

Note:

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection
and is not binding in any form.**

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

ST5534 Systematic Christian Theology 1, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course is a systematic study of the biblical doctrines of Bibliology, Trinitarianism (Theology Proper, Christology, and Pneumatology), and Angelology. It includes an examination of theological Prolegomena, major features pertaining to the Holy Scriptures, a study of the identity and works of the Triune God, of modern angelmania, and the reality of and the resources for spiritual warfare. Key concepts, issues, and the practical implications and integration of these doctrines in Church and Christian life are discussed.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to...

1. Articulate the meaning of key theological terms including the nature and necessity of systematic theology and the significance of theological thinking and interpretation.
2. Define key concepts pertaining to theological Prolegomena, and demonstrate comprehension of the historical development of the doctrines pertaining to Bibliology, Trinitarianism, and Angelology.
3. Demonstrate comprehension of current interest in Angels, including spiritual warfare.
4. Articulate personal positions on these doctrines within the biblical framework while employing proper theological method.
5. Define each doctrine covered under Bibliology, Trinitarianism, and Angelology with accuracy providing biblical support and identifying deviations from, or false expressions of these doctrines.
6. Formulate biblical answers to key theological questions raised by the church and/or the world that pertain to these doctrines.

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments

Guideline for the Discussion Board: Post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Saturday, 12:00am CDT). Then read and respond to at least **TWO** of your classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Tuesday, 12:00am CDT).

Standard for Written Papers: All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. Times New Roman font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

1-1 Theological Method Paper: Many theologians would say that theology is simply (and only) an exposition of the truths about God revealed in the Bible. In 2-3 pages, compare and contrast Erickson's discussion about theological method (his 10 steps) with other approaches.

1-2 Theology and the Spiritual Life Paper: Several of your friends have recently joked about seminary being "cemetery" and the tone of their comments suggests they really mean it. A pastor mentor has approached you suggesting that all you need is to know the Bible and that you should forego the study of theology. Write a 2–3 page letter responding to these concerns OR write a 2–3 page position statement on the value of systematic theology for ministry and Christian life.

2-1 Scripture Paper: In 2–3 pages, critically evaluate Erickson's doctrine of Scripture, including how the overall doctrine is constructed and which aspects of the overall doctrine he covers (and doesn't cover).

2-2 Knowing God Paper: A friend is struggling with the idea that only people who have the Bible can know God. Doesn't the Bible itself say (Romans 1) that all people have knowledge of God? Can't they know about God through general revelation? Write a 2–3 page letter to your friend OR develop a 2–3 page position paper in which you address what it means to "know God" and the role of general and special revelation in the knowledge of God.

3-1 Attributes Paper: In 2–3 pages, compare and contrast Erickson's treatment of one divine attribute with the handling in at least two other systematic theologies (you may use those in your Logos package).

3-2 God and the World Paper: In 2-3 pages, evaluate Erickson's discussion of immanence and transcendence.

4-1 The Trinity Paper: A person for whom you are ministerially responsible struggles with the concept of the "Trinity." They are actively pursuing their own spiritual formation, but wonder what this confusing, paradoxical doctrine has to do with their relation to God. Write a 2-3 page letter to this person responding to their concerns, OR develop a 2-3 page position paper in which you address the relation between the doctrine of Trinity and the practical life of the Christian.

4-2 The Trinity in Systematic Perspective Paper: In 2-3 pages, evaluate the role the doctrine of the trinity plays in Millard Erickson's overall systematic theology. You have already read Erickson's discussion of the doctrine of the trinity.

5-1 Providence Paper: In 2-3 pages, summarize your understanding of the biblical teaching on providence.

5-2 Spiritual Warfare Paper: In 2-3 pages evaluate the practice of spiritual warfare as seen in American popular religious practice and in ministries with which you are familiar.

6-1 Christological Method Paper: In 2-3 pages, describe the debate about Christological method as presented in the reading.

6-2 The Person of Christ Paper: You are asked by a church member to provide some information on an evangelical view of Jesus. His nephew is attending university and has been exposed to the ideas of the Jesus Seminar and is beginning to question the orthodox view of Jesus. In 2-3 pages, briefly describe an evangelical understanding of Jesus' person and provide a defense of the deity and humanity of Christ to help this student.

7-1 Atonement Paper: In 2-3 pages, describe your understanding of the nature and significance of Christ's atoning work.

7-2 Spiritual Gifts Paper: In 2-3 pages, describe your position on spiritual gifts and their place in the life of the church today.

7-3 Theological Synthesis: During the course, as each topic is completed you are required to produce a one-page, single spaced summary or your personal understanding of the theological topic under consideration.

Assessments

Graded Item	% of Total
Discussions (7)	15%
Papers (14; 5% each)	70%
Theological Synthesis	15%
Total:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

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