 ***Course Syllabus Spring 2022***

**TH-563 Basis of Free Grace Theology (3 Credit Hours)**

Course Description

This course examines the major doctrines of Free Grace Theology in comparison with Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Calvinist, and Arminian theologies. The emphasis will be upon the divergent views of justification, faith, anthropology, hamartiology, sovereignty and providence, predestination and free will in relation to divine election, eternal security and assurance of salvation, the extent of Christ’s propitiation, the process of sanctification, and God’s payment (“rewards”) and punishment of Christians.

Class Location

3705 College Park Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77384 via Blue Jeans.

Online only lectures with LifeSize Video and Live Interactive Video Conference for class discussions each week.

**NOTE: The first lecture should be viewed PRIOR to the first class discussion and assignments are due PRIOR to the first class discussion.**

Class Day/Time

Wednesdays, 8:00–9:00 pm CT, March 23–May 11, 2021 (Module 4)

Instructor’s Contact Information

Kenneth Wilson, M.D., D. Phil.

Office Location: Woodlands Main Campus

Office Hours: By appointment for phone conversations. Available via e-mail within 24 hours on weekdays.

Instructor’s Phone Number: (971)-284-0696 (This will not receive as fast of a response.)

Instructor’s Email Address: kwilson@gsot.edu (This contact method is better.)

Prerequisites

TH 560 & RS 503

Required Resource Purchases

Anderson, David.*Free Grace**Soteriology*. Third edn. Grace Theology Press, 2019. ISBN- 97-8163296304813.

Basinger, David, and Randall Basinger. *Predestination & Free Will*. IVP Academic, 1986. ISBN: 0877845670

Beilby, James, and Paul Eddy. *Divine Foreknowledge: Four Views*, InterVarsity Press, 2001. ISBN: 0830826521

Chay, Fred, and John Correia. *The Faith that Saves*: *The Nature of Faith in the* *New Testament*, Grace Line, Inc. 2008. ISBN: [9781620324172](http://www.abebooks.com/products/isbn/9781620324172/8406476387)

Dillow, Joseph. *Final Destiny*, Grace Theology Press, 2013. ISBN: 098841127X, 9780988411272

McArthur, John, Jr. *Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles*. W Pub Group, 1993. ISBN: 0849908418

Pink, A.W. *The Sovereignty of God*. 1930. Reprint, Baker Books, 2004. ISBN: 0801070880 Available in Canvas free (see link).

Pinson, J. Matthew, ed. *Four Views on Eternal Security*, Zondervan, 2002. ISBN: 0310234395

Wilson, Kenneth. *The Foundation of Augustinian Calvinism.* Regula Fidei Press, 2019.

 Kindle ISBN: 9781082800351

Wilson, Kenneth. *Heresy of the Grace Evangelical Society: Become a Christian without Faith in*

*Jesus as God and Savior*. Regula Fidei Press, 2021. ISBN: 979-8585963391

Required Resources

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Optional Resources:

Bing, Charlie. *Lordship Salvation: A Biblical Evaluation and Response*. 2nd ed. Xulon Press, 2010. Pages 1-59. ISBN: 9781609575809. Available to read on the Grace Life website for free at http://www.gracelife.org/resources/dissertation/dissertation revN.pdf.

Additional Tools for Learning

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

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Learning Outcomes** | **Assessment Instruments** |
| ***Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:*** | ***The means for evaluating success in achieving these objectives are:*** |
| 1. *Articulate* an informed and coherent biblical theological method. (PO 4 & 5) |  Reading Reports Discussion Board Research Paper Final Exam |
| 2. *Evaluate* the strengths and weaknesses of various theological systems—including Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Calvinist, and Arminian—as they relate to soteriology. (PO 4 & 5) |
| 3. *Explain* the impact of sin on creation, including traditional original sin, Augustinian original sin, and current sin in believers and unbelievers. (PO 4 & 5) |
| 4. *Understand* the relationship between the work of Christ and the salvation of humankind. (PO 2 & 4)Explain the meaning of key difficult Bible passages and assess the strengths and weaknesses of differing views.  |
| 5. *Recognize* the impact of theology and specific doctrines on one’s personal life. (PO 2)  |
| 6. *Appreciate* the relationship between one’s theology and a biblical worldview. (PO 1, 2, & 5) |
| 7. *Identify* the biblical essentials of the Gospel message for justification and sanctification.(PO 2 & 4) |
| 8. *Identify* various postmodern influences on the Gospel message. (PO 1) |

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| --- | --- |
| 9. *Define* the nature of faith that saves in both justification and sanctification. (PO 2, 4, & 5) |  Reading Reports Discussion Board Research Paper Final Exam |
| 10. *Understand* the differences between Free Grace salvation (Grace justification/Lordship sanctification) and Lordship salvation (Lordship justification). (PO 2 & 5) |
| 11. *Articulate* the weaknesses of current Protestant soteriologies historically and biblically. (PO 2, 4, & 5) |
| **Affective Outcomes** |
| 6. *Apply* the principles learned in this class to one’s personal spiritual life as well as *identify* how one could utilize the skills learned in this class to help others in the local church become more like Christ. (PLO 1, 2, & 5) | * Discussion Board
* Research Paper
 |

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

**A. Reading (11%) 110 points**

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 on the day assigned indicating the actual percentage of your reading of the Bible and the textbooks; e.g. 100% of Anderson, 85% of Chay; 80% of Dillow. This **MUST** be reported exactly as stated above in order to receive credit (“Reading 100%” = 0).

**B. Discussion Board (20%) 200 points**

The student must participate in seven discussion board forums. Each student must post the answers within the range of word count specified for the given questions (300 words). He or she must also post one substantial comment to the responses of two other students with respect to that question (100 words each). The student will post his comments online on the week the discussion is due. The student is responsible for reading all of the posted comments each week, which have been posted by all other students or by the instructor. Two responses will be made to other students. The responses are to be thoughtful, edifying, and cordial discussions that are directly related to the topic under consideration.

**C. Quizzes (16%) 160 points**

There will be eight quizzes given during the module covering the lectures and reading material. These are provided in the lectures.

**D. Final Exam (27%) 270 points**

Students will complete a final examination in this course. It will be composed of objective questions and essay questions. The exam is an open Bible, ninety (90) minute, on-line exam, without any open notes or other sources (no margin notes in the Bible). The exam must be completed in one sitting. This is a difficult exam and you will need to know the material well to complete it in time.

**E. Research Paper (26%) 260 points**

Select a topic related to the course material, have it approved by the professor in writing, and write a theological argument defending your position. The topic **MUST** be in the form of a single question to answer. This paper will be 8 pages in length, excluding only the cover page and outline, in Turabian format. Use one-inch margins, Times New Roman font (size 12) and double-space your paper. Do not place extra lines between paragraphs. Use footnotes, not endnotes. Use the following outline.

1. Introduction - A discussion of the issue at hand with a brief summary (one paragraph) of each of the major viewpoints. Make sure you include a clearly stated thesis statement and outline of where you are headed in your paper. DO NOT “draw in” the readership with fluff like a sermon – get to the point.

2. Key Passages - An overview of the various passages of Scripture relevant to the issue, with a discussion of how each passage supports your view.

3. Interaction with other literature - An overview and critique of the various opposing views from other sources. You MUST cite ten different authors with sources in your paper.

4. Your interpretation - A statement and defense of your own position on the issue.

5. Application - A short final paragraph showing how your conclusion impacts your walk with Christ.

6. Include a Works Cited section at the end of your paper - not a bibliography. You must have at least 10 different reference sources that you cite in the paper with ten different authors.

Papers over 12 pages (including the cover page, outline, and bibliography) will NOT be accepted. Criteria for grading will include depth of research, amount of apparent effort, accuracy and completeness in argumentation and conclusions, clarity of expression, and neatness in presentation. **You must have your topic approved in writing by the professor or NO credit will be given.** Each part of your paper should be submitted SEPARATELY EACH WEEK. Each section must be submitted separately WITHOUT combining it with prior submissions. (E.g., Do not submit the outline and the bibliography together on one document, or Introduction and Part 1 together.) The bibliography must have a minimum of ten different authors for references. Make sure you include a clearly stated thesis statement and outline of where you are headed in your paper. This is an academic paper – do not "draw in the audience" like a sermon with a long introduction. See the Outline Example in Canvas for expected details in this outline. The 8 pages do not include the bibliography, outline, etc. The revised final paper (corrected) **MUST** have my corrections highlighted in yellow background to receive credit.

**Course Grading & Policy**

Reading 110 points

Discussion Board Forum (8) 200

Research Paper 260

Quizzes (8) 160

Final Exam 270

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: Note Class Discussions only

| Week | Date | Session Content | Assignment Due*all assignments are due at 11:59 pm CT* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Mar 23 | *Faith and Justification:* Discussion of faith in the NT, early Christianity, Reformation, and modern claims about faith. Discussion on Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant views of justification with their requirements for final salvation that require good works for heaven.  | **March 18** Read *Anderson*, “Justification”  95-109 and “Faith” 161-184• *Chay*  *and Correia* (13-161) Reading Percentage Report 1 due**March 19** Discussion Board 1 post due **March 20** Quiz 1 due  **March 21** Discussion Board 1 response due  March 22 Research Paper topic due  |
| 2 | Mar 30 | ***Faith & Justification cont’d;*** ***Anthropology & Hamartiology:*** Continued review of modern errors on justification and faith, including Lordship justification. Discussion on varying views of the nature of humanity, original sin, the sin nature, and human depravity with an emphasis on Augustine’s errors.  | **March 25** Read *Anderson*, "Sinfulness of  Man" 25-46 • *MacArthur*,21-71* Reading Percentage Report 2 due

**March 26** Discussion Board 2 post due**March 27** Quiz 2 due  **March 28** Discussion Board 2 response due March 29 Research Detailed Outline due |
| 3 | Apr 6 | ***Sovereignty and the Will of God:***Exploration of historical and biblical views on God’s sovereignty and providence as it relates to humanity with emphasis on Augustine’s reinterpretation of their meanings.Understanding the biblical view on the will of God.  | **Apr 1** Read Pink,11-163• *Beilby* and *Eddy*,7-134 (first two views) Reading Percentage Report 3 due**Apr 2** Discussion Board 3 post due**Apr 3** Quiz 3 due **Apr 4** Discussion Board 3 response due Apr 5 Research Bibliography due |
| 4 | Apr 13 | ***Foreknowledge, Election, and Free Will*:** Discussion of the historical and biblical views on God’s foreknowledge, particularly in relationship to election and free will.  | **April 8** Read *Wilson,* (all)• *Beilby* and *Eddy*, 137-281 (last 2 views)  *Basinger*, all of it Reading Percentage Report 4 due**April 9** Discussion Board 4 post due**April 10** Quiz 4 due **April 11** Discussion Board 4 response due April 12 Research Introduction due  |
| 5 | Apr 20 | ***Predestination:*** Analysis of the four main views of predestination and the problems with each.  | **April 15**  Read *Anderson*, "Eternal Security"  185-220 • *Pinson*, all of itReading Percentage Report 5 due**April 16** Discussion Board 5 post due**April 17** Quiz 5 due  **April 18** Discussion Board 5 response due **April 19 Research Paper Part 1 due**  |
| 6 | Apr 27  | ***Eternal Security and Assurance:*** Discussion of the major views on eternal security, and whether assurance of final salvation is possible.  | **April 22** Read *Dillow*, 761-811, 889-936 Reading Percentage Report 6 due**April 23** Discussion Board 6 post dueA**pril 24** Quiz 6 due **April 25**  Discussion Board 6 response due April 26 Research Paper Part 2 due  |
| 7 | May 4  | ***Payment and Punishment of Believers; Propitiation:*** Evaluates the “rewards” and punishments God uses to repay believers. Examination of the extent of Christ’s propitiation and atonement. | **April 29** Read *Dillow*, 937-1017 Reading Percentage Report 7 due**April 30** Discussion Board 7 post due**May 1** Quiz 7 due **May 2**  Discussion Board 7 response due May 3 Research Conclusion due  |
| 8 | May 11 | ***Salvation; Types of Salvation;******Review; Conclusions:*** Explores justification, sanctification, glorification, and restoration, analyzing their modern conflation.  | **May 7**  Read *Anderson*, "Salvation OT" 47- 64; Wilson, *Heresy of the GES,* and *JBL* 139.2 “Reading James 2”  Reading Percentage Report 8 due**May 8** Discussion Board 8 post due**May 9** Quiz 8 due **May 10** Discussion Board 8 response due May 11 Final Collated Paper Due  May 13 Final Exam due  |
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**NOTE: If a discrepancy arises between the canvas schedule and this syllabus on any assignment or due date, this syllabus is always correct. Canvas will be wrong.**

**Advising**

If you have ministry, personal, or spiritual issues you wish to discuss, please feel free to contact the Student Services Department staff.  All information shared with staff in such cases will be held in the strictest confidence.

Initial academic advisement for new students’ first semester is available through the Student Services’ personnel who will guide the student toward course registration. Once admitted, the Registrar assigns a faculty-qualified Academic Advisor to each student based on his or her enrolled program, language of study, and location. The name and contact information for the Academic Advisor is communicated to the student in the Registrar’s initial acceptance email. All students are encouraged to seek out their Academic Advisor in planning their educational program.

Academic Advisors counsel students on the best sequencing of their course selections based on each student’s unique personal needs and help them prepare to complete their chosen academic program within the stated time limit. Each student is responsible for being familiar with and following (as much as is possible) the recommended course sequence for their academic program. Course Progression Charts are found below in this Catalog and are available from the assigned Academic Advisor, appropriate Dean, and/or Registrar.

Academic Advisors have access to students’ files that displays contact information, current degree plan and degree audit, a history of documents archived, and comments made to the student since they first applied. Because advisors have years of ministerial experience and are expected to demonstrate a servant’s heart, Academic Advisors are encouraged to offer prayer and counsel as the Holy Spirit leads.

**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 synchronously (live) via Canvas/BlueJeans
2. discussion boards (DB)
3. completing tests and quizzes
4. submitting any other assignments as required in the course syllabus

Clarifications:

1. Student communication (email or texting) to the professor does not in itself constitute attendance.
2. Those who are unable to watch videos synchronously must submit at least one of the required assignments to Canvas to be considered as attended.
3. Watching videos asynchronously will not be used as a basis for attendance unless the class requires its students to report their watching to Canvas in a verifiable manner.

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.

If a student does not attend a course for the first two weeks they will automatically be dropped by the Registrar. Their tuition will be refunded but the Administration Fee and Technology Fee are non-refundable.

If a student stops attending, then the Registrar will apply the Attendance Policy to determine the last date of attendance and will assign the notation F/A (Failure to Attend) to the student’s record. Students who do not use the Withdrawal Drop Form are not eligible to receive any refunds.

*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**

*Plagiarism*

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as “taking and using as one’s own the writings or ideas of another.” Plagiarism includes failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source, paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is, and/or letting another person compose or rewrite a student’s written assignment.

*Anti-Plagiarism*

Grace utilizes anti-plagiarism software within the Canvas LMS. Assignments submitted by students will be checked by the Turnitin software to look for content that is copied from other primary sources or other students’ work. Professors will then look for proper footnoted citations in Turabian format.

*Falsifying Information*

Falsifying information includes submitting another’s work as one’s own, or otherwise providing false or misleading documentation.

*Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty*

During examinations, academic dishonesty includes referring to written information not specifically permitted by the instructor or syllabus, receiving unauthorized written or oral information from a fellow student or proctor and/or stealing, buying, selling, or transmitting a copy of any examination.

Any student proven to have committed a type of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, or falsifying information will result in disciplinary action depending on its severity and pattern. First infraction of academic integrity will result either an automatic zero for the assignment or, at the discretion of the faculty member, resubmission of the assignment with a grade reduction. Second infraction will result in automatic failure of the course. Third infraction will result in academic dismissal. After one year from the dismissal, the student may be readmitted to his or her program on the condition that any further infraction results immediate and permanent expulsion from school.

**Late Assignment Policy**

Each assignment submitted up to one week after the published due date will be graded down 10%.

Each assignment submitted more than 1 week late, but not more than 2 weeks late will be graded down 20%. 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 before the due date for the given assignment to make alternate arrangements at the professor’s 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    0-69  | 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.

\*\*\*   D- is the lowest passing grade at the undergraduate level.

\*\*\*\* C- is the lowest passing grade at the graduate level (not including ThM).

\*\*\*\*\* B- is the lowest passing grade at the doctoral level and in the ThM graduate program.

**Disability Access Policy**

The Disability Access Policy aims to remove administrative, procedural, and physical barriers that prevent equal access to services for people with disabilities. It is designed to reflect the Seminary’s commitment to independent access for all staff, faculty, students, board members, donors, and members of the community. The policy aims to integrate an awareness of disability issues into policies, practices and procedures in all areas of service provision. It also gives some guidance as to how this might be achieved and links to other polices and strategies where appropriate. It aims to improve access, prevent discriminatory practices and ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

This policy supports a social model view of disability where disability is defined as the loss or limitation of opportunity to take part in society on an equal level due to barriers in society and/or the environment.

*General Principles*

It is the Seminary’s policy to:

* Actively promote disability awareness and equality ensuring that it continues to be an integral part of our strategy, service delivery and future developments.
* Continue to audit current provision to ensure that the best opportunities are taken to improve physical access to premises, the built, transport and rural environments, and prioritize future works and refurbishments.
* Be aware that any change in services might have an effect on service delivery for disabled people.
* Ensure that current information is accessible and available in appropriate formats.
* Use all available guidance, examples of good practice and of best value to ensure a corporate response to disability access issues.
* Involve our staff and customers in the process of developing and delivering the policy and procedures.
* Develop ongoing training opportunities, monitor and share examples of good practice.

*Contact and Further Information*

If you require any further information, advice or guidance please contact the Provost.

**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**

Anderson, David.*Free Grace**Soteriology*. Third edn. Grace Theology Press, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0-9884112-0-3.

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Dillow, Joseph. *Reign of the Servant Kings.* Schoettle Pub. Co. 2nd ed. 1993. ISBN: 1564530957 (pp. 7-244); OR the revised 2012 edition called*Final Destiny*, at http://www.jodydillow.com

McArthur, John, Jr. *Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles*. W Pub Group, 1993. ISBN: 0849908418.

McGunkin, John, ed. *The Concise Encyclopedia of Orthodox Christianity*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. ISBN: 9781118759332

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Ratzinger, Joseph (Pope Benedict XVI). *Principles of Catholic Theology*. (German) 1987; English translation by Ignatius Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780898702156

Shank, Robert. *Life in the Son*. 1960. Reprint, Bethany House Publishers, 1989. ISBN: 1556610912.

Steele, David, Curtis Thomas, and S. Lance Quinn. *The Five Points of Calvinism Defined, Defended, and Documented*. 2nd ed. P&R Publishing, 2004. ISBN 0875528279.

Wilson, Kenneth. *The Foundation of Augustinian-Calvinism*. Regula Fidei Press, 2019.

 Kindle ISBN: 9781082800351.