

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, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

THEO 525

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course beginning the study of systematic theology with special attention given to prolegomena the doctrines of Scripture, God, angels, humanity and sin.

RATIONALE

Christian theology supplies a biblical perspective on reality. Theological reflection is essential for the person who hopes to help others cope with reality; he or she must be able to provide biblical, reasoned, and sensitive responses to the hard questions of faith. Therefore, THEO 525 helps to prepare the student for ministry by introducing them to the study of systematic theology.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain how systematic theology relates to the other theological disciplines.
- B. Recognize theological terms and crucial issues related to Christian theology.
- C. Evaluate peer-reviewed articles relating to the doctrines of the Bible, God, man, and sin.
- D. Apply a theological method toward constructive reflection on such matters as the Scriptures, God (His nature and work), and man (his creation and fall).
- E. Apply the basic tools of the theological disciplines in order to resolve problems and research issues relevant to the issues of theological epistemology, the authority of Scripture, the nature of God, and the human condition.
- F. Assess the importance and difficulties of developing an expression of theology in a contemporary culture.
- G. Discuss critical and controversial issues in Christian theology.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will participate in 4 Discussion Board Forums, and each forum will span across 2 modules/weeks. First, the student will answer the Discussion Board Forum question(s) in a thread of 400–500 words. Then, he/she must reply to 2 classmates' threads (in 200–250 words each).

D. Journal Article Critiques (2)

The student will complete 2 Journal Article Critiques in this course. For each critique you will read a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal article, written within the last 20 years, on a topic covered in this class and write a minimum of 2 full pages but not to exceed 3 pages, double-spaced critique. Each critique must include a cover page and follow Turabian guidelines.

E. Research Paper

The Research Paper is completed in 3 steps.

1. Topic

First, the student must select a topic for his/her paper from a provided list.

2. Proposal

After the student's topic has been approved by the instructor, he/she must complete a research paper proposal. The proposal must contain the following components: a cover page, a working thesis statement, the significance of the topic, the procedure of the study, and a working bibliography.

3. Submission

The student must write his/her Research Paper using the approved topic and the proposal. The paper must be 12–15 pages and must include the 7 sections listed in the instructions document; it must also contain 12 sources and follow current Turabian format.

F. Exams (4)

The student must complete 4 exams throughout the course, based on the materials found in the course. All exams contain 25 multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions; are open-book/open-notes; and must be completed in 1 hour.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums	
Threads (4 at 40 pts ea)	160
Replies (4 at 40 pts ea)	160
Journal Article Critiques (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Research Paper	
Topic	10
Proposal	70
Submission	200
Exams (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Instructor Availability and Feedback

The instructor will answer most emails within 24–48 hours. He/she will give feedback on the Research Paper – Proposal and Research Paper – Submission. In addition, the instructor will reply to some, but not all, Discussion Board posts.

G. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

THEO 525

Textbooks: Elwell, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (2001).
Erickson, *Christian Theology* (2013).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Elwell: 8 articles Erickson: chs. 1–3 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1 Thread	40
2	Elwell: 6 articles Erickson: chs. 4–5 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies	40
		Journal Article Critique 1	100
		Exam 1	50
3	Elwell: 10 articles Erickson: chs. 6–10 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread	40
		Research Paper – Topic	10
4	Elwell: 15 articles Erickson: chs. 11–14 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Replies	40
		Research Paper – Proposal	70
		Exam 2	50
5	Elwell: 12 articles Erickson: chs. 15–19 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread	40
		Journal Article Critique 2	100
6	Elwell: 14 articles Erickson: chs. 20–24 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Replies	40
		Exam 3	50
7	Elwell: 12 articles Erickson: chs. 25–29 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Thread	40
		Exam 4	50
8	1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Replies	40
		Research Paper – Submission	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.