

Lectures: Dr. Bruce Ware, Systematic Theology I

Sample Syllabus: This is a sample syllabus that Dr. Ware provided to BiblicalTraining.org so you can see the topics covered and the suggested reading assignments for each lecture. At this time, we do not grade assignments or tests for this class, so do not submit your work to Dr. Ware or to BiblicalTraining.org. Dr. Ware is allowing us to make this class available to you at no charge. This syllabus was modified by Darrel Heide, PhD for a class he taught for Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC).

Systematic Theology I: God/Bible/Humanity

Objectives: By the end of this course you should be able:

1. Students will learn foundational truths regarding the major doctrinal areas of revelation, bibliology, theology proper, and humanity.
2. Students will develop a greater appreciation for the study of theology explicitly based on Scripture as they engage in critical thinking about theological issues.
3. Students will understand better some aspects of the CCC *Statement of Faith* (intro, 1, 6, 7,).
4. Students will gain a deeper confidence in and appreciation for Scripture as the inspired, truthful (inerrant), authoritative, sufficient, necessary, clear, and powerful Word of God.
5. Students will grow in wonder, thankfulness, faith, obedience, devotion, and love in their relationship with the triune God
6. Students will come to understand the biblical teaching on the nature of humans and the significance and meaning of their fallen state.
7. To be able to explain the biblical teaching of the doctrines taught in this course to others in ministry.

Session Topic

Prolegomena

- Lecture 1: Prolegomena: Introduction to Evangelical Systematic Theology (EST)
Lecture 2: Methods of Evangelical Theology: Criteria for assessing theological formulations
Lecture 3: Cultural Contextualization; Theological Systems
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 1, pp. 21-43

Theological Systems

- Lecture 4: Calvinism and Arminianism
Lecture 5: Covenant Theology
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 25, pp. 515-525
Lecture 6: Liberalism, Neo Orthodoxy, Evangelicalism

Scripture

- Lecture 7: Doctrine of Scripture: Introduction to revelation and general revelation
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 3-4, pp. 54-89

Lecture 8: Special Revelation; Inspiration:
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 6-7, pp. 105-126

Lecture 9: Inerrancy
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 5, pp. 90-104

Lecture 10: Illumination; Canonicity
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 2, pp. 47-53

Doctrine of God

Lecture 11: Theism; Proof of God's Existence
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 9-10, pp. 141-155

Lecture 12 Knowledge of God; the Trinity
Lecture 13 The Trinity
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 14, pp. 226-261

Lecture 14 Attributes of God
Lecture 15 Attributes of God: Love, Self-sufficiency
Lecture 16: Attributes of God: Incommunicable-1
Lecture 17: Attributes of God Incommunicable-2
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 11, pp. 156-184

Lecture 18: Attributes of God: Communicable-1
Lecture 19: Attributes of God: Communicable-2
Lecture 20: Attributes of God: Communicable-3
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 12-13, pp. 185-225

Lecture 21: Sovereignty of God: Lecture 1
Lecture 22: Sovereignty of God: Lecture 2
Lecture 23: Sovereignty of God: Lecture 3
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 16, pp. 315-354

Topic 24: Angels: Download Document for Discussion
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 19 pp. 397-411
Optional Additional Recommended Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 15, pp. 262-314; Chapters 17-18, pp. 355-396; Chapter 20, pp. 412-436.

Doctrine of Humanity

Lecture 25: Introduction and Human Origins
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 21-22, pp. 439-471

Lecture 26: Human Nature and the Soul
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapter 23, pp. 272-289

Doctrine of Sin

Lecture 27: Doctrine of Sin
Lecture 28: Original Sin
Reading Assignment: Grudem, Chapters 24, pp. 490-514.

Lectures

In order to access the lectures for this course go to www.biblicaltraining.org. Once you are on the site, click on "Leadership" which can be found at the top of the home page. You will find the Theology I course in the center column of this page.

Textbooks

1. Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1994.

Assignments

1. **Notebook:** Using the outline that is provided online for this course, take notes on the lectures. Focus your note-taking on the goal of preserving from this class experience the things that will be helpful to you in ministry. Take your notes in such a way that you can come back to them in the future as a summary and reminder of what you have studied. It would be especially important that you record the biblical passages that are cited to support different theological points of view
2. **Doctrinal Statement Assignment:** Write a paragraph for each of the items from the CCC Statement of faith listed below and explain how your study in this class as deepened your understanding of and appreciation of this section of the doctrinal statement.

Intro: *The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that it was written without error (inerrant) in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.*

#1: *There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of personality.*

#6 *Man was originally created in the image of God. He sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation.*

#7 *Man's nature is corrupted, and he is thus totally unable to please God. Every man is in need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

3. **Ministry Application Project:** Develop a bible study on a theological topic covered in this course that will be useful to you in ministry. Develop a teaching outline that you can use either as a message or as a discussion in a Bible study. Focus both on the biblical teaching on a theological doctrine and instruction on how to apply this teaching to everyday life.

Examples of possible topics might be

A Study of the Attributes of God
Biblical Teaching on the Trinity
Arguments for the existence of God
Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God
Prayer and the Sovereignty of God
Argument for the Authority of Scripture
Biblical Teaching on the Doctrine of Sin

Any other topic covered in this course that would be helpful for you to be able to use in teaching and building into the lives of others.