**Systematic Theology**

**Pr. David M. Choi**

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Location: Calvary Youth Ministry Center

Hours: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Grades: 8-12

**Description**

This is an advanced course in systematic theology. We’ll be examining core doctrines of the Christian faith in light of the revelation of God’s Word. We’ll cover topics like epistemology, hamartiology, atonement theories, Christology, Trinitarian theology, etc. Moreover, we’ll tend to the historical contexts in which certain doctrines were formed, as well as the key figures who played seismic roles in developing them. While most of this class is engaged with modern Protestant theologians, we’ll also be dialoguing with the broader Christian tradition. And so, you’ll find Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox voices entering into our discussions as well.

**Objectives**

1. To become acquainted with the task of theology

2. To be able to articulate basic Christian doctrines

3. To think theologically about God, self, and world

4. To critically engage theologians and philosophers through close readings of primary texts

5. To develop an appreciation for Christian history and tradition

6. To be transformed into Christ’s own likeness by the renewing of your mind (Rom. 12:2)

**Texts[[1]](#footnote-1)**

\*St. Athanasius. *On the Incarnation*. New York: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2011.

Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1963.

\*Billings, J. Todd. *The Word of God for the People of God: An Entryway to the Theological Interpretation of*

*Scripture*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

Luther, Martin. *The Freedom of a Christian*, Luther Study Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

Quash, Brian, and Michael Ward (eds). *Heresies and How to Avoid Them: Why It Matters What Christians Believe*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2007.

*Other reading handouts for systematic theology*.

**Assignments**

1. Reading Quizzes: To help keep you accountable in your readings, several times throughout the semester, there will be unannounced quizzes related to that week’s reading assignment(s).

2. Short Response Papers: To think critically about key texts and ideas, a total of three short response papers will be written (about 300-400 words) in response to related prompts.

3. Final Paper: At the end, you will be asked to write a final paper about 5-7 pages in length. You will pick a topic of interest, identify a clear question or issue, come up with an original thesis, and select one or two key dialogue partners from previous readings, to help in the construction of your theological argument.

4. Attendance and Participation: In any given term, students will be allowed up to *two excused absences*. For students who repeatedly skip or miss class, their attendance will be raised in conversation with Pastor David, and their future involvement in the course will be reconsidered. Likewise, for students who demonstrate a lack of effort or engagement, their participation will be raised in conversation with Pastor David, and their future involvement in the course will be reconsidered. In short, show up, and give God the best of your heart, soul, and mind.

**Class and Reading Schedule**

**Class 1: Course Introduction**

Due: *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.1-2

**Class 2: Prolegomenon: The Task of Systematic Theology**

Due: *On the Incarnation*, pp.9-15

 *Evangelical Theology*, pp.3-12 [handout 1]

 *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, ix-xi [handout 2]

**Class 3: Faith Seeking Understanding**

Due: *The Word of God for the People of God*, pp.ix-30

**Class 4: Divine Revelation**

Due: *Evangelical Theology,* pp.15-25 [handout]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.92-95

**Class 5: Scripture**

Due: *Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy* [handout 1]

 *The Authority of the Bible* [handout 2]

**Class 6: Scripture and Tradition**

Due: *The Word of God for the People of God*, pp.31-70

 Readings from Vatican II [handout]

**Class 7: Interpreting Scripture**

Due: *The Word of God for the People of God*, pp.71-104

**Class 8: Human Speech About God**

Due: *Evangelical Theology*, pp.26-59

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.99-102

**Class 9: Trinity Pt.1**

Due: Shirley Guthrie, “Who Is God? The Doctrine of the Trinity” [handout 1]

 *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.15-23, 50-58 [handout 2]

**Class 10: Trinity Pt.2**

Due: Gregory of Nyssa, “On Not Three Gods” [handout 1]

 *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.73-80 [handout 2]

**Class 11: Trinity Pt.3**

Due: *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.122-130 [handout]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.22-26

**Class 12: Creation**

Due: Ian A. McFarland, *Word Made Flesh*, pp.43-67 [handout 1]

 *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.102-112 [handout 2]

**Class 13: Providence and Sovereignty**

Due: *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.27-28

**Class 14: Divine Aseity**

Due: Thomas McCall, “I Believe in Divine Sovereignty” [handout]

**Class 15: Evil**

Due: John Piper, “I Believe in God’s Self-Sufficiency” [handout 1]

 Thomas McCall, “We Believe in God’s Sovereign Goodness” [handout 2]

**Class 16: Imago Dei**

Due: no readings

**Class 17: Gender**

Due: “The Women in Ministry Debate” [handout 1]

 Timothy George, “Egalitarians and Complementarians Together” [handout 2]

**Class 18: Sin and Wrath**

Due: *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.91-101 [handout]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.3-11

**Class 19: Christology Pt.1**

Due: *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.24-49 [handout]

 *On the Incarnation*, pp.49-83

**Class 20: Christology Pt.2**

Due: *On the Incarnation*, pp.84-110

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.29-52, 96-98

**Class 21: Pneumatology**

Due: Karl Barth, *Dogmatics In Outline*, pp.137-140 [handout]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, q.53

**Class 22: The Spirit In History**

Due: *The Word of God for the People of God*, pp.105-148

**Class 23: Salvation – Overview**

Due: Keith L. Johnson, “What Is Salvation?” [handout]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.12-21, 56-58

**Class 24: Salvation – Atonement + Justification**

Due: *The Freedom of a Christian*, pp.49-70 [handout 1]

 Selections from the Council of Trent [handout 2]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.59-64

**Class 25: Salvation – Sanctification**

Due: *The Freedom of a Christian*, pp.71-96 [handout 1]

 *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.113-121 [handout 2]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.86-91

**Class 26: Ecclesiology**

Due: Karl Barth, *Dogmatics In Outline*, pp.141-148 [handout]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.54-55, 103-104

**Class 27: Sacraments**

Due: *Heresies and How to Avoid Them*, pp.113-121 [handout 1]

 Brandt Pitre, “The New Passover” [handout 2]

 *Heidelberg Catechism*, qq.65-82

**Class 28: Reading With The Church**

Due: *The Word of God for the People of God*, pp.149-228

**Class 29: Eschatology**

Due: Karl Barth, *Dogmatics In Outline*, pp.149-155 [handout]

**Class 30: The Theological Life**

Due: T.F. Torrance, “The Reconciliation of the Mind” [handout]

**Final Paper Due:**

1. Students will be provided with physical copies of the marked (\*) texts. Readings from other texts will be distributed as handouts. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)