reading Report is attached. Readings should be done in anticipation of the material covered in class. Following the Course Outline below will guide you.

Biblical inerrancy paper. Due two weeks after our last class. A 3-4 page (single-spaced) paper. List out texts which could be used to challenge the notion of inerrancy, explaining why; how might a supporter of inerrancy respond to the challenge; how does the Chicago Statement speak to this; how persuasive is the challenge and/or response?

Packer reflection paper. Due the last day of class together, this 4-5 page (single-spaced) reflection paper should focus on JI Packer's book, *Knowing God*. Just like the reflection papers above, **DO NOT SUMMARIZE** the work, but interact with it—what did you like, not like, find helpful, challenging? Your work should reflect that this is worth more points than a regular reflection paper.

Final Assessment essays. Due two weeks after our last class. Do *either* (a) or (b):

- (a) Choose a topic relevant to the class—check with me first! A list of possible paper topics will be available on request. The topics will correspond to those touched on during the class, however, necessary research will extend beyond classroom content. These papers must cover the material from a biblical perspective, though other extra-biblical insights, include the views of the author, are permissible and expected.

- (b) Answer, in short essays, eight-ten questions which will largely cover the topics touched on by the class. Questions will be handed out at the end of the last class. While not as much research is required here, much more personal interaction and argumentation is expected.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity. Deliberate infraction of Trinity's policy and guidelines regarding academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. For details about these general guidelines, you may see the student handbook. Failure to adhere to these guidelines, will result in failing the class. The handbook also spells out a grievance procedure to which you may refer as necessary.

Attendance (from TEDS). Students are required to attend **each and every** session throughout the entire course period. Due to the nature of Extension classes, attendance at all sessions is especially important with weekend courses. Missing even an hour of a weekend class means a significant portion of the required contact with the instructor and learning community has been lost. For this reason, students missing any portion (hours) of an Extension course can result in a grade reduction; missing more than one weekend class session **will** result in a grade reduction and possibly **failing** the course.

In the case of **extreme** emergency or unforeseen circumstances (family emergencies, death, etc.) the student should contact the instructor and secure the necessary permission to miss time in a class and make up the missed class time and assignments. Vacations, ministry responsibilities and travel plans are not considered emergencies and such requests will be denied. As the schedule for the Extension courses is set ahead of time, students should plan ahead to be sure they will be able to make it to all class sessions before they register. If the emergency necessitates a longer absence the student should contact the Dean of Students to request an extension of time, or in rare instances a withdrawal from the class without penalty.

Late Assignments. Because of the accessibility of email, late papers for any reason will be automatically docked the equivalent of one letter grade.

Computer policy. I strongly encourage all students to leave all laptops, tablets, etc. behind when they come to class. Contrary to what you might believe, you are not a master of multitasking. A bevy of neuroscientists, psychologists, and management experts converge in their judgment that multitasking and serious study don't mix (evidence for their conclusions are available on request). Russell Poldrack, prof of psychology at UCLA: "even if you can learn while distracted, it changes how you learn to make it less efficient and useful." NOTE: I am *not* officially banning computers (it's up to you whether you wish to bring them), but you are not permitted to check email, surf the web, game, or engage in any other activities not directly related to the class. Thanks.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

PROLEGOMENA

- I. The Importance of Prolegomena
- II. The Nature of Theology – The object, purpose, parts, and genus of theology
- III. The Method of Systematic Theology – Sources & the function of reason/philosophy
- IV. The *principia* of Theology

THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

- I. Revelation – General and Special (the question of natural theology)
- II. The Nature of Scripture
- III. The Character of Scripture
 - Inspiration; Inerrancy; Infallibility; Clarity; Necessity
- IV. The Authority of Scripture
- V. The Canon of Scripture
- VI. The Interpretation of Scripture
 - A. Authorial Intent ; The role of the Spirit ; The analogies of faith and Scripture
 - B. “Keys” to interpretation

THEOLOGY PROPER: THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

- I. The Nature, Existence, and Essence of God
 - The question of God’s existence ; The unity of God ; The name(s) of God
- II. The Character of God
 - A. Communicable attributes (justice, love, mercy, goodness)
 - B. Incommunicable attributes (infinity, immensity, eternity, immutability, simplicity)
 - C. The holiness of God
- III. The Holy Trinity
 - A. The biblical basis and historical development of the doctrine
 - B. The deity of the Son and Spirit
 - C. Essence, substance, subsistence, person, and *homoousion*

THE WORK OF GOD

- I. The God Who Wills: the decrees of God
- II. The God Who Acts

ANTHROPOLOGY AND HARMARTIOLOGY—REDEMPTION NEEDED

- I. Creation
- II. Providence
- III. The Creation of Man
 - The Image of God ; The Cultural Mandate
- IV. The Fall of Man
 - The consequences of sin ; The extensive and intensive nature of sin

THE PERSON OF CHRIST—THE REDEEMER

- I. The Deity of Christ
 - Biblical Evidence ; Relationship with the Father and Spirit ; Heresies
- II. The Humanity of Christ
 - Biblical Evidence ; Relationship with the rest of mankind ; Heresies
- III. Orthodox Formula... and Challenge

Reading Report

ST 5201—Theology I: The God of the Gospel

Name _____

Please, honestly, give the percentage of the reading requirements you have read for the term (100% means that you have read all the particular work, 50% means that you read half of it, etc.).

_____ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*. (chs, 1-30).

_____ Kelly Kapic, *The Little Book for New Theologians*.

_____ JI Packer, *Knowing God*.

_____ Sproul & Geisler, *Explaining Biblical Inerrancy*.

_____ Gerald Bray, *The Doctrine of God*.

_____ Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*.

Email to pastorknapp@hotmail.com

Or

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