

# Knowing God & His Gospel Syllabus

Redeemer School of Ministry  
Fall 2017

## I. Details:

- A. Dates: September through mid-December
- 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 part one of studying systematic theology. It is an overview of the key teachings about creation, sin, and redemption through Christ. Learn who God is and how He relates to us to bring us into His family. 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. Explain systematic theology and its importance.
- B. Develop basic skills of disciplined theological study.
- C. Define key theological terms and concepts
- D. Understand the similarities and differences between views on various theological topics through the history of the church.
- E. Discuss in detail the theological issues that are involved in the Christian view of the world that emphasizes creation, fall and redemption.
- F. Apply an understanding of theological topics in the areas of everyday life and circumstances.

## **IV. Course Overview:**

### **A. INTRODUCTION -**

1. What is systematic theology?
2. Why is it important to the church and our individual lives?
3. How should we approach it?

### **B. DOCTRINE OF GOD**

1. Existence
2. Attributes
3. Trinity
4. God's Providence

### **C. DOCTRINE OF MAN**

1. Creation
2. Nature
3. Sin
4. Covenants

### **D. DOCTRINE OF CHRIST**

1. Person of Christ
2. Atonement
3. Justification
4. Sanctification

## **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     | 9/7/17   | Introduction/ What is Systematic Theology?                                       | Registration                        |
| 2     | 9/14/17  | “Proofs” for God’s Existence; Knowability & Character of God pt1: Incommunicable | B.D. Chp 4 & T.C. wkb p.11-13       |
| 3     | 9/21/17  | Character of God pt2: Communicable   | B.D. Chp 5 & T.C. wkb p.13-19       |
| 4     | 9/28/17  | Trinity  | B.D. Chp 6 & T.C. wkb p.21-24       |
| 5     | 10/5/17  | No Class   | Doctrine of God Reflection Paper    |
| 6     | 10/12/17 | Creation & God’s Providence  | B.D. Chp 7/8 & T.C. wkb p.26-28     |
| 7     | 10/19/17 | Man: Creation & Nature   | B.D. Chp 11 & T.C. wkb p.37-39      |
| 8     | 10/26/17 | Sin & Covenants  | B.D. Chp 13 & T.C. wkb p.41-43      |
| 9     | 11/2/17  | Person of Christ & Offices of Christ   | B.D. Chp 14 & T.C. wkb p.45-47      |
| 10    | 11/9/17  | Atonement & Common Grace   | B.D. Chp 15/17 & T.C. wkb p.49-50   |
| 11    | 11/16/17 | Gospel & Regeneration  | B.D. Chp 19/20 & T.C. wkb p. 59-61  |
| 12    | 11/23/17 | No Class   | Doctrine of Man Reflection Paper    |
| 13    | 11/30/17 | Justification & Adoption   | B.D. Chp 22 & T.C. wkb p. 63-65     |
| 14    | 12/7/17  | Sanctification   | B.D. Chp 23/24 & T.C. wkb p. 67-70  |
| 15    | 12/14/17 | Mortification of Sin   |                                     |
| 16    | 12/21/17 | Final  | Doctrine of Christ Reflection Paper |

(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%