A study of the Bible’s teaching concerning the nature, character and activity of the Godhead, and the inspiration and reliability of the Scriptures. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of the attributes of the Godhead and His Word in the life of the believer today.

Learning Outcomes
With the successful completion of this course it is expected that the student will be able to:

1. **Define** and **Recognize** the foundational issues, questions, and themes in the areas of Theology Proper and Bibliology.
2. **Identify** key Scriptural passages as they relate to Theology Proper and Bibliology.
3. **Critically** read and **evaluate** a basic theology text.
4. **Illustrate** how theology is of fundamental importance personally and to the wider of body of Christ; that is the church.
5. **Examine** and **Appraise** a key theological issue in proper research paper format.

Course Textbooks
Required:


Course Outline

I. Getting Started
   A. The Idea of Theology
   B. The Necessity of Theology
   C. The Method of Theology

II. Bibliology
   A. The Doctrine of Authority
   B. The Doctrine of Revelation
   C. The Doctrine of Inspiration
   D. The Doctrine of Inerrancy
E. The Doctrine of Illumination
F. The Doctrine of Animation
G. The Canon of Scripture

III. Theology Proper

A. The Existence and Knowability of God
   1. The Existence of God
   2. The Proofs of the existence of God
   3. The Knowability of God

B. The Attributes of God
   1. The Attributes in general
   2. The Incommunicable attributes
   3. The Communicable attributes

C. The Holy Trinity
   1. The Doctrine in history
   2. The Doctrine in modern times
   3. The Doctrine in Scripture

D. The Decrees of God
   1. The Doctrine of the decrees
   2. The Difficulties with the doctrine

E. Final Thoughts

Course Requirements

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Format Requirements for papers. Assignments will be graded on basis on content, clarity, grammar and spelling. Assignments will be due no later than 5:00pm on the assigned due date.

1. Video & Response (10%) Assignment Due: October 13th
   Students will go to http://vimeo.com/22301158 and watch this brief video. After watching respond in a 2 page paper. Identify five key points Harris makes about “Why Theology Matters” and then reflect on your own assumptions, apprehensions and perhaps misconceptions about theology as an area of study. Finally, respond to these two questions: ‘How do theology and discipleship interact?’ and ‘Why is theology necessary for discipleship?’

2. Critical Reading & Classroom Interaction (20%)
   Students will read sections of Wayne Grudem’s Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith. Students are expected and will be graded on complete reading, comprehension and interaction with the text. Students will highlight and comment in the textbook. The highlights and corresponding comments along with classroom interaction will indicate thoughtful and comprehensive reading. Please follow the reading log attached to the syllabus. Students will need to hand in the reading plan along with the textbook when this is complete on the final due date. Be sure to bring your Bible and Pocket Dictionary with you to each class as well.
3. Research Assignment: Part 1 (20%) Assignment Due: October 31st
Select one topic from the list below. Your 3-4 page paper needs to include a research question, preliminary thesis, table of contents, introduction (one paragraph), definition/summary of the issue at hand, the main position(s), main arguments used to support and/or counter the theological issue and a brief (one paragraph) conclusion. Only the basics of each topic need be covered. This assignment is intended to sharpen your research skills, practice formal paper writing and evaluate your theological thinking process.

4. Research Paper (50%) Assignment Due: December 18th
Select one (different) topic from the list below. The paper is to be a min of 8 pages in length and builds on the skills of the previous Research Assignment. The same outline applies to this paper as well. A minimum of five sources and eight footnotes are required.

   Research Guidance - A good place to research such information is in modern theological journals (Galaxie Theological Journals), be sure however that you get information from good sources. Note that dictionaries and the Bible do not count as sources.

   There are a lot of authors out there who just want to be heard so it is a good idea to read through a couple authors on one topic. Though this seems like a lot of work, the better you research the better you will understand the topic and the better your paper will be, resulting in a better mark. It is worth the time.

5. Final Exam (20%): December 19th

ATTENDANCE & LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:
Refer to the NBC Handbook 2017/2018

I am very willing to look at outlines, research questions, thesis statements, first drafts, research etc. prior to the due date. If you have questions please ask before the paper is due.

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY POLICY:
Electronic technology (i.e., laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc.) is not to be used to play games, web browsing, emails or text message during class time. Since technology can be used to enhance learning, discretion is left to the individual faculty whether they allow devices in the classroom. If devices become a distraction the student may be marked absent from class and/or no longer permitted to bring their electronic device to class.

LEARNING CLAUSE:
"If you are hindered in any way because of a learning disability please speak with the course instructor as soon as possible. It is their desire to develop strategies that accommodate your need and make your learning experience as rewarding as possible."
**Topic Options:** these are general questions to get you thinking in the right direction.

**Proof of Existence ‘Can I know God without reading the Bible?’**

Can God be proven without referencing Scripture? Outline the ‘rational arguments for the existence of God’ (Cosmological, Teleological, Ontological and Moral). Each argument should be thoroughly explained using illustrations where appropriate. Be sure to highlight historical supporters of the arguments as well as the typical criticism of each argument. Include an overall assessment of the limitations and value of the arguments.

**Open Theism ‘Does God know the future or not?’**

Open theism is the idea that God does not fully know the future because humans have not yet made the choices that will affect it. Outline the features of open theism and then discuss the supporters and opponents of the doctrine. Be sure to note the implications of open theism upon the omniscience of God. Is open theism an enlightening new paradigm, or merely an extreme form of Arminianism, or heresy?

**The Trinity ‘Isn’t the Trinity just Christians worshipping three gods?’**

What is meant by the term Trinity of God? What Scriptural evidence is there to support the belief that God is a Triune Being? What are the terms that have been used? What are the implications of accepting and rejecting the idea that God is a Triune Being? Are there any accusations made by other groups because of this doctrine?

**Providence and Prayer ‘Why should I pray, it isn’t going to affect what happens anyway?’**

Briefly outline the doctrine of God’s providence. What are the significant differences between the doctrine of providence from a Calvinist perspective and an Arminian perspective? How should the doctrine of God’s providence affect a Christian view of prayer?

**Jesus as the only way ‘Aren’t all religions just different ways to the same God?’**

Discuss what the Bible has to say about Jesus Christ as He relates to God’s provision of salvation for a lost world. Consider not only the direct statements of Scripture and what they mean (e.g., Jn 14:6) but also the less direct (but relevant) teachings of the Bible as it has bearing on this matter. Discuss the inclusivist and pluralist positions. How might the person of Christ (i.e., who He is by nature) and the work He was sent to accomplish relate to the issue? What implications follow if the position that Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father (i.e., an exclusivist position) is rejected? What areas of Christian faith and practice would be affected?

**Holy Spirit as a Person ‘How could a spirit actually be a person?’**

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is a person? What Biblical evidence is there to support the belief that the Holy Spirit is a person? What are the implications of accepting and rejecting the idea that the Holy Spirit is a person? Are there groups who reject the Holy Spirit as a person, and if so why do they reject the idea?

**Translation Issues ‘Don’t all of these different translations just show that Christians can’t agree on anything?’**

Some claim that the King James Version is the most accurate and reliable English translation of the Bible. Since the 1950s, the English Scriptures have gone through many changes and several versions have been introduced. Are the new English translations better than the Authorized Version? Are these translations as accurate as or more accurate than the KJV? Has the proliferation of English translations helped to clarify the gospel or created more confusion? Discuss today’s newer English translations and whether they are of value for today.

**Inerrancy and Infallibility ‘How can you trust a book that is so old and full of mistakes?’**

Most evangelicals claim to believe in the Scriptures which are inerrant. However, theologians differ on what is meant by this term. What is meant by the term ‘Biblical inerrancy’? What is the difference between ‘inerrancy’ and ‘infallibility’ and what are the implications of the different terms? Can you trust that the Bible you read is the Word of God?
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Chafer, Lewis Sperry, Systematic Theology. Dallas, Texas: Seminary Press, 1947. 230 Cha


Elson, Edward L. R., And He Still Speaks. Westwood, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell , 1960. 232.2 Els


Erickson, Millard J., Does It Matter If God Exists?. Grand Rapids, Mi: Baker Books, 1996. 231.044 Eri


Leithart, Peter J., Athanasius. Grand Rapids, Mi: Baker Academic, 2011. 270.2 Lei
Reeves, Michael, Delighting In The Trinity. Downers Grove, IL: Ivp Academic, 2012. 230 Ree


* There may be other relevant books and articles available to you that are not listed on the syllabus. This is a starting point.
# God & The Bible Reading Report

**Name:** ____________________________  **Date:** ____________________________

**Completed on Time:** Mark X  
**Completed Late:** Mark L  
**Incomplete:** Leave Blank

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<th>READING</th>
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<td>December 19th</td>
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A contemporary, foundational statement of classic reformed faith, now revised and updated. As theology, this work is an intellectual achievement. But it is much more than that. The author urges the church to undertake its task of theology in the proper spirit: - an attitude of prayer - a deepening sense of reverence - an ever-increasing purity of heart - a spirit of growing love - a theological approach rooted in the glory of God. Done in such a spirit, theology becomes a faithful and powerful witness to the living God. 2. US$ 48.99.