



ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

COURSE NAME: **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I**

COURSE CODE: **ST 200**

COURSE CREDIT: **3**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Christian church has a long tradition of systematic theology, that is, studying theology and doctrine organized around fairly standard categories such as the Word of God, redemption, and Jesus Christ. This introduction to systematic theology has several distinctive features: A strong emphasis on the scriptural basis for each doctrine and teaching with technical terms kept to a minimum. It is a critical investigation into the content and contemporary significance of the Christian faith, emphasizing biblical foundations, philosophical presuppositions and comprehensiveness. Generally this course presents a survey of and examines the basic doctrines of the Christian Faith in the context of our present reality. It introduces students to the factors that shape and guide theology.

A pre-requisite for this course is BD100 Basic Christian Doctrines.

AIM:

- To introduce doctrinal formulations which correctly understand the Scriptures, through proper exegesis.
- To apply doctrinal formulations to the needs of the church and the issues of the day.
- To examine these doctrinal formulations for their biblical bases, ecclesial context, Trinitarian scope and contemporary significance for Christian life and ministry.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Understand the factors that shape and guide theology
- Grasp the way this system of doctrine derives from sound interpretation that does justice to the unity of Scripture in its historical diversity.
- Understand the history of doctrine, primarily the theological heritage of the Reformed Churches and their confessional documents.
- Embrace the system of doctrine taught in Scripture in a way that enhances devotion to God and service to the church and the world.

COURSE CONTENT:

Section 1 – The God Who Reveals, Creates and Guides.

- Revelation
- Trinity
- Creation
- Providence

Section 2 – The Christ Who Saves Humanity.

- Humanity
- Sin and salvation
- Grace



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- Christology
- Holy Spirit
- Election and Predestination

Section 3 – The Church, Where Faith Begins, Is Nourished, and Grows.

- The Church
- The Christian life
- The future life

COURSE TEXTS:

Guthrie, S. C. (1994). *Christian doctrines*. Westminster: John Knox Press.

McKim, D. K. (2003). *Presbyterian beliefs*. Louisville, Kentucky: Geneva Press.

Migliore, Daniel L. (1980). *Faith seeking understanding*. Westminster: Eerdmans Publishing.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Lectures

Discussions

Class presentations

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Class participation and Attendance	10%
First semester exams (2)	30%
Final Research Papers (2)	60%
TOTAL	100%

Class Participation & Attendance

Roughly the last 45-50 minutes of each week's class session will be given to class discussion, either in smaller discussion groups or plenary sessions. Students are asked to come to class each week with a **written** question or comment on the readings for the week (these comments to be handed in at the end of the session).

Attendance is critically important if we are to develop and maintain conversation among ourselves. Each student will be allowed one [1] absence from class each semester (one class equals one week's attendance). **(10%)**

Examinations

There will be two examinations in the first semester taken in class at the scheduled times. For each exam, the student will be responsible for demonstrating critical comprehension of the positions and issues represented in a) lectures; b) assigned required texts; c) alternative readings; and d) class discussions for articulating the student's own developing judgments concerning these matters. **(30%)**

Final Research Papers

Each student will write two research papers on one of the major topics of each semester on a careful reading of the assigned **required texts** for the topic, of the alternative text, and on lectures and class discussion.



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The research papers should identify and state clearly one or two issues which the student judges as important for systematic theological reflection;

- 1) analyze why the issue(s) are important with reference to readings and/or lectures;
- 2) indicate, with reasons, how the student is inclined to address the issue(s);
- 3) discuss how the issue affects the discourse or practice of the church and/or how it affects your role as a church leader.

The research papers should not try to be a summary of the topic itself. For example, when the topic is "God," the student should not try to write a doctrine of God in four pages. Rather, the task is to learn how to think critically and constructively about Christian doctrines.

Each research paper should be no more than 1000 words, and should be double-spaced. **(60%)**