

**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

ST5535 Systematic Christian Theology 2, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

This course is a systematic study of the biblical doctrines of Theological Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology. It includes an examination of the constitution of humanity as created, fallen, and redeemed; sin in all its ramifications; the marvelous grace of God leading to salvation, sanctification, glorification; the purposes and paradigms of Church; Israel and the Church; and God's prophesied program pertaining to last things. 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 pertaining to Theological Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology.
2. Demonstrate comprehension of the historical development of the doctrines covered in this course.
3. Evaluate current thoughts and trends in each of the doctrines studied in this course.
4. Articulate personal positions on each doctrine covered with accuracy providing biblical support and identifying deviations from, or false expressions of these doctrines.
5. Formulate biblical answers to key theological questions raised by the contemporary 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](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)

## Assignment List

### Assignment 1-1 The Human Constitution Paper:

A friend of yours explains to you their conclusion that spiritual things are more important than physical ones; in fact, we should disregard concerns related to our body or material life and instead focus all of our attention on "spiritual" realities. In a 2-3-page letter or paper, respond to this friend's understanding with a biblical defense of a more holistic view of human experience and of the human person.

### Assignment 1-2 The Image of God Paper:

In 2-3 pages, describe the main views on the image of God and explain which view seems to most fully incorporate the full biblical witness.

### Assignment 2-1 Depravity Paper:

A friend you know complains that Christians are too negative about the human person. According to Christians, an unsaved person doesn't really love their spouse, but instead selfishly relates in such a way as to achieve maximum personal benefit and apparently good acts are always totally corrupted by evil motives and objectives.

Provide a 2-3 page response which provides a balanced biblical perspective on the human person (both positive and negative observations).

### Assignment 2-2 Corporate Sin Paper:

In his chapter on "The Social Dimension of Sin", Erickson argues that the biblical picture includes an understanding that at least some sin has a corporate dimension. In 2-3 pages, evaluate the concept of corporate sin as presented by Erickson.

### Assignment 3-1 Election Paper:

In 2-3 pages, describe your conclusion on the debate about the doctrine of election.

### Assignment 3-2 Justification Paper:

There has been a lot of discussion on the doctrine of justification over the last few years. In 2-3 pages, respond to the debate.

### Assignment 4-1 Perseverance Paper:

In 2-3 pages, compare and contrast Erickson's discussion of Perseverance (eternal security) with that found in one other systematic theology (you may use one from your Logos package).

**Assignment 4-2 Salvation Topics Paper:**

There are a number of topics related to salvation (in the overall order of salvation) that the course has not discussed in detail. From the provided list, choose one topic and do a 2-3 page paper on the key features of that particular aspect of salvation.

**Assignment 5-1 Baptism Paper:**

In 2-3 pages, explain your position on the purpose and function of baptism.

**Assignment 5-2 Church Government Paper:**

In 2-3 pages, contrast Erickson's discussion of church government (how the church is organized) with that of at least one other systematic theology.

**Assignment 6-1 The Eternal Punishment Paper:**

A member of your church comes to you distressed about the doctrine of eternal punishment. It seems unfair to them that someone will spend eternity being punished for the sins of a short earthly lifespan. Possible views that resolve these concerns are universalism and annihilationism (also called conditionalism).

In 2-3 pages, respond to those concerns by sketching out a defense of the biblical doctrine of eternal punishment.

**Assignment 6-2 The Practical Impact of Eschatology Paper:**

In 2-3 pages, provide a brief argument supporting the idea that eschatology is a practical doctrine, shaping our life and practice as Christians today. In other words, explain why we should study eschatology for our spiritual benefit.

**Assignment 7-1 The Millennium Paper:**

In 2-3-pages, compare and contrast Erickson's discussion of the millennial state (millennium) with the discussion of the topic in another systematic theology.

**Assignment 7-2 The Future of Israel Paper:**

One of the key distinctions between Dispensational Theology and other eschatological views is the issue of a future for the state of Israel. In 2-3 pages, defend your understanding of what the future for the nation/state/people of Israel is (e.g., no future, a future as part of the church, a distinct national future).

**Assignment 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. Your summary should contain your conclusions and the biblical support (references only) for your view.

**Assessments**

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Discussions (7)	15%
Papers	70%
Theological Synthesis	15%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

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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