

Course Syllabus

Course Number & Title: #311 Theology 1: Doctrine of the Word of God

Semester: Fall 2026

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Course Description: The seminary catalog describes the subject matter of this course as follows: “God’s manifestation of himself and methods of theological studies; discussion of revelation, Word, inspiration, inerrancy, authority, and the methodology of theology.” In this course you will become familiar with the orthodox and reformed views of natural and special revelation, the relationship by which God has revealed himself to mankind (covenant), the process and results of biblical inspiration, and the manner in which we understand the truth of God and that which he reveals to us. Topics (such as inerrancy) which are controversial today will receive special attention. The course will involve lectures, considerable reading, responses to direct questions, and a special project.

Delivery: In-person, 16-week semester schedule

Course Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Objectives:

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

- Define and distinguish the various branches of systematic theology
- Effectively define and defend the orthodox doctrines of revelation and the word of God
- Defend the inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy of Scripture
- Explain the relation of the inspiration of Scripture to Bible manuscripts and translations
- Employ sound hermeneutical principles to the different sorts of biblical literature

- Identify and refute interpretations of Scripture based on false hermeneutical principles
- Identify the main historic and contemporary errors regarding the Scripture's inspiration and authority
- Demonstrate the covenant structure of biblical revelation
- Prepare sermons or lessons on the subject of the Bible and revelation
- Pass ordination examinations dealing with the inspiration and interpretation of Scripture

Course Requirements

1. Required Texts

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 1: ch. 1-9 (in Westminster Press edition, Vol. 1, pp. 35-96)
- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Introduction, ch. 1-6 (Vol. 1, pp. 1-188)
- A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, Introduction, ch. 1-2, and Commentary, ch. 1 (pp. 1-45)
- Ned B. Stonehouse, "The Authority of the New Testament," in *The Infallible Word*, pp. 88-136

2. Recommended Texts

Other books will be suggested during the semester, some of which may be used for the Elective Reading assignment.

3. Course Schedule

Sept.	2	Introduction to the course
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	(ARTS meeting in AR; no class)
Oct.	7	Questions due
	14	Required Reading Assignment due
	21	Midterm Examination
	28	

Nov.	4	
	11	(Veterans Day; no class)
	18	Special Presentations begin
	25	
Dec.	2	
	9	Elective Reading Assignment Due
	16	Final Examination

Assignment Descriptions:

Required reading

The four required book sections listed above are to be read by the date indicated in the course schedule. You will be asked if you have read this material; the honor system is used for this assignment. The more care you take in this reading, the more will be the benefit to you. The reading material will form a basis for much of our class discussions

Written questions

At the end of each of the three assigned chapters in A. A. Hodge, there is a list of questions. You are to write these questions with the proper answers. This may be done by writing either complete sentence answers or by writing the questions with short answers.

Elective reading

In addition to the required reading assignment, you are to read a total of 300 pages or 15 clock hours in the fields covered in this course. While these books are your choice, they must be of standard quality and scholarly level. Keep a log of your reading; this log must be turned in to complete the assignment.

Special presentation

You will make a class presentation by taking a faulty position regarding the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible which is presented by some group or writer, accurately presenting that view and its main support, then providing a refutation of that view, and offering a clear definition and support for the corresponding correct view. Please provide a printed outline handout for the class or use a PowerPoint presentation. These will be summary presentations and should take no more than 30 minutes.

Examinations:

There will be two tests during the semester, a midterm and a final examination. These tests will be based on the notes and the supplied study questions.

Grading:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Attendance and participation | 10% |
| • Required Reading | 15% |
| • Questions | 10% |
| • Elective Reading | 10% |
| • Special Presentation | 15% |
| • Midterm Examination | 20% |
| • Final Examination | 20% |

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