



# International College & Graduate School

## THEOLOGY I: GOD AND THE BIBLE (TH 301/501) CLASS SESSION OUTLINE & SYLLABUS Fall 2004

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### **Part I, Syllabus**

#### **Course Description**

“A study of the nature and necessity of theology; the doctrine of inspiration and its problems including the subjects of the origin and preservation of the Scriptures - manuscripts, versions, canonicity, and related areas; a study of the existence, nature and attributes of God, the decrees of God and His relationship to the world through His works of creation, providence and preservation,” ICGS Catalog.

#### **General Course Goals**

This course has been designed so that you will:

1. Gain an appreciation for the value and significance of theology.
2. Become familiar with theological method and thinking.
3. Acquire an introductory knowledge of the fields of prolegomena, bibliology, theism, trinitarianism, and their contemporary significance from an evangelical perspective.
4. Grow in your familiarity with and confidence in the Scriptures.
5. Deepen your own relationship with the God we worship.

#### **Specific Course Objectives**

In that this course proposes to introduce students to the task of systematic theology and the specific areas of prolegomena, bibliology, theism, and trinitarianism, students should be able to

1. Identify key persons and movements in the history of Christian thought.
2. Explain the interaction of various sources in theological method.
3. Define the various forms of divine revelation and explain their roles in theology.
4. Understand and define the various doctrines involved in prolegomena, bibliology, theism, and trinitarianism.
5. Explain how the Bible functions in Christian living.
6. Evaluate the usefulness of critical methods in the study of Scripture.

## Course Requirements

1. **Attend Class Lectures.** To prepare students for the fulfillment of the objectives of this course, lectures are given Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, beginning August 24, 2004. The class will have hourly breaks of ten minutes. The topics of the lessons are listed in **Part II, Course Schedule** attached to this syllabus. Attendance at each of the lessons is required. **Up to four hours of absences** for illness or other conflicts may be excused without notification. In cases of prolonged illness or injury that will cause you to miss several class sessions, you should consult with the professor for options regarding your status in the course, otherwise, absences in excess of four class sessions will be reflected in the course grade.
  - a. “Handouts”-- Photocopied materials will be distributed in class from time to time. If you do not receive a copy, please see the professor. **Note:** These materials are for your own use only. Do not copy or distribute them to individuals not registered for this course. Any requests for these materials by persons not registered for this course should be directed to the professor.
  - b. Taping--You may tape class lessons for your own study only. Such tapes are not to be distributed to individuals not registered for the course.
  
2. **Read the following in the manner described below:**

Darrell L. Bock, *Purpose Directed Theology*. (100 pp.)

Millard J. Erickson *Christian Theology*. second Edition. (**Graduate Students Only 450 pp.**)

Roger Olson, *The Mosaic of Christian Belief*. (200 pp.)

Helmut Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians* (50 pp.)

Herman Witsius, *On the Character of a True Theologian*, ed. J. Ligon Duncan, III. (50 pp.)

Lesson Outlines: Kevin James Gilbert, Lesson Outlines for Theology I. (100 pp.)

Handout 1: Kevin James Gilbert, “Jürgen Moltmann’s Theological Method: Evangelical Options?” (16 pp.)

Handout 2: David S. Dockery and James E. White “Introduction,” from *Southern Baptists and American Evangelicals*. (24 pp)

Handout 3: “The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy” (12 pp.)

Handout 4: Kevin James Gilbert, “A Model for Unity: Viable Cooperation without Conscience Violation.” (24 pp.)

  - a. **Disclaimer:** Course materials may or may not reflect the views of the professor, faculty, staff, or administration of ICGS. Course materials are chosen for the potential instructive value, which includes critical reflection toward the informed acceptance or rejection of ideas.
  - b. Readings are to be completed and recorded by units. Units are whole articles, groups of articles, whole chapters, or groups of pages within a chapter. The units which you are to read are listed on the **Course Schedule** and on the “Reading Assignment Grade Sheets.” **These units must be read prior to the class hour at which they are due,**

**which is the class hour next to which they are listed. Late readings are not accepted for credit** except in extreme circumstances of lengthy incapacitation which requires extension of all course requirements beyond the end of the semester. Since class meets for three hours once a week, the reading for all three hours should be completed prior to arriving for the first session.

- c. In order to report a unit of reading, you must have read its contents in their **entirety, intelligently, and critically**. “Entirety” means that all of the unit must be read before credit will be assigned. Partial completion of a reading unit will not be credited. “Intelligently” means understanding what you are reading when you are “reading” it. **(This may involve looking up words in a dictionary!)** It means being able to follow the authors train of thought including any arguments that are presented. “Critically” means judging the strength or soundness of the author's presentation.  
**Note: To receive credit for reading from assigned lecture outlines, you must look up and read major Scripture texts cited in that reading.**
- d. **How to report reading assignments for credit.** On the “Reading Assignment Grade Sheet,” keep a record of reading units which you have completed in the manner described above (see b. above). Be sure to write your name and date submitted on the form. Write the **total number** of units completed in the space provided and sign your name on the signature line confirming your completion of the assigned units. Turn in the forms at each exam. (RAGS I due at first exam; RAGS II at second; RAGS III at third).

### 3. Take Three Exams.

- a. These exams will cover the assigned readings (except the reading for group discussions, see requirement 4 below), as well all class lectures. They will be multiple choice.
- b. Study questions will be provided to guide your preparation. Do not use or consult exams given in this course in previous years. You should think carefully about how the class reading or lecture presentation answers the study questions. Compare and contrast issues, ideas, and names with one another to make sure you have a grasp on the material. Note the specific terms, vocabulary, and grammar of the author as you study any particular issue. Note especially biblical texts and the language of those texts which are taken up by the author in developing a theological position, idea or issue. The study questions guide you to specific areas in the class readings and lectures which you are to study and master. The multiple choice questions on the exam are designed to test how well you understand them.
- c. The exams must be taken in class on the dates for which they are scheduled, unless an alternate time has been pre-approved by the professor. Rescheduling due to out-of-town travel must be made during the first two weeks of class (emergency travel for critical illness or funeral services exempted). In such cases, the exam must be taken by the sixth class hour following the exam. Exams may not be taken prior to their dates listed on the Course Schedule or the ICGS exam schedule. Other alternate arrangements for taking an exam late are allowed only in the case of physical incapacitation at the time of the exams and must be made by the class period following the scheduled exam. In all such cases, make arrangements with the

professor to take the exam in the library under his supervision, or in an approved library or educational facility under the supervision of an ICGS/professor-approved proctor. As a rule of thumb, a last minute excuse from an exam is equivalent to a last minute excuse from a scheduled preaching assignment.

- d. If the average of your first two exams is below 80, you will have an opportunity to be reexamined over the combined material of those first two exams in order to raise that average up to an 80. (A score of 80 or higher on this retake exam will raise the average of your first two exams to an 80.) This reexamination will be given during the second hour of the final exam period. The exam format will be the same as in 3.a. above. Use the same study questions that were distributed for exams 1 and 2 to guide your preparation.
- e. Usually, the grades for the first two exams will be posted outside the classroom the first class day following the exam. A time for reviewing questions missed on the first two exams will be arranged 12:00 p.m. on the first class day following each exam.
- f. All exams are the property of the professor. You are not to take your exam from the examination or reviewing session. You are not to make any copy of the exam or exam questions.

**4. Participate in class and group discussions of the following books:** Phillip Johnson, *Reason in the Balance* (200 pp.); **AND** Philip Yancey, *Disappointment with God* (300 pp.), **OR** Gregory Boyd, *God of the Possible* (170 pp.)

- a. **Read Johnson, and either Yancey OR Boyd (choose by vote, simple majority).**
- b. **Type or Word Process/Machine Print a Report.** Answer specific questions about your reading found on the handouts entitled "Preparation for Group Discussion." These answers must be completed, printed, and brought to the scheduled class or group discussions. The process of writing out your answers will prepare your mind for discussion and your written answers will serve as references for your oral discussion. At the class or group meeting, you may take notes on the discussion, but these notes must be kept separate from the written answers you prepared prior to discussion. At the end of the discussion turn in only those answers you prepared **prior to** the discussion.
- c. At your group meeting, you will bring with you your written responses to your "Preparation" questions. The group discussion should follow the guidelines on the handout entitled "Group Discussion On . . . (followed by the title of the book you are discussing). Toward the end of your discussion, the group must summarize its conclusions as indicated on the "Group Discussion" form. **These summary group responses will contribute to the final grade (see below).**
- d. **Before Group Discussion.** Organize your group as quickly as possible. Select one person to function as director and one to serve as reporter. These positions are purely functional and neither positions of honor nor producers of extra credit. Anyone who feels that he or she has talents suited to function as either director or recorder should volunteer to do so. Here and throughout the project or discussion, practice Christian grace & humility, deference to one another, sacrificial service. Before the end of the

discussion, remember to summarize group conclusions and attempt to form a consensus.

- i. The director is not the spokesperson of the group. His or her only responsibility is to pace the discussion so that it does not bog down and waste time. The director should make sure the discussion covers all the questions/problems raised or otherwise ensures the topic is covered thoroughly. Keep things moving by majority consensus, being sensitive to the need of the group to spend more on significant issues or less time on any tangential ones.
- ii. The reporter's responsibilities are to record the names of those present at each discussion, to accurately write down the group's official conclusions to its discussions, and to collect individual written work from each member at the end of the semester.

e. The grade for each discussion project will be as follows:

Reading Completed	Missing both thoughtful written responses and participation in group discussion	Missing either thoughtful written responses or participation in group discussion	Completed both thoughtful written responses and participation in group discussion
0-49%	F	F	D
50-74%	F	D	C
75-99%	D	C	B
100%	C	B	A

**Outstanding or poor group conclusions will affect individual grades in the following manner:** insightful conclusions clearly written with well-reasoned argumentation will raise all individual grades to a plus (+); missing or superficial arguments and conclusions will reduce all individual grades to a minus (-).

- f. Participation in the group projects may be excused only in cases of travel arrangements made prior to the end of the second week of class, infectious disease or paralysis. In such cases, a 2 to 8 page typed essay related to the group project will be accepted as a substitute for participation in the volunteer hour or group meeting (length depends on the number of group hours missed, i.e., 1 hour missed = 2 pages; 2 hours = 4 pages, etc.).
5. The above requirements may be altered or other requirements added at the discretion of the professor.

### **Basis for Evaluation**

1. Factors determining the Course Grade:

The overall grade is a composite of several factors. It is not a measure of personal worth or necessarily of the amount of information that a student feels he or she has learned. Rather it

is a cumulative figure that bears a relationship to the student's successful completion of the course requirements:

- a. The three exams will be averaged together and count as 50% of the course grade.
- b. Each group discussion project counts as 15% of the course grade.
- c. The reading grade is the percentage of reading units completed against the number assigned. The reading grade counts as 20% of the final course grade.
- d. Class attendance. Absences from four class hours are excused. Each unexcused absence in excess of the prescribed limit will result in a reduction of the final grade by 4.5%. Contact the professor regarding any prolonged absence.

2. Course Grade:

a. Explanation of Letter Symbols:

A = work of exceptional quality.

B = work of commendable quality. Commendable means praiseworthy. A majority of students usually achieve this quality in their overall course grade.

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

D = work of a minimal but passing quality.

F = Failure to do minimal work with no credit given.

d. Numerical and Letter Distribution

100-95	A	85-83	B	75-73	C	65-63	D
94-90	A-	82-80	B-	72-70	C-	62-60	D-
89-86	B+	79-76	C+	69-66	D+	59-0	F

## **Part II, Course Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lesson Outline # &amp; Title</u>	<u>Student Reading Assignments</u>
August 24			
	9-9:50 a.m.	Part 1: Introductions	Syllabus
	10-10:50 a.m.	Part 2: Practicum: Putting Shoes on Theology	W: (All)
	11-11:50 a.m.	Part 3: A Little Exercise	T: (All)

## PROLEGOMENA

August 31

9-9:50a.m.	LO 1: What is Theology?	E:1; O:P, I, 1
10-10:50 a.m.	LO 2: Scripture, Tradition, and Culture	HO: 1
11-11:50 a.m.	LO 3: Hermeneutics and the Development of Doctrine	E:2; O:2

September 7

9-9:50 a.m.	LO 4: Fields of Christian Theology	LO: 1,2,3
10-10:50 a.m.	LO 5: Who Are We? Christian Theological Traditions	
11-11:50 a.m.	LO 6: Christian Theology in the Modern Era	

September 14

9-9:50 a.m.	LO 7: Evangelicalism and Liberal Protestantism	HO:1; LO: 4,5,6
10-10:50 a.m.	LO 7: Our Traditions and American Evangelicals	B: (all); HO:2
11-11:50 a.m.	LO 7: Four Challenges, Part 1	E:4,5

September 21

9-9:50 a.m.	LO 7: Four Challenges, Part 2	E:6,7; LO:7
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## REVELATION AND BIBLIOLOGY

10-10:50 a.m.	LO 8: Introduction to the Idea of Revelation	O:3; E:3
11-11:50 a.m.	Review	

September 28

**9-9:50 a.m. Exam 1 (covering material up to and including to LO 7)**

10-10:50 a.m.	LO 9: Differing Ideas of Revelation	
11-11:50 a.m.	LO 10: Revelation in the Grammar of Scripture	O:4

October 5

9-9:50 a.m.	LO 11: Biblical Inspiration	LO: 8,9,10
10-10:50 a.m.	LO 12: The Doctrine of Inspiration	E: 10
11-11:50 a.m.	LO 13: Inerrancy	E: 11

October 12

9-9:50 a.m.	LO 13: Inerrancy, continued.	LO: 11,12,13; O: 3
10-10:50 a.m.	14: The Canon of Scripture	E: 12
11-11:50 a.m.	GROUP DISCUSSION: <i>Reason in the Balance</i>	

**October 19**

**No Class: Fall Break**

October 26

9-9:50 a.m.	14: The Canon of Scripture, continued.	Review E: 4; LO: 13,14
10-10:50 a.m.	15: Evangelical Hermeneutics and Biblical Criticism	
11-11:50 a.m.	16: The Holy Spirit and the Word of God	

November 2

9-9:50 a.m.	17: An Evangelical Doctrine of Revelation	LO: 14,15,16; E: 8,9
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### **CHRISTIAN THEISM**

10-10:50 a.m.	18: Ideas of God and the God of the Bible, Part 1	E: 13; O: 4
11-11:50 a.m.	Review	

November 9

**9-9:50 a.m. Exam 2 (Covering material from LO 8 to LO 18, inclusive)**

10-10:50 a.m.	19: Ideas of God and the God of the Bible, Part 2	LO: 17,18; E: 14
11-11:50 a.m.	20: Attributes of God, Part 1	

November 16

9-9:50 a.m.	21: Attributes of God, Part 2	LO: 19, 20; E: 15
10-10:50 a.m.	22: Issues in Trinitarianism	O: 6; E: 16 part 1)
11-11:50 a.m.	23: Issues in Trinitarianism, continued	E: 16 (part 2)



November 23

9-9:50 a.m. 24: Issues in Trinitarianism, continued LO: 21,22,23; E: 16 (part 3)

### CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

10-10:50 a.m. 25: Creation O: 7; E: 18 (part 1)

11-11:50 a.m. 26: Creation and Evolution E: 18 (part 2)

November 30

9-9:50 a.m. 27: Providence O: 8; E: 19; LO: 24,25,26

10-10:50 a.m. 28: Providence and Theodicy E: 20

11-11:50 a.m. GROUP DISCUSSION: *Disappointment With God* or *God of the Possible*

December 7

9-9:50 a.m. LO 29: Issues in Christian Theism and Bibliology LO: 27,28

10-10:50 a.m. LO 30: Issues in Christian Theism and Bibliology

11-11:50 a.m. Review

December 14

9-11:00 a.m. Final Exam

### **Reading Key**

E:# = Erickson, *Christian Theology*, and chapter #

O:#=Olson, *The Mosaic of Christian Belief*, and chapter #.

T:#=Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*, and chapter #.

W:#=Witsius, *On the Character of a True Theologian*, and chapter #.

LO: # = Lesson Outline # (each Lesson Outline distributed to the class is numbered)

HO:#=Handout # (Each Supplemental Handout distributed to the class is numbered)