

# The Kingdom of God: Systematic Theology Syllabus

Redeemer School of Ministry  
Spring 2018

## I. Details:

- A. Dates: January through May
- B. Times: Thursday 6:30-9pm
- C. Instructor: Jim Synakowski
- D. Contact: [jim@myredeemerchurch.com](mailto:jim@myredeemerchurch.com)
- E. Availability: If you wish to discuss some aspect of the course, please either arrange (via email) an appointment or discuss a meeting time with me before or after class.

## II. Course Description:

This course is a continuation of studying systematic theology. It is an overview of the key teachings about the Christian life, the Holy Spirit, the church, and the last things. Learn what hope we have in the Christian life and how the Holy Spirit relates to us by helping us live our lives to the glory of God. The course will look at the importance and purpose of the church as we eagerly await Christ's return. Studying your theology in a systematic approach will help you sharpen and clarify your understanding of these important topics found in Scripture and better apply them in the culture in which we live.

## III. Course Objectives:

The student successfully completing this course should be able to:

- A. Develop basic skills of disciplined theological study.
- B. Define key theological terms and concepts
- C. Understand the similarities and differences between views on various theological topics through the history of the church to the present.
- D. Explain the importance of each key point for the life of a believer.
- E. Apply an understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the areas of everyday life and circumstances.
- F. Synthesize the worship to God brought about through the role and importance of the church
- G. Discuss in detail the theological issues that are involved in the Christian view of the future of the world and the consummation of all things.

## **IV. Course Overview:**

### **A. CHRISTIAN LIFE**

1. Overview of Justification, Adoption, Sanctification
2. Remaining a Christian
3. The hope of glory

### **B. DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. Distinctive activities
2. Filled with
3. Gifts

### **C. DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH**

1. Recognizing a true church
2. Authority of the church
3. Baptism & the Lord's Supper
4. Worship

### **D. DOCTRINE OF THE LAST THINGS**

1. Second coming of Christ
2. Millennium views
3. Last Judgment
4. A final dwelling place

## **V. Course Texts:**

A. English Standard Version Bible

B. Grudem, Wayne. *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 978-0-310-22233-0

C. Thomas, Scott. *Theological Clarity & Application: Equipping Leaders in Biblical Doctrine*. 2009. (Online PDF)

## **VI. Course Requirements:**

A. Class attendance and thoughtful participation.

1. Attendance is required.
2. Please inform me in advance if you will be unable to attend class on a particular date.
3. There will be opportunity for class participation and questions during class
4. Come prepared to participate.
5. A percentage of your final grade will depend on your attendance record and your contribution in classes (thoughtful interaction with the teachers and other students).

**B. Reading assignments.**

1. A percentage of your final grade will depend on your completed readings and assigned questions.
2. You will be penalized for each uncompleted reading assignment.

**C. Writing assignments.**

1. Assignments are to be completed prior to the class in which they are due.
2. Papers submitted should have a title page containing all the following: the name of the course and year; your name; the teacher's name; and title of the paper/assignment.
3. Papers should be word-processed: Times New Roman, 12-pt font and double spaced for the main text; use section headings where applicable; use footnotes when needed rather than endnotes; use a Chicago or Turabian style of citations.
4. Be sure to include a standard bibliography citing sources used in the assignment.
5. A mark down in the grade will result if the requirements and guidelines are not met.

**D. Late Work**

1. Student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and materials covered during an absence.
2. All work must be completed as scheduled. Late work will result in a lower grade.
3. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments of the class following an absence.

**VII. Academic Honesty:**

Students are on their honor to complete assignments with integrity. This means that all written assignments are to reflect the student's own work. Where other secondary sources are used, please use proper citations and footnotes. Plagiarism will not be accepted!

Plagiarism is using the intellectual property of others without proper citation, giving the impression that it is the student's own work. Here is a guideline to avoid the possibility of plagiarism:

1. Do not simply cut and paste blocks of downloaded text into your paper; summarize or paraphrase this material first (although either way requires citation).
2. If you do record the exact words of your source, enclose them in quotation marks; whether those sources are e-mails, online discussion groups, or websites.
3. Always give proper credit if you are unsure.

Failure to follow these simple guidelines, result in plagiarism. Plagiarism is a spiritual matter of character and integrity. Be aware that if assignments are discovered to be plagiarized the assignments will be failed and could result in the failure of the course.

## VIII. Course Assignments:

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Assignment Due
1	1/25/18	Introduction/ Define Systematic Theology/ Overview of Justification, Adoption, Santification	Registration
2	2/1/18	Perseverance of the Saints/ Glorification	B.D. Chp 24 & T.C. wkb p.68-70
3	2/8/18	Death & the Intermediate State	B.D. Chp 25 & T.C. wkb p.72-73
4	2/15/18	Resurrection	B.D. Chp 16 & T.C. wkb p.52-53
5	2/22/18	Angels, Demons, Satan	B.D. Chp 10 & T.C. wkb p.34-35
6	3/1/18	Work & filling of the Holy Spirit	B.D. Chp 29 & 30
7	3/8/18	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Reflection paper on the Holy Spirit
8	3/15/18	Nature, Purpose, Unity of the Church	B.D. Chp 26 & T.C. wkb p.75-78
9	3/22/18	Power & activity of the Church	B.D. Chp 27-28
10	3/29/18	Baptism, Lord's Supper, Worship	Reflection paper on the Church
11	4/5/18	Return of Christ	B.D. Chp 31 & T.C. wkb p. 81-82
12	4/12/18	Millennium	B.D. Chp 32-33 & T.C. wkb p. 84-86
13	4/19/18	Final Judgment	B.D. Chp 34 & T.C. wkb p. 88-89
14	4/26/18	New Heavens & New Earth	Reflection paper on Last Things
15	5/3/18	Final	

(There will be additional information given in regards to the assignments)

## IX. Course Grade:

- A. Class Participation and Attendance - 10%
- B. Readings & Theological Clarity Work - 30%
- C. Reflection Papers - 30%
- D. Final - 30%

# Reflection Papers

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## *Guidelines for Reflection Papers*

Be sure to check the syllabus and the schedule for the specific date of the assignments.

This is not a research paper (with bibliography, footnotes, etc.), but more of a reflective essay, **which expresses how the various topics discussed in the course impacted you personally.** The paper is not long enough for you to address every topic/ chapter, nor should you attempt to do so. Its length should be 2-3 pages. To assist in writing the essays, jot down additional thoughts while filling in answers in the *Theological Clarity* workbook or keep a weekly journal of your spiritual growth and increasing comprehension as you work your way through the course. The paper itself is not a journal, nor is the journal to be submitted for a grade. Rather, you can consult your journal and workbook to help determine which topics impacted you the most to include in your essays. A good reflection paper should address only a few issues. **Remember, this is not a teaching paper. Do not teach the reader your theological views, argue with the perspective of the textbook, or restate what is found in the text. Reflect with detail upon how the issues have specifically challenged you personally and how you have grown as a result of the course units.**

As with any such document, include a short introduction, which captures the reader's attention and lists the various subjects of the paper, as well as a short conclusion, which wraps it up. The introduction and conclusion should be no more than a short paragraph in length due to the overall size of the paper.

The purpose of the reflection papers is to provide an opportunity for students to internalize the theology discussed and constructed during the course - "to make it your own." It allows space for you to be formed by the theology. Although intellectual thought (loving God with all your mind, Matt. 22:37) plays an important role in "doing" theology, theology itself should not be restricted only to the intellectual level, but should move to the heart and then influence the actions. The subject of each paper is how you have allowed the theology to do just that.

All writing requirements in the syllabus apply.

Introduction/Thesis: 10

Organization: 10

Critical Thinking: 50

Quotes/References 10

Format/Mechanics/Spelling: 10

Conclusion: 10