 ***Course Syllabus Spring 2021 (portuguese)***

**TH-780 – Advanced Theological methods – 4 Credit Hrs.**

Course Description

This course explores the formation and implementation of theological processes from the exegesis of biblical texts in hermeneutical methods to the contextualization of their theological message within a cohesive systematic theology. Prolegomena will be emphasized, exposing philosophical presuppositions regarding the various views on Scriptural authority and revelation, together with competing hermeneutical approaches influencing exegesis of Scripture. Historical criticism and biblical criticism will be examined within discourse theories. The interrelationships between Biblical Theology, Historical Theology, and Systematic Theology are explored to develop practical and coherent theological methods for the modern Church as it relates to Scripture, Christ, and culture.

Professor’s Additional Comment

Based upon your understanding of various disciplines of systematic theology, you will explore ways in which such systemized theological doctrines have been formulated in modern history. Such undertaking involves your critical reading of the assigned books and articles not only for conducting your own theological research, but also for preparing you to be competent interpreters and expositors of Scripture.

Class Location

On-line via Blue Jeans

Class Day/Time

Wednesdays, 7:00-10:00 pm, March 24–May 12, 2020 (Module 4)

Instructor’s Contact Information

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Prerequisites

TH-560 and RS-503; ThM only

Textbooks

Clark, David K. *To Know God and Love God: Theological Method*. Wheaton: CrosswayBooks, 2003. 455 pp. ISBN-13: 978-1433521898.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991. 261-317. ISBN-13: 978-0830828265.

Erickson, Millard J., et al. *Reclaiming the Center: Confronting Evangelical Accommodation in Postmodern Times*. Wheaton:Crossway Books, 2004. 365 pp. ISBN-13: 978-1581345681.

Beilby, James K. ed. *For Faith and Clarity: Philosophical Contributions to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006. 264 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0801027666.

Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008. 288 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0830837557.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *First Theology: God, Scripture & Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002. 373 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0830826810.

## **Required Articles**

Carson, D. A. “The Dangers and Delights of Postmodernism.” *Modern Reformation* 12, no. 4. (July/August 2003). http://www.modernreformation.org/default.php?page=

 articledisplay&var1=ArtRead&var2=281&var3=authorbio&var4=AutRes&var5=81

Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. “Standing Apart, Standing Together.” *Touchstone* 16, no. 6 (July/August 2003). <http://touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=16-06-070-f>

Stallard, Michael. “Literal Interpretation, Theological Method, and the Essence of

Dispensationalism,” *Journal of Ministry and Theology*1 (Spring 1997). <https://www.summitu.edu/Assets/uploads/Summit/import/www.bbc.edu/journal/volume1_1/literal_interpretation-stallard.pdf>.

**Recommended Textbooks**

Carson, D. A. *The Gagging of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Lindbeck, George. *The Nature of Doctrine: Religion and Society in a Postliberal Age*. Philadelphia: Westminster Knox Press, 1984.

Smith, R. Scott. *Truth and the New Kind of Christian: The Emerging Effects of Postmodernism in the Church*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.

Veeneman, Mary M. Introducing Theological Method: A Survey of Contemporary Theologians and Approaches. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.

White, Heath. *Postmodernism 101: A First Course for the Curious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Books, 2006

Williams, Rowan. *Why Study the Past?* *The Quest for the Historical Church*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0802829900

Woodbridge, John D. and Thomas McComisky, eds. *Doing Theology in Today’s World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.

Required Resources

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers. 9th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

Additional Tools for Learning

* Computer with basic audio and video equipment
* Internet access (broadband highly recommended)
* Microsoft Word

**Course Learning Outcomes**

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| --- | --- |
| **Course Learning Outcomes** | **Assessment Instruments** |
| ***This course contributes to the accomplishment of the graduate Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) by enabling students to:*** | ***The means for evaluating success in achieving these objectives are:*** |
| 1. To identify, describe, and explain the significance of theological presuppositions when doing theology.  | * Reading Reports
* Discussion Board
* Research Paper
* Final Exam
 |
| 2. To define the various theological terms associated with the methods when exploring biblical theology and systematic theology.  |
| 3. To explain the significance of integration of biblical and non-biblical elements such as philosophy, culture, and tradition in the theological process, including historical criticism and biblical criticism. |
| 4. To adopt, adapt, or develop a proposed theological method in conducting his or her theological research.  |
| 5. To critically evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of a particular theological method adopted by any given theologian. |
| 6. To incorporate the above elements into a cohesive biblical and systematic theology.  |

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

**A. Pre-session Quiz: Definitions of Related Terms (50 points - 5%)**

The quiz is due a day before the first class date. Most of you, if not all, are familiar to the following theological terms. You will define, at least in one paragraph, these terms related to this course (feel free to consult sources while taking the quiz):

Theological Method, Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, Postmodernism, Covenant and Dispensational Theologies, Foundationalism, Fundamentalism, Evangelicalism, Liberalism, Liberation Theology, Modernism, Historical-Critical Method, Scholasticism/Scholastic Theology.

**B. Reading (150 points - 15%)**

Read the required textbooks and the instructor’s handouts and notes for the course as assigned in the Course Schedule. The schedule for this reading is set up so that you will have read the portions before they are discussed in class and you will thus be better prepared to participate in class discussions. A reading report is due by the end of the final session indicating the actual percentage of your reading of each textbook reported individually; e.g. 100% of Osborne, 85% of Packer; 80% of Vanhoozer.

**C. Reading Response & Tutorials (300 points - 30%)**

There are four reading tutorials. You must submit your Reading Response (500 words) directly to the Professor. Your response is to be based on your reading of assigned chapters of the given author’s work as indicated in the Course Schedule table below. The reading response must include a brief summary (synopsis) of the major argument of the author, strengths or weaknesses, and a discussion of one or two points from which you gained insights for doing theology.

**D. Research Paper: An Evaluation of Theological Method (250 points - 25%)**

One of the primary goals of this course is to assist the student to conduct a biblically sound theological research which involves a proper theological methodology that emphasizes the biblical integration and the critical assessment of the contemporary culture. In order to enhance the student’s ability to critically engage in the theological process, this course requires students to write a research paper on theological method of a theologian. As part of learning about theological methods, it is important for the student to be aware of the approaches and methods of other theologians, and to learn to critically evaluate their approaches to doing theology.

The student must select three theologians from the list of theologians whose name are marked with an asterisk in the Course Bibliography and inform his choices in writing to the professor by the end of the first session. Professor will then assign a particular theologian for each student so that no two students write on the same theologian. The suggested title of the paper is “Theological Method of x (the selected theologian’s name).” In this paper, the student will critically evaluate the theological method of the assigned theologian. The research paper should be up to 25 pages long, double-spaced, one-inch margins according to Turabian format with a title page and table of content. You are to type using the twelve-point Times Roman font. All citations must be properly footnoted, and failure to cite your sources constitutes plagiarism and is grounds for the immediate failure of the course. A high quality of writing—including structure, word selection, grammar and style, etc.—is expected.

The paper should deal with the following areas:

Part 1

1. The presuppositions of the particular theologian;

2. The explanation and evaluation of the theological method of the theologian in the light of his/her theological method (or an exemplar method which the student learn from the course);

3. The hermeneutical approach of the theologian;

Part 2

4. How the theologian integrates or correlates his theology with biblical passages and extra-biblical disciplines. Determine whether his view accurately handles the biblical text and explain your answer, giving specific evidence. Identify points where you don’t believe he has accurately described the doctrines of Scripture;

5. The theologian’s central interpretive motif.

**E. Presentation of Theological Method Paper (15%)**

The student will present his/her evaluation on the theological method of a theologian to other students in class live. It’s imperative that you plan ahead and set aside the designated time slot on one of these dates so you can get a proper credit on your presentation (Please contact your professor if you have any scheduling conflict). The presenter will be required to prepare an outline of his paper so that other students can follow along. A question-and-answer session follows after the presentation. Each student must raise at least one question to the presenter and the presenter is expected to answer the questions in a competent fashion.

**F. Final Draft Research Paper (10%)**

This will be your final product of your research which reflects any issues and recommendations made by your peers and the professor on your first draft and during your presentation of the paper. The point value will be determined solely based on the way you would have made any improvement over the first draft and your effort to implement positive input made by your peer and the professor.

**Course Grading & Policy**

Pre-Session Quiz 50 points

Reading 150

Reading Response & Discussion Board (5 x 60) 300

1st Draft Research Paper (Part 1: 125; Part 2: 125) 250

Presentation of Research Paper 150

Final Draft Research Paper 100

Total 1000 points

The final grade is calculated as a weighted average. That is, one point on any of the items noted in the paragraph above is worth as much as one point on any other item. The total points are tallied and then the percentage grade is figured based on the total points possible.

**Course Schedule**

| Week | Date | Session Content | Assignment Due |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | March 24 |  | * Pre-session Quiz: Definition of Related Theological Terms
 |
| 1 | March 31 | * Orientation to the Course
* Christian Theology: Its Development and Context
* Basics in Doing Theology
* Presuppositions
* Proper Theological Method
 | Due 08/17 * Reading: Clark, Chapters 1-2; Vanhoozer, Chapters 1-4.
* Discussion Board 1

Part 1: Meet & GreetPart 2: Reading Response on Clark Chapter 2 * Selection & professor’s approval of a theologian
 |
| 2 | April 7 | * Fundamentalism
* Postmodernism and Theology
* Conservative Evangelicalism
* Post-conservative evangelicalism
 | Due 8/21; 8/24* Reading: Carson’s Article,“The Dangers and Delights . . .”; Clark Chapters 3-4.
* Discussion Board 2: Reading Response on Carson
 |
| 3 | April 14 | * Biblical Theology
* Scripture and Theology: Biblical Integration
* Hermeneutical Approaches in Doing Theology
 | Due 8/28; 8/31* Reading: Vanhoozer, Part 2 (chapters 5-6); Osborne, chapter 16 Systematic Theology; Stallard’s Article: “Literal Interpretation . . .”; Erickson, Chapters 6-8 (Part 3 Theological Method)
* Discussion Board 3: Reading Response on Vanhoozer Part 2 (chapters 5-6)
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| 4 | April 21 | * Central Interpretive Motif
* Systematic Theology
* Categorization/Systemization
 | Due 9/4; 9/7* Reading: Clark, Chapters 5-9; Mohler’s Article: “Standing Apart, Standing Together”
* Discussion Board 4: Reading Response on Mohler
 |
| 5 | April 28 | * Integration of Extra-biblical Elements into Theology
* Contextualization
 | Due 9/11; 9/14* Reading: Beilby, chapters 1-11
* Part 1: Elements of Methodology Paper
 |
| 6 | May 5 | * Historical Theology and Biblical Theology
* Historical and Biblical Criticism
* Theological Methods
 | Due 9/18; 9/21* Reading: Vanhoozer, Part 3 (chapters 7-12)
* First Draft of Methodology Paper (This is the combination of Part 1 and Part 2)
 |
| 7 | May 12 | * Analysis of Theological Methods
* Student’s Presentation of Methodology Paper
 | Due 9/25; 9/28* Clark & Feinberg, pp. 319-424; Crouch, Part 1 Culture (chapters 1-5)
* Discussion Board 5: Reading Response on Crouch
 |
| 8 | May 19 | * Student’s Presentation of the Methodology Paper
* Conclusions
 | Due 10/6* Reading Percentage Report

Due 10/11* Final Draft of Methodology Paper
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For additional assistance or more information on degree plans or future courses that GRACE may offer, please contact your academic advisor. You may find information on your academic advisor in Populi. If you have ministry, personal, or spiritual issues you wish to discuss, please feel free to contact me, or, you may contact the Student Services Department. All information shared in such cases will be held in the strictest confidence.

**Attendance Policy**

Grace School of Theology believes that interaction between the professor and students is a vital part of training. This interaction may occur in the classroom and/or online. All classes utilize Canvas as the online Learning Management System (LMS), whether the student is attending in the classroom, only online, or a blend of both. All students are expected to participate in/attend the course weekly. Faculty prepare assignments that are typically due on a weekly basis. Attendance at Grace is defined as academic participation in the coursework such as

1. attending class (on-ground) and/or watching the lectures in Canvas (online),

2. discussion boards (DB)

3. completing tests and quizzes, and,

4. submitting any other assignments as required in the course syllabus.

Note: Student communication (email or texting) to the professor does not, in itself, constitute attendance.

If a student has planned absences for personal reasons, they should notify their professor as soon as it is known so that the student can work ahead and not fall behind. Professors will take into account personal, family emergencies, but it is the student’s responsibility to notify the professor as soon as possible of any potential disruption in their studies.

*Module Classes (8-weeks)*

Students enrolled in modular classes (8-weeks) who do not attend (as defined above) for 14 days in succession will receive a final grade of F/A (Failure to Attend) for the class.

*Semester Classes (16 weeks)*

Those students enrolled in semester-long classes who do not attend for 21 days in succession will receive the same final grade of F/A.

Note: A student’s GPA and financial aid benefits (if applicable) will be affected when a student receives the F/A grade. The professor determines attendance and is responsible for reporting attendance to the Registrar on a weekly basis.

*Intensive Classes (3-5 days within a Module)*

Intensives are defined as the presentation of lectures with appropriate assignments within an 8-week Module, condensed for 3-5 days. Professors who teach intensive courses determine attendance and are responsible for reporting attendance to the Registrar on a regular basis. Student communication (email or texting) to the professor does not, in itself, constitute attendance. Students enrolled in an intensive who do not attend (as defined above) for 14 days in succession will receive a final grade of F/A (Failure to Attend) for the class. A student’s GPA and financial aid benefits (if applicable) will be affected when a student receives the F/A grade.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential in our quest for truth and the student’s spiritual formation. Any student proven to have committed any type of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, or falsifying information will receive disciplinary action. The degree of discipline will depend on the severity and pattern of the offense. The first infraction of academic integrity will result in either an automatic zero for the assignment or, at the discretion of the faculty member, the resubmission of the assignment with a grade reduction. The second infraction will result in automatic failure of the course. The third infraction will result in academic dismissal. A year from the dismissal, the student may be readmitted to his or her program on the condition that any further infraction will result in immediate and permanent expulsion from school.

**In order to assure originality of your writing and enhance your critical thinking skill, Grace utilizes *Turnitin*, a Canvas imbedded third-party software that detects and reports cases of plagiarism in your written assignments to your professor.**

**Late Assignment Policy**

No late assignment will be accepted for the sake of fairness to the students and the professors who will have their assignments already reviewed and in most cases discussed in class based on their due dates. The only exception to this policy will be made for students who are under extenuating circumstances beyond their control. When extreme circumstances occur, students are responsible to contact the professor to make alternate arrangements at his or her discretion.

**Explanation of Letter Symbols**

**A** Work of exceptional quality.

**B** Work of commendable quality. Commendable means praiseworthy.

**C** Work of an acceptable but not distinguished quality. Such work is deemed a satisfactory and adequate completion of the course objectives.

**Letter and Numerical Grade Scale**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A + 99-100 | B+ 91-93 | C+ 83-85 | D+ 75-77 | F 0-77 | I Incomplete | AUD Audit |
| A 96-98 | B 88-90 | C 80-82 | D 72-74 | WP\*  | IP Class in Progress |  |
| A- 94-95 | B- 86-87 | C- 78-79\*\*\* | D- 70-71 | WF\*\* | F/A Failure to Attend  |   |

\* Withdrawal during the first nine weeks of a 16-week course or first five weeks of an 8-week course.

\*\* Withdrawal after the first nine weeks of a 16-week course or first five weeks of an 8-week course.

**\*\*\*** C- is the lowest passing grade at the graduate level.

**Disability Disclosure**

Disabled students who desire accommodation for their disability must self-identify as an individual with a disability and provide appropriate information that substantiates the disability to the Student Services Department. Once confirmed, the Academic Affairs Department will then assess the impact of the disability on the student’s academic program and record the required academic accommodations. Instructors are not required to provide accommodation for disability without proper approvals from Grace administration. Students are encouraged to read the Grace Catalog which contains more information about the Reasonable Accommodation Policy and the Disability Access Policy.

**Course Materials**

Any instructional materials such as the instructor’s video lectures, course notes, and Power Point slides that are made available for the student either in classroom or online must not be shared with any individual or group of people outside the class. They must not be posted on the web or published in any fashion without a written permission from the professor.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Aichele, George and Richard Walsh, eds. Screening Scripture: Intertextual Connections Between Scripture and Film. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2002.

\*Bloesch, Donald G. *A Theology of Word and Spirit: Authority & Method in Theology.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1992.

\*Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology.* Grand Rapids, MI.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1939, p. 19-46.

Bingham, Jeffrey D, and Glenn R. Kreider, eds. Dispensationalism and the History of Redemption: A Developing and Diverse Tradition. Chicago: Moody, 2015.

\*Buswell, J. Oliver. *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*. Vol. 1, Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 1962, p. 13-220.

\*Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Vol. 1. Book One: The Knowledge of God the Creator. Library of Christian Classics, Vol. XX edited by John T. McNeill, Translated and Indexed by Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.

Carson, D. A. *The Gagging of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. 569

Dark, David. *Everyday Apocalypse*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2002.

\*Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. I: Prolegomena, Bibliology, Theology Proper. Dallas, TX.: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947.

\*Demarest, Bruce and Lewis, Gordon. *Integrative Theology*. Vol. I. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

\*Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998, p. 11-174.

———. *Where Is Theology Going?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

\*Finney, Charles. *Finney’s Systematic Theology*. Abridged reprint ed., Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, 1976.

Fischer, John. *Finding God Where You Least Expect Him*. Eugene OR: Harvest House, 2003.

Gaebelein, Frank. *The Christian, the Arts, and Truth: Regaining the Vision of Greatness*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1985.

Godawa, Brian. *Hollywood Worldviews: Watching Films with Wisdom and Discernment*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

\*Grudem, Wayne . *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994, p. 15-43.

Hirsch, E.D. *Validity in Interpretation*. Yale University Press, 1967.

\*Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. I. Reprint ed., Grand Rapids, MI.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1982, p. 1-188.

\*Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority Vol. I: God Who Speaks and Shows*, Preliminary Considerations. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1976; Reprint ed., Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1999.

Jacobs, Alan. *Shaming the Devil: Essays in Truthtelling*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004.

Johnson, Elliot. *Expository Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Johnson, Todd E., and Dale Savidge. *Performing the Sacred: Theology and Theatre in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Johnston, Robert K., ed. *Reframing Theology and Film: New Focus for an Emerging Discipline*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Joseph, Mark. *Faith, God, and Rock and Roll: How People of Faith Are Transforming American Popular Music*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003.

\*Kantzer, Kenneth S. “Systematic Theology as a Practical Discipline” in *Doing Theology for the People of God: Studies in Honor of J. I. Packer*, Eds. Donald Lewis andAlister McGrath. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996, 21-41.

\*Küng, Hans. *Theology for the Third Millennium: An Ecumenical View*. Translated by Peter Heinegg. New York: Doubleday, 1988.

\*McComiskey, Thomas Edward, and Woodbridge, John D., eds. *Doing Theology in Today’s World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

\*McGrath, Alister E. *The Genesis of Doctrine: A Study in the Foundation of Doctrinal Criticism.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

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McGrath, Alister E. Theology: The Basic Readings. 3 rd ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2018

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1986.

\*Noble, Paul R. *The Canonical Approach: A Critical Reconstruction of the Hermeneutics of Brevard S. Childs.* New York: E. J. Brill, 1995.

\*Oden, Thomas C. *The Living God, Systematic Theology: Volume One*. Peabody, MA: Prince Press, 1998, p. 317-404.

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Reinhartz, Adele. *Scripture on the Silver Screen*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

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Wood, Ralph C. *The Gospel According to Tolkien: Visions of the Kingdom in Middle-Earth*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible’s Grand Narrative.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006.