



SYLLABUS FOR TS5202 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS 1

Instructor: Dr. Terrance Tiessen

Winter 2012

THE BIG PICTURE

I. Course Description

This course continues the introduction to the major concepts of Christian theology, including the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Christian calling, justification and sanctification, the church, and the last things. Students are expected to develop an ordered understanding of basic Christian doctrine, leading to a personal and critical appropriation of it for ministerial and theological leadership.

II. Course Requirements

1. Class attendance
2. Text book reading
3. Five Confessional Statements. Due (# 1, Feb 8), (# 2, Feb 22), (# 3, Mar 21) (# 4, Apr 4) (# 5, Apr 11)
4. Research Paper Due Mar 14.
5. Reading Log. Due Apr 11.

III. Projected Time Requirement and Grading Ratio

Requirement	Projected time	Percentage of final grade
Attendance	25 hours	
Textbook reading	37-56 hrs.	(reduction for incompleteness)
Confessional Statements	10-15 hrs.	70%
Research paper	25-35 hrs.	30%

THE DETAILS

I. Course Objectives

Through class lectures, discussions, readings, research and written assignments, you should

1. gain an understanding of the major theological issues in the areas of Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology.
2. gain a fundamental knowledge of the teaching of Scripture and the traditions of the Christian Church concerning the theological areas covered in the course. This knowledge should include:
 - a. ability to define key theological terms.
 - b. ability to identify key biblical passages related to major theological concepts.
 - c. understanding of, appreciation for, and readiness to critique the diverse Christian traditions regarding theological topics covered in the course.
3. develop a personal confession of faith in the theological areas covered in the course.
4. develop an appreciation for the value of systematic theology, and a desire to continue a life long study of the harmony of biblical teaching regarding theological topics, with due recognition of the wisdom of the Church as it has been taught by the Holy Spirit through the centuries.
5. develop an ability to distinguish between those items which are believed as a matter of orthodoxy and those opinions which are personal conclusions on matters where evangelicals may differ, without endangering fundamentals of the historic Christian faith.
6. develop a spirit of awe and thanksgiving for the greatness of God and of God's mighty work among the creatures.
7. develop a systematic theological foundation which will ground and direct their activity for God, both in their personal growth in godliness and in their service for God's kingdom.

II. Procedure and Requirements

A. General Comments Concerning Assignments

1. In all oral and written work, please use **gender language** according to the current conventions of Canadian usage. If your intention is to refer to both women and men in a statement, the language used should make this clear. The use of a gender accurate Bible translation is recommended but not required.
2. The grade for **late assignments** will be reduced by 1% per week day (to a maximum of 10%) unless extensions have been given because of illness or other unavoidable disruption of a

student's work. No assignments will be accepted later than April 20 without permission from the Academic Committee. Request forms are available from the Registrar's office.

3. Please **email assignments** to me, in MS Word format, at terry.tiessen@prov.ca. These will be marked and returned electronically.

B. Class Meetings

The class will meet weekly for **lectures and discussion** of the topics scheduled. I will assume that the reading has oriented you to the various theological proposals and assisted you in formulating your own understanding on the topic. In class time, I will focus on my own theological proposal for your critique and interaction. Time will particularly be devoted to the more complex and controversial issues.

Outlines of a treatment of the theological topics covered in this course are available in the Bookstore (in print or on computer disk) and students are expected to have them. These will make it easier for you to take notes in class. This material is often helpful in the preparation of your confessional statements. *(It is not wise to borrow a copy of these outlines from another student who took the course previously, for two reasons: (1) the outline changes from year to year; and (2) the process of writing what you yourself hear and think into the outline is an important part of the total learning experience.)*

C. Text Book Reading

The **text books** for this course are:

BE: Gregory A. Boyd and Paul R. Eddy, *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology*. Second edition (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009).

JLG: James Leo Garrett, *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical and Evangelical*. Vols 1 (3rd edition) and 2 (2nd edition) (North Richland Hills, Texas: BIBAL Press, 2007 and 2001 respectively).

Tiessen, Terrance. *Outline of Class Lectures*.

Reading assignments are to be completed carefully. Ideally, reading concerning the topic of the day should be done prior to the class meeting at which the topics are treated, enabling you to participate most fully in class discussion.

Given the survey nature of this course, and the limited class time for dealing with the subject matter, you will need to maximize the benefit of your reading. The texts are excellent, and students who complete the readings conscientiously and participate well in the class sessions should finish the course with a good grasp of evangelical Christian theology.

By the appointed date, you should submit a **log of the reading** which was carefully done in the assigned texts. This log will simply indicate the date and the pages read on that date. (See model below.) At the end of the log, you will indicate how many of the pages of reading were completed, and what **percentage** of the assignment this constituted. If fewer than the assigned pages are read, the final grade will be

reduced by 1% for each 10% of the reading.

Your log should look something like this:

Name:

Date	Page numbers	Number of pages
Jan 21	JLG, I: 320-30	10
Jan 22	JLG, I: 240-45	5
Jan 24	BE, 150-190	40
etc.		...

Percentage of the assigned reading completed: ?

D. Confessional Statement

You will produce a detailed **Confession of Faith** in the course of the semester. This will be submitted in five instalments, as indicated in the schedule below. The respective instalments will deal with the following items:

- 1) Christology
- 2) Pneumatology
- 3) Soteriology
- 4) Ecclesiology
- 5) Eschatology

The series of “I believe” statements should be

- numbered continuously** throughout the confession in order to make cross-reference possible when I read and comment on them.
- presented in a logical order**. It is also helpful to **group** statements under **subheadings**.
- supported by Scripture references** in parenthesis.

This is not an essay, a discussion, or an apologetic. It is designed to give you the opportunity to formulate your own position, locating yourself within the array of theological perspectives that we find in the Christian Church today. The options that you specifically reject may be mentioned in “I deny” statements, if you wish. This sometimes helps to clearly define what you are affirming. (E.g., in a statement on the

Trinity one might state: "I deny that there are three Gods [tritheism] or that a unipersonal God has manifested himself in three modes or appearances [modalism].")

Do not avoid controversy or items where you are still uncertain of your position. In such cases, a statement should be made regarding your uncertainty with an indication of any tentative leanings that you may discern in your current understanding. The topical outline and the "Critical Questions" in the class notes may help you to be sure that you have addressed all of the relevant topics.

You should speak in the first person ("I believe") but avoid ambiguities that may result from first person references (I/me/we/us). (For example, the statement "I believe that Christ died as a penal substitute for my/our sin" does not tell me for whom else's sin Christ died, or who is included among "our/us.") **Be specific.**

An **example** of one statement, in the area of anthropology, would be

1. I believe that human beings were created, male and female, in the image of God (Gen 1:26,27). I believe that this image included original righteousness (Gen 1:31; Ecc 7:29; Col 3:10; Eph 4:22-25) according to the ideal in Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3), that it described humans in their entire being, body and soul (Gen 9:6; Mt 10:28), and that it was the reason why God gave humans dominion over the rest of creation (Gen 1:26).

E. Research Paper

You will submit a **research paper**, approximately 15 pages in length.

1. Topic

Papers should deal with a topic of particular interest to you within the scope of the subject matter of this course. If there is any doubt about the appropriateness of a topic please consult the teacher. The paper may take one of the following forms:

- 1) *exegetical-theological or biblical-theological* (treating a biblical passage, or a body of biblical material, which significantly addresses a particular theological question). e.g. "The Relationship Between the Church and Israel, as Presented in Paul's Letter to the Romans."
- 2) *historical-theological* (studying the treatment of a particular theological issue within a particular theological tradition or by a major theologian). e.g. "Martin Luther's Theology of Baptism."
- 3) *systematic-theological* (aiming to present a coherent answer to a theological question, based on the consistent witness of the whole Bible, with the help of the Church's theological tradition). e.g. "The Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit."

2. Format

The paper must be printed not hand written.

Please do not right justify your text.

Reference notes are to be in the form of *footnotes* rather than endnotes or parenthetical references in text, except for biblical references, according to the Chicago style. This is described in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, seventh edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), but all you need to know concerning the format for your footnotes can be found in this online guide: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

The paper should include a title page and table of contents. It need not include a bibliography.

3. Use of **journal articles**

You are encouraged to look for helpful journal articles, since they often include material on the cutting edge, which may be harder to find in book format. To locate appropriate articles, you should use the periodical indexes and/or abstracts available in the electronic databases provided by the Library. Articles must be taken from academic journals, not from popular magazines.

4. **Grading**

The paper will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Proof-reading and spelling 10%
Format 10%
Use of sources 10%

(items considered are the following:

- judicious use of appropriate bibliography;
- ability to profit from the research of others, while writing your own paper, so that the work is not a mere compilation of quotations;

Organization 10%

- presentation of ideas in a logically coherent and well outlined form

Content 60%

(this includes the following:

- good use of the English language;
- clarity of statement of the issue and options for dealing with it;
- evidence of awareness of the treatment of the issue in theological literature;
- presentation of your discussion and argument in a clear, reasonable way, well supported by biblical teaching or other relevant sources)

III. Evaluation/grading

Grades are assigned according to a scale that gives equal numerical value to each letter category. Consequently, grades received on assignments should be interpreted as follows:

97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+
94-96: A	84-86: B	74-76: C	64-66: D
90-93: A-	80-83: B-	70-73: C-	60-63: D-

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule is a guide, particularly for reading purposes. Actual class topics may vary somewhat, depending on class interest, unforeseen interruptions etc.

Class period	Section	Topic	Reading and Assignments
Jan. 11 A		Introduction to the Course	
11 B	Christology	The Nature of Christ: Historical Developments	JLG: I, chap. 39
18 A & B		One Person in Two Natures	JLG: I, chaps. 40, 41 (pp. 639-56), 42 (pp. 665-71), 43, 45 BE: chap. 6
25 A		The Meaning of the Events of Christ's Life	JLG: I, chap. 42 (pp. 671-86); II, chaps. 49 (pp. 73-80), 50, 51
25 B		The Work of Christ	JLG: I, chaps. 41 (657-63), 44
Feb 1 A		The Work of Christ cont'd	JLG: II, chaps. 46, 47, 48, 49 (57-73), 63 BE: chap. 7
1 B	Pneumatology	The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit	JLG: II, chaps. 52, 53
8 A & B		The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit cont'd	JLG: II, chaps. 54, 55, 56 BE: chap. 14 Confessional statement # 1 (Christology) due
15 A	Soteriology	The Plan of Salvation; Election;	JLG: II, chap. 70 BE: chap. 8

Feb 15 B		Union with Christ; Calling;	JLG: II, chap. 64 (357-66)
22 A		Regeneration; Conversion;	JLG: II, chaps. 61, 57, 58, 59 BE: chap. 11 Confessional statement # 2 (Pneumatology) due
22 B		Justification; Adoption;	JLG: II, chaps. 60, 62
29 A		Sanctification	JLG: II, chaps. 65, 66 BE: chap. 9
29 B		Perseverance; Glorification	JLG: II, chaps. 64 (366-75), 69 BE: chap. 10
Mar 7		Intrasection Week - No class meeting	
14 A	Ecclesiology	The Nature of the Church	JLG: II, chaps. 71, 77 (677-87)
14 B		The Relationship of the Church to God's Total Program	JLG: II, 78, 83 Research paper due
21 A		The Mission and Structure of the Church	JLG: II, chaps. 72, 74, 75, 76 BE: chap. 15 Confessional statement # 3 (Soteriology) due
21 B		The Ordinances/Sacraments of the Church	JLG: II, chaps. 73, 77 (659-77) BE: chaps. 12, 13
28 A	Eschatology	Death; the Intermediate State; the Resurrection	JLG: II, chaps. 79, 80, 81
28 B		The Second Coming of Christ	JLG: II, chap. 82
Apr 4 A & B		Millennium; Judgment; Eternity	JLG: II, chap. 84, 85 BE: chaps. 16, 17 Confessional statement # 4 (Ecclesiology) due

Apr 11		Catch up Day - No class meeting, unless a class has been missed for weather or other interruption.	Confessional statement # 5 (Eschatology) and Reading Log due
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VI. Bibliography

A general bibliography for theology is provided in the “Outlines for Lectures” and additional helpful bibliography can be found in the text books.