

Andrews University
SDA Theological Seminary
Department of Theology and Christian Philosophy
THST531 SURVEY OF THEOLOGY I
(3 credits)
Fernando Canale- Fall 2001
Seminary Hall, room N335

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of interdisciplinary nature, sources and methods of theology. An investigation of the nature of God –theTrinity, foreknowledge, predestination; and His words–creation, providence, the covenant, law and Sabbath.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To introduce the student to the understanding of the methodological and systematic foundations of Christian theology.
- B. To provide the student with general guidelines to grasp the Biblical teachings on God, foreknowledge, predestination, providence, law and covenant.
- C. To help the student to develop a basic understanding of the methodological basis for doing Seventh-day Adventist theology.
- D. The student should be able to grasp and integrate the methodological and systematic foundations of Christian theology to his/her own live and ministry.

III. CONTENT

- A. **UNIT I. WHAT IS THEOLOGY? (2)**
The nature, need, goal and universality of theology. Theology and The Doctrines of the Church. Theology for the Church vs. theology for the scholars. Theology as Interpretation. Forms of Systematic Theology.
- B. **UNIT II. WHERE DOES THEOLOGY COME FROM? SOURCES OF THEOLOGY. (1)**
Origin of Theological Knowledge: Revelation-Inspiration. The role of Scripture (**Sola, prima, tota Scriptura** principles). The sources of theology: Bible, reason, experience, tradition. Bible and Science. Supremacy of the Bible under challenge. SDA Destiny and Opportunity: Doing theology on the basis of Scripture. Thinking in the Light of Scripture .
- C. **UNIT III. HOW DO WE DO THEOLOGY? INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF THEOLOGY(3)**
Theological Method. Theological Encyclopedia. Hermeneutics and Adventist Theology
- D. **UNIT IV. NATURE OF GOD (3)**
Systematic Role of the Doctrine of God. Philosophical Interpretation of God. Time and timelessness. Sacred History and the Atonement.
- E. **UNIT V. TRINITY (3)**
Deo uno and Deo trino. Biblical understanding of the Trinity. God's Acts in history
- F. **UNIT VI. FOREKNOWLEDGE (2)**
Biblical evidence. Theological interpretations. Roles in predestination and providence.
- G. **UNIT VII. PREDESTINATION (3)**
Distinction from foreknowledge. Theological Interpretations. Theoretical Nature. Content.
- H. **UNIT VIII. CREATION (1)**
Wisdom and design. Role in biblical theology. Scientific and Theological interpretations and their consequences for

Biblical theology. Creation and Sanctuary.

I. **UNIT IX: HUMAN NATURE: IMAGO DEI**

The nature of human beings. The soul. Conditional immortality. Historical beings.

J. **UNIT X. PROVIDENCE (2)**

Definition. Relation to and distinction from Foreknowledge and Predestination. Theological interpretations of divine Sovereignty: Absolute and challenged. General and specific providence.

K. **UNIT XI. ORIGINAL SIN (2)**

The fall of Satan in heaven. The fall of Adam and Eve. The relational nature of the original sin. Sin and interpretation. The Great Controversy as Hermeneutical key.

L. **UNIT XI. ATONEMENT AS HISTORICAL PROCESS (3)**

The “covenant-sanctuary-structure” of biblical theology. Sabbath as sign of the covenant and as sacrament. Christ and the covenant-sanctuary structure. Christ the author of salvation. The covenant and the mission of the Church. Covenant and Judgement.

IV. **INSTRUCTOR**

The instructor for this course is Fernando Canale, Ph.D., professor of Theology and Philosophy at Andrews University SDA Theological Seminary. Office (N 314), 471-6672; home (8796 S. Bluff View), 471-4394; e-mail, canale@andrews.edu, web page: <http://www2.andrews.edu/~canale/>. Students are welcome to call the instructor home during business hours. For appointments call the instructor or his secretary.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

A. **Time Management**

1. M.Div students are required to spend two hours studying for each hour of class.
2. Since **Survey of Theology I** has 45 contact hours, students are required to spend a grand total of 90 hours working in class requirements including the examinations.
3. **Distribution of hours per requirement**
 - (1) Readings (total of 684 pages) 40 hours
 - (2) Summary or Reaction Paper 30 hours
 - (3) Examinations 20 hours
 - (4) Class attendance 45 hours

B. **Required Readings (30 points of the final grade)**

1. Students are expected to read all the selected pages from the following books or spend 40 hours in the process, whatever comes first.
 - a. Fernando Canale, “Doctrine of God,” in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 105-159.
 - b. Whilliam H. Shea, “Creation.” in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 418-456.
 - c. Aecio Cairus, “The Doctrine of Man,” in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Rould Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 205-232.
 - d. Samuele Bacchiocchi, *Immortality or Resurrection? A Biblical Study on Human Nature and Destiny* (Berrien Srpkins, MI: Biblical Perspectives, 1997), 155-189.
 - e. John M. Fowler, “Sin,” in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Rould Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 233-270.

- f. Mario Veloso, "The Law of God," in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 457-492.
 - g. Kenneth A. Strand, "The Sabbath," in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 493-537.
 - h. Samuele Bacchiocchi, *The Sabbath under Crossfire* (Berrien Springs, MI.: Biblical Perspective, 1998), 183-260.
 - i. Frank B. Holbrook, "The Great Controversy," in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 969-1009 .
 - j. Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1990), pp. 265-411; 455-538; and, 561-636.
2. **Reading Report:** Students will report their readings at examination time. Students reporting having read completely the required bibliography or having spent 40 hours in the process will get the full 30 points. However, students spending less than 40 hours in the process **without completing all the material** indicated as **required readings**, will receive credit **proportionally** to the time they spent. For instance, a student spending 20 hours will be credited 15 points out of the 30 possible points for this activity.
- C. **Summary or Reaction paper** (20 points of the final grade)
1. Students must prepare a 25 pages (single spaced) summary or reaction paper from their readings (required readings indicated above). **NOTE:** Since this is not **research** paper students may choose whatever format they prefer for the report. They are expected, however, to organize their report by following a consistent order (Title and subdivision, for instance, students may choose to follow an outline format).
 2. They may include
 - a. a summary of salient and relevant points.
 - b. a reaction paper in which the student selects relevant points and reacts critically to them.
 3. The objective of this exercise is
 - a. To develop the student's understanding of ideas and ability to express them in an abridged format
 - b. To encourage the critical analysis of theological positions
 - c. To help the students build a seed bank of theological ideas for future preaching and writing.
 4. The reading report is due at examination time. No report will be accepted after examination time.
- D. **Examinations** (30 points of the final grade)
1. **Dates:**
 - a. Mid Term: November 15
 - b. Final: Examination week
 2. **Type of Examination**
 - a. The test will consist of three sections: True or false (30%), brief answers (50%), and essay type questions (20%). (The percentages are approximate).
 - b. The questions will require memory, understanding, and the capability to use the acquired knowledge to solve and evaluate theological thinking in new settings.
 - c. Some questions will be general, some will be rather specific as to test the knowledge of the student in the best possible way.
 3. **Content**
 - a. Examinations will be based on the Students Notes and the material covered in class presentations.
 - b. The mid term exam will include units I-V.
 - c. The final exam will include units VI-XII.

- 4. **Administration**
 - a. Questions will be based on the **Lectures** by the instructor.
 - b. During the examinations the students will not be allowed to ask questions from the instructor. Evaluation of the students include their capability to understand the questions.
 - c. Students will have 50 minutes to complete the mid term, and 2 hours to complete the final examination.
- 5. **Grading**
 - a. Students will have the opportunity to revise the corrections made to their tests. are welcome to see the graded examinations. In order to do that they should see my secretary.
 - b. Students are welcome to report any error in the grading of their test by explaining each case in writing (at the top of the first page of the examination).
 - c. The instructor will not receive oral complains. No oral explanation or complaint will be received. They are welcome in writing though.
 - d. After considering the merits of each suggestion on each case, on an individual basis, the instructor will decide the grade for each examination.

VI. GRADING CRITERIA

- A. Each M.Div. student will be evaluated (his/her final grade will basically be determined) on the basis of his/her completion of
 - 1. Required readings 30 points
 - 2. Paper 20 points
 - 3. Tests 30 points
 - 4. Attendance 20 points100 total points
- B. **NO ADDITIONAL WORK FOR EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE AVAILABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.**
- C. The instructor may apply the curve in order to ensure that at least 25% of the class is in the A category (A and A-).
- D. Students receiving a D or lower grade in the first examination will be evaluated on the basis of first examination 25% of the final grade, and, final examination 75% of the final grade. This is a procedure designed to help students that may have a harder time adapting to the seminary, subject-matter of the course, or teaching style of the instructor.
- E. Letter grade-percentages equivalency
 - A 96-100
 - A- 91-95
 - B+ 86-90
 - B 81-85
 - B- 76-80
 - C+ 71-75
 - C 66-70
 - C- 61-65
 - D 51-60
 - F 1-50

VII. ATTENDANCE (20 points)

- A. The points will be earned according to the following scale of unexcused absences:
 - 1. 0-4 unexcused absences: 20 points
 - 2. 5 unexcused absences: 15 points
 - 3. 6 unexcused absences: 10 points
 - 4. 7 unexcused absences: 5 points
 - 5. 8 unexcused absences: 0 points

6. **9 and each additional unexcused absence: -5 points**

- B. Students will indicate their presence in each class by writing their names and signing the class roll sheet that will be pass around each time the class meets.
- C. **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING THE CLASS ATTENDENCE SHEET WHILE IN CLASS.**
- D. **FAILING TO SIGN WHILE IN CLASS WILL BE EXCUSED ONLY ONCE.**
- E. Absences will be excused by the instructor on the basis of
 - 1. illness (medical certificate)
 - 2. family emergency
 - 3. unforeseen circumstance hinders student presence (car breaks down or slip of the road and the like).
- F. Absences due to late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not considered excused.

VIII. PENALTIES

- A. When for an excusable reason a student is granted by the instructor (mid term) or Associate Dean (final examination) the rare opportunity to write his or her the final examination at a time other than the scheduled from the Associate Dean's office, she/he will be given a different test from the rest of the class, usually an essay type examination consisting of only one question.
- B. Failing to attende mid term or final examinations by unexcusable reasons will result in a O grade.

IX. CLASS PARTICIPATION

- A. In order to maximize time management students are given access to the instructor's Class Notes.
- B. The student will greatly benefit from a careful reading of the material before class.
- C. Students are encouraged to take notes that will help them to better understand the issues under discussion and prepare for the test.
- D. Students are encouraged to dialogue, discuss, and present their questions and comments to the instructor immediately before or after each class. Appointments for dialogue about class lectures are welcome. Questions may be presented also through the internet at canale@andrews.edu.
- E. Appointments should be made with my secretary or personally with the instructor (phone 471-3197).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY

- A. Tests are opportunities to demonstrate advances in learning. Consequently, students are expect not to cheat by glancing at other students' tests, chatting during the examination, or consulting with personal notes or books.
- B. Honesty is important in all professions, yet, it is paramount in those that have received the call to the gospel ministry.
- C. **Ceathing in any test will result in a Failing grade (F) for the entire course.**

XI. DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

- A. Students with diagnosed disabilities may request accommodations and needed assistance to the **Office of Student Success**.
- B. If you qualify for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations

XII. ALTERNATE GRADES

A. W (Withdrawal)

1. Students may apply for a W when when for different reasons they need to drop a course.
2. Dead Lines to apply for Withdrawal
 - a. **September 5:** The course will not show at all in your transcript
 - b. **November 27:** The course will show in your transcript with a W as grande. A W does not affect your GPA.

B. I (Incomplete)

1. Students may apply for an Incomplete when they cannot finish Course Requirements for prolonged sickness. An incomplete is not granted on the bases of student being overloaded with studies or/and work.
2. Students must fill the Incomplete form by the final examination time when all the requirements are due. The Incomplete form may be secured from the Registrar office (Administration Building), or, the Seminary's Associate Dean's office.

Students should feel free to call directly to the instructor during business hours from Monday through Friday (471-4394), leave a message at 471-6672, or write at canale@andrews.edu

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