

**TH5110 PROLEGOMENA, SCRIPTURE, AND GOD**  
**SUMMER 2022 – PHOENIX SEMINARY**  
REVISED 10 FEBRUARY 2022



**LECTURER:** Wayne A. Grudem, Ph.D.

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**DESCRIPTION (from *Student Handbook*)**

Introduces you to the process of thinking theologically and focuses on the Person of God as the source of all knowledge and wisdom. You'll begin with a study of the inspiration, inerrancy and authority of Scripture. You'll then explore the nature of God, the Trinity and the work of God in creation and providence. Additionally, you will study more in-depth the person of the Holy Spirit.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course the student will:

1. Define systematic theology; explain the doctrine of the Word of God and the teachings of Scripture regarding the character of God, the Trinity, creation, and providence.
2. Explain how theological beliefs influence concrete actions and teachings in church life.
3. Explain answers to theological questions through careful collection, analysis, and synthesis of relevant texts of Scripture.
4. Communicate how understanding God's character affects the way one ministers to others.
5. Explain how the doctrines of Scripture enable one to shepherd God's people with wisdom and compassion.

In addition to these outcomes, it is the hope and intention of the instructor that through this course each student will grow in love for the Word of God and the doctrines that it teaches, will come to delight more fully in God, will more often enjoy reflecting God's character in everyday life, and will grow in Christian maturity through the application of the doctrines of Scripture to life.

**COURSE TEXT(S)**

**Required Books:**

Grudem W. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995. ISBN: 0310286700.

Machen J. G. *Christianity and liberalism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2009. ISBN: 9780802864994 .

Thielicke H. *A little exercise for young theologians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1962. ISBN: 9780802811981.

Ryken L. *The word of God in English: criteria for excellence in Bible translation*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2002. ISBN: 1581344643.

Barton J. *People of the book?: the authority of the Bible in Christianity*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1988. ISBN: 0664250661.

Rhodes R. *The 10 most important things you can say to a Mormon*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2001. ISBN: 0736905340.

**Other Readings:**

Allison G. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 0310230136.

Pinnock C. H. *The grace of God and the will of man*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1995. ISBN: 1556616910.

Rice, Richard. “Biblical Support for a New Perspective”) in Pinnock C. H. *The openness of God: a biblical challenge to the traditional understanding of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994. ISBN: 0830818529.

Ware B. A. *God’s lesser glory: the diminished God of open theism*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000. ISBN: 1581342292.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<p><b>1. Reading [10%]</b>  <i>[Outcome 1]</i>                  Due: Weekly</p>	<p>Complete assigned readings and submit the Reading Report Form <u>before</u> final is taken.</p> <p>During the term all readings should be done <u>before</u> that lesson’s lecture is viewed.</p> <p>Quiz and Exam material may taken be from the readings. Readings due for that lesson completed <u>after</u> viewing the lecture will be given half credit (see reading report form at the end of this syllabus). All readings can be completed for half credit up until the final is taken.</p>
<p><b>2. Scripture Memory Quiz [10%]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1, 3]</i>                  Due: See Course Web Page</p>	<p>Memorization of Psalm 119:89-104 (16 verses) preferably in the ESV, NASB, NKJV, or HCSB (other versions, including foreign language versions, are allowed). Grading will be on a word-for-word basis, but students will <u>not</u> be expected to know verse numbers.</p> <p>Scripture Memory Quiz is 1 hour. It will be typed and taken directly on the course web page. <u>No Bibles, notes, or helps of any kind are allowed.</u></p>
<p><b>3. Online Discussion Posts [10%]</b>  <i>[Outcomes 1-5]</i>                  Due: Weekly</p>	<p>For each lesson, one or more Discussion Questions (DQs) based on the material will be posted.</p> <p>Substantive and synthetic postings are expected. Grading will be based on the Discussion Question Grading Rubric (see course web page). DQ answers should first be typed in a word processor, proofread, saved, and then copied into the course web page.</p> <p>Initial responses to the Discussion Question should be posted by</p>

	Thursday at 11:59 PM of the week in which they appear with at least one response to other students due by Sunday at 11:59 PM of the same week.
<b>4. Review Quizzes [5%]</b> <i>[Outcomes 1, 3]</i> Due: Weekly	Review Quizzes are taken each lesson on the course web page after completing the reading and viewing the lecture. They are open note and open book. Students have 60 minutes to take each quiz. After 60 minutes the quiz closes and unanswered questions are marked incorrect. Most quizzes are 10 questions in length, multiple choice, and based on that lesson's material. There may, however, be review questions on the quiz from prior lessons.
<b>5. Brief Paper [15%]</b> <i>[Outcomes 1, 3]</i> Due: See Course Web Page	<p><i>Deeper analysis of one attribute of God:</i> Choose one attribute of God that you would like to learn more about and write a paper giving a <u>deeper analysis</u> of that attribute than the discussion in class and in the assigned reading. You may <u>not</u> choose God's love, mercy, or grace (since those already receive so much attention).</p> <p><i>Procedure:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the section on that attribute in <i>Systematic Theology</i></li> <li>Find <u>more Scriptural evidence</u> for that attribute (don't forget to look at narrative passages as well as the doctrinally oriented passages). (You may use other theology books to help you find more passages if you wish, but that is not necessary.)</li> <li>For a higher grade: read about that attribute in additional books or sources on systematic theology listed in the bibliography at the end of chapters 11 or 13 in <i>Systematic Theology</i>.</li> <li>Discuss any objections or misunderstandings that may exist regarding this attribute.</li> <li>Explain how your understanding of that attribute may have deepened in light of the relevant Scripture passages.</li> <li>Describe the application this attribute has to our lives.</li> <li>Carefully follow the <a href="#">Phoenix Seminary Guidelines for Course Papers</a> (found online).</li> <li>Upload your paper to the course web page.</li> </ol> <p><u>Length:</u> 6-8 pages. Papers with grammar or formatting errors will be penalized.</p>
<b>6. Peer Review [5%]</b> <i>[Outcomes 1, 3]</i> Due: See Course Web Page	<p>The instructor will pair students up to exchange papers for a peer review. Write a <u>one-page</u> response to be turned in both to the instructor <i>and</i> to your peer the week after your paper is due. List what you appreciated about the paper and also give any suggestions for improvement. Bullet points are best. Finally, tell if you were persuaded by the paper and why or why not. You will then have a follow up phone call with the student you exchanged papers with. After this phone call, email one or two sentences of reflection on your conversation to the instructor.</p> <p>The response to another's paper must be uploaded to the course web page and emailed to your partner (partner's email will be</p>

	<p>provided). Formatting is discretionary, however, the following heading must be used in order to avoid confusion:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reviewer Name:</b> <b>Paper Title:</b> <b>Paper Author Name:</b></p>
<p><b>6a. Optional Revision:</b> Due: See Course Web Page</p>	<p>If you wish to revise your paper in light of the peer review, <b>you may submit revised copy</b> (see course web page). Your grade will be based on your revised paper. If you choose not turn in a revised copy, the original will be graded.</p> <p>This option is <u>only</u> available to students who turned in a completed paper on the first date due. Clearly mark your revised paper as the revised version by including “REVISED” in the title and file name.</p>
<p><b>7. Doctrinal Statement [10%]</b> [Outcomes 1, 3] Due: See Course Web Page</p>	<p>Prepare a statement of your own doctrinal position, with scriptural support. Write this as if you were preparing a summary of your views for an ordination council or for a job interview at a church. The purpose of the paper is to state your views clearly but <u>not</u> to argue for them. Grading will be based on clarity, thoughtfulness, and completeness, not on whether you agree with the instructor or the assigned readings.</p> <p><u>Maximum length: 8 pages.</u> Topics you are required to cover and helpful suggestions on doctrinal statement preparation are posted on the course web page.</p>
<p><b>8. Mid-term Exam [15%]:</b> [Outcomes 1, 3] Due: See Course Web Page</p>	<p>The mid-term exam will have mostly short, objective questions (multiple choice, true-false, matching, definitions), with a few “Scripture proof” questions at the end, in which you will be asked to give one verse of Scripture supporting each of several different doctrinal points. The exam will be “open Bible” but <u>not</u> open note. No Study Bibles or Bible tools (e.g. a concordance or Bible index) are allowed.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> This exam is quite difficult. You will be expected to have detailed knowledge of all the readings and class materials up to that date. The review quiz questions will generally not be used.</p> <p>The exam is roughly 70 questions: multiple choice, matching and T/F. Once you begin the exam you will have 2.5 hours to complete it. Retakes are not offered. However, if you have extreme circumstances which prevents you from completing the exam on time (e.g. family crisis or severe illness), email the instructor.</p>
<p><b>9. Final Exam [20%]:</b> [Outcomes 1-5] Due: Finals Week</p>	<p>For the final exam, students will be required to write, <u>in detailed outline form</u>, a discussion of three doctrinal topics covered in the course and to support your answers from Scripture. The instructor will select five of six topics from the Final Study Guide on the course web page and you will write on <u>three</u> of them.</p>

	<p>The exam will cover the entire course. The exam will be “open Bible” but <u>not</u> open note. No study Bibles or Bible tools (e.g. a concordance or Bible index) allowed.</p> <p>The study guide for topics that may be covered in the exam is posted on the course web page. It would be wise to read it at the beginning of the semester.</p> <p>You will have 2.5 hours to complete the exam once you begin. The final will be posted on the first day of finals week.</p>
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## GRADING INFORMATION

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Description
A+	100-97	4.0	
A	96.99-93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92.99-90	3.7	
B+	89.99-87	3.3	
B	86.99-83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82.99-80	2.7	
C+	79.99-77	2.3	
C	76.99-73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72.99-70	1.7	
D+	69.99-67	1.3	
D	66.99-63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62.99-60	0.7	
F	59.99-0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.
S	N/A	N/A	Sufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
U	N/A	N/A	Insufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
EX	N/A	N/A	Extension. A formally approved petition for course extension.
NR	N/A	N/A	Not Received. Instructor has not yet submitted grade.
WP	N/A	N/A	Withdrew from class while passing. Not computed in GPA.
WF	N/A	0.0	Withdrew from class while failing. Computed in GPA until retake.

### SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

### Course Evaluations

Each student is required to complete an anonymous course evaluation on this course's page at <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Course evaluations will be open the last week of the class until one day before grade reports are issued. All course evaluation results are reported anonymously: professors have no way of linking a particular student to a particular evaluation. This anonymous information

will be processed and distributed to professors in summary form and used to strengthen their teaching methods and courses.

## **COURSE DETAILS**

### **On-Line Course Materials**

Lectures, handouts and other course materials will be posted to <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Please note that after the course is over the student will not have access to course material on the website.

### **Participation**

Students are expected to actively participate in the online learning environment. This may include logging on multiple times per week to view material, complete quizzes or exams, and to post responses to discussion questions.

### **Online Course Weeks**

An online course “Week” corresponds to a 7-day week and runs **Monday – Sunday**. The course is based on **Phoenix, Arizona Time**. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for calculating the time difference and scheduling appropriately. There may be exceptions so pay close attention to the course web page for specifics.

### **Late Posts, Etc.**

Because dependability and industry are virtues of Christian character, the faculty encourages students to be faithful and timely in the completion of all course assignments. Due to the interactive nature of discussion posts in online education, discussion posts cannot be made up. Failure to take quizzes, exams, or submit papers when they are due will result in a penalty and generally cannot be made up more than one week from their due date. Contact the instructor in cases of emergency that may warrant an extension. Procrastination is not an emergency.

## **PROFESSOR’S OTHER:**

### **ONLINE DISCUSSION POST INFORMATION**

- Citing credible sources is required. The course texts and the Bible are acceptable as credible sources. In general, websites are not considered credible sources, although they may be used to provide relevant supplemental information for your posts.
- Excellent DQ answers and responses do the following:
  - Respond clearly and articulately to every aspect of the prompt.
  - Cite credible sources with correct attribution.
  - Move the conversation forward by encouraging further dialogue. (Perhaps by asking relevant questions or raising different perspectives.)
- The DQ grading rubric (which you’ll want to review) is on the course web page.

## **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Suggested texts for additional reading (Not required for class but helpful to buy for your library.)  
(Annotated by Dr. Grudem.)

### 1. On systematic theology in general:

It would be useful for you to purchase several systematic theologies texts to consult on specific topics in the future. I would especially recommend the systematic theologies by Louis Berkhof, Charles Hodge, and John Calvin. The best translation of Calvin is *Institutes of the Christian Religion*,

LCC edition, trans. F.L. Battles (Westminster Press, 1960), 2 vols. (Translated from the 1559 Latin edition.) Also, anything published by John Frame is very useful.

You will probably also find useful the systematic theologies written by Millard Erickson, Herman Bavinck (4 vols.), Michael Horton, Robert Reymond, and Norman Geisler. But there are many others as well. For more suggestions, see the annotated list in the back of Grudem, *Systematic Theology*.

A very helpful approach to the study of theology is Vern Poythress, *Symphonic Theology* (Presbyterian and Reformed)

## 2. On the doctrine of Scripture:

A good concordance for the version of the Bible you use most often

or: a Bible search program such as *Bible Works* (the program I use), or the Logos *Libronix* system. Or *Accordance* (for Mac).

Vern Poythress, *Inerrancy and Worldview* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012).

Vern Poythress, *Inerrancy and the Gospels* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012).

[\*These two books by Poythress are now my #1 recommendation for books defending inerrancy.]

D. A. Carson and John Woodbridge, editors, *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon* (Zondervan, 1986).

D. A. Carson and John Woodbridge, editors, *Scripture and Truth* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983).

Gleason Archer, *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan reprint, 2001) [as a reference book]

Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe, *When Critics Ask* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997) [reference]

Wm. Arndt, *Does the Bible Contradict Itself?* (St. Louis: Concordia, 1955) [reference]

Wm. Arndt, *Bible Difficulties* (St. Louis: Concordia, 1932) [reference]

The *ESV Study Bible* also addresses many of the alleged errors in Scripture.

## 3. On the doctrines of God and providence:

H. O. J. Brown, *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church* (Hendrickson reprint, 1998)

John Feinberg, *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2001).

John Frame, *The Doctrine of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002).

C. Pinnock, ed. *The Grace of God, the Will of Man: A Case for Arminianism* (Zondervan) (a recent Arminian perspective on providence and election)

Bruce Ware, *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2000).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allison, Gregg R, and Wayne A Grudem. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine : a Companion to Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Archer, Gleason L. *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties: Based on the NIV and the NASB*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Arndt, William. *Does the Bible Contradict Itself?: A Discussion of Alleged Contradictions in the Bible*. 5th edition. Concordia, 1976.
- Arndt, William, Robert G. Hoerber, and Walther R. Roehrs. *Bible Difficulties and Seeming Contradictions*. Concordia, 1987.
- Barton, John. *People of the Book?: The Authority of the Bible in Christianity*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1988.
- Basinger, David, and Randall Basinger. *Predestination & Free Will: Four Views of Divine Sovereignty & Human Freedom*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986.
- Bavinck, Herman, John Bolt, and John Vriend. *Reformed Dogmatics, Vol. 2: God and Creation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Berkouwer, G. C. *The Providence of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952.
- Bounds, Edward M. *Power through Prayer*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Brown, Harold O. J. *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2007.
- Calvin, John, John T. McNeill, and Ford Lewis Battles. *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion (2 Volume Set)*. 1559 translation edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1960.
- Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.
- Carson, D. A, and John D Woodbridge. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2005.
- . *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Charnock, Stephen. *Existence and Attributes of God, The*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.
- Demarest, Bruce A. *General Revelation: Historical Views and Contemporary Issues*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House, 1982.
- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2006.
- . *The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problems of Evil*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004.

- Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God*. Phillipsburg: P&R Pub., 2002.
- Geisler, Norman L., and Thomas Howe. *When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992.
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Helm, Paul. *The Providence of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Machen, J. Gresham. *Christianity and Liberalism*. Charleston: BiblioLife, 1923.
- Meeter, John E. (edit). *Selected Shorter Writings of Benjamin B. Warfield - II*. Second Printing edition. Presbyterian & Reformed, n.d.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford University Press, USA, 1997.
- Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 1993.
- Pinnock, Clark H. *The Grace of God and the Will of Man*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1995.
- . *The Openness of God: a Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Poythress, Vern S. *Symphonic Theology: The Validity of Multiple Perspectives in Theology*. Phillipsburg: P & R Pub., 2001.
- Rhodes, Ron. *The 10 Most Important Things You Can Say to a Mormon*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2001.
- Ryken, Leland. *The Word of God in English: Criteria for Excellence in Bible Translation*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2002.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. *No Final Conflict: The Bible Without Error in All That It Affirms*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1975.
- Thielicke, Helmut. *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1962.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *The Defense of the Faith*. Phillipsburg: P & R Pub., 2008.
- Tozer, A. W. *The Knowledge of the Holy: The Attributes of God: Their Meaning in the Christian Life*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.
- Ware, Bruce A. *God's Lesser Glory: The Diminished God of Open Theism*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000.
- Wright, David F., Sinclair B. Ferguson, and J. I. Packer. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1988.

Reading Report: TH 501	Pages Possible	Pages Read?	Date Read?	Pages Credited?*
Grudem, Preface and Chapter 1	32			
Warfield, "Indispensableness," 280-88	9			
Kaufman, "Doing Theology ... Liberal..." 397-415	19			
Grudem, "Do we act...?"	22			
Grudem, "When, Why, and For What...?"	22			
Thielicke, <i>Little Exercise</i>	41			
Machen, <i>Christianity &amp; Liberalism</i> , 1-180	180			
Grudem, chap. 2-3	26			
"Pastoral Statement for Catholics"	2			
Allison, <i>Historical Theology</i> , 37-58	22			
Grudem, Chapter 4	17			
Grudem, Chapter 5	15			
Helm, "Faith, Evidence, & Scriptures, 303-20	18			
Moreland, "Rationality", 75-86	12			
"Chicago Statement"	5			
Grudem, "Perspicuity of Scripture"	21			
Barton, <i>People of the Book</i>	90			
Grudem. Chapter 6	11			
Grudem. Chapter 7.	11			
Grudem. Chapter 8	12			
Grudem, "Subjective Element"	7			
Grudem, "Are Only Some Words ...?"	38			
Ryken, <i>Word of God in English</i>	197			
Grudem, The Advantages of the ESV	37			
Grudem, chaps. 9-10	15			
Grudem, chap. 11	29			
Rhodes, <i>10 Most Important Things</i>	116			
Grudem, chap. 12	26			
Grudem, chap. 13	25			
Rice, "Biblical Support," 7-58	52			
Ware, <i>God's Lesser Glory</i> , 43-98	56			
Grudem, chap. 14	36			
Grudem, chap. 30	20			
Allison, <i>Historical Theology</i> , 231-253	23			
Grudem, chap. 15	53			
Grudem, chap. 16	40			
Calvin, <i>Institutes</i> , book 1, chaps 16-18 (197-237)	41			
Pinnock, <i>Grace of God, Will...</i> , 97-139, 261-276	59			
Grudem, chap. 17	21			
Grudem, chap. 18	21			
TOTAL	1499			

**\*Give yourself full credit if read *before* the LESSON for which it was assigned, half credit if read *after* the beginning of that LESSON.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of pages credited: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of pages assigned: 1499

Credited Reading Percentage: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: please calculate your own percentage here.)