

THST 616-031 (1876)

Doctrine of God

Spring 2023

Dr. Arlyn S. Drew, MD, MBA, PhD

SYNOPSIS OF THE COURSE

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location:	Face-to-Face, TBA
Class meeting times:	Feb 5-9 (Sun 3-6pm; Mon - Thurs 8:00am-12:30pm, 2:00pm-6:00pm)
Course Website:	learninghub.andrews.edu
Instructor Telephone/Text preferred:	1-269-208-2855
Instructor Email:	drewa@andrews.edu
Office location:	TBA
Office hours:	As arranged by request.

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

A theological, systematic and historical study of the nature and attributes of God and His relation to the world. Consideration of divine foreknowledge, predestination, and providence; the Trinity; God as a person.

PROGRAM & COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your degree program seeks to help you achieve the **Program Learning Outcomes** basic to your chosen profession. Your Program Learning Outcome primarily addressed in this course is:

- *MDiv: Scholarship - Manifests the practices of a Biblical scholar-theologian engaging the Bible, Christian/Adventist heritage and professional resources with theological maturity for personal growth and for facilitating the theological competence of others.*
- *MA (Religion): Practice a biblically grounded approach to scholarly inquiry*

The following **Course Learning Outcomes** contribute to the overall Program Learning Outcomes by identifying the key learnings to be achieved by diligent work in this course:

1. **Analyze** the nature, characteristics, and acts of God according to Scripture, especially as understood by Seventh-day Adventists.
2. **Critique** historical and contemporary theological issues while maintaining faithfulness to the canonical text.
3. **Clearly articulate** the current debate regarding the doctrine of God against the background of its historical and philosophical causes.
4. **Evaluate** various Christian perspectives on the doctrine of God.
5. **Structure** a personal, biblical, and theologically sound approach to the doctrine of God, with recognition of the central role this doctrine holds for the whole of theology.
6. **Discern** the implications and repercussions of various traditional philosophical and theological presuppositions in relationship to the doctrine of God.
7. Scholarship: **Delineate** deep systematic connections between foundational Christian doctrines [NAD MDiv SLO 1]
8. Scholarship: **Demonstrate** the ability and confidence to intelligently converse on various theological topics related to foundational Adventist doctrines with non-Adventists [NAD MDiv SLO 2]
9. Scholarship: **Appraise** other traditions and worldviews in light of Scripture and of the full body of Adventist doctrine, including attention to the impact of these various ideas on daily life [NAD MDiv SLO 3]
10. Management: **Manifest growing proficiency** in written communication skills, through persuasive academic assignments and papers [NAD MDiv SLO 4]

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows:

Date	Topic	Discussion and Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
Feb 5	Syllabus and Intro	Existence and Mystery: Revelation and Hermeneutics Book Report Due: Doctrine of God (Peckham)	1-4,6-10
	Divine Attributes	Eternal, Immutability, Love/Wrath, Transcendence	1-4,6-10
Feb 6	Divine Relations	Divine Knowledge, Power, Presence Reading Report 1: As assigned	1-4,6-10
	Divine Relations	Trinity, God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit	1-4,6-10
Feb 7	Divine Economy	Great Controversy, Redemption and Atonement Reading Report 2: As assigned	1-4, 6-10

Date	Topic	Discussion and Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
	Presentations	Students	5-10
Feb 8	Final Exam	Reading Report 3: As assigned	5-10
	Student Presentations/ SDA Perspectives	SDA Contributions Premodern. Modern, post-Modern Theology Sacrifice of Isaac- God as Father	1-4,6-10
Feb-March	Individual Projects	Chosen Project to be submitted electronically by March 31, 2023	5-10

Attendance

Regular attendance is required at all classes and other academic appointments. When the total number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may assign a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Course Materials

1. Peckham, John C. *The Doctrine of God: Introducing the Big Questions* (London: T&T Clark, 2019).
2. Handouts: Canale on Doctrine of God in SDA Theological Handbook. Link given out in class.

Recommended Course Materials

Required articles for reading will be posted on Learning Hub.

For ISBN and price information, please see the listing at the Bookstore www.andrews.edu/bookstore.

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

US Credit-Hour Regulations

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

- **Courses for professional masters' degrees (e.g. MDiv)** include 15 instructor contact hours and 30 hours of independent learning activities.
- **Courses for academic masters' (e.g. MA [Religion]) and all doctoral degrees** include 15 instructor contact hours, and 45 hours of independent learning activities.

The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student. Students weak in these skills: 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

		MAPM	
		3 Credits	
Instructor Contact Hours	Face to Face Instructional Time	35 hrs	
	Other Instructor-Directed Activities	10 hrs	
Independent Learning Activities	Reading Reports and Exam prep	40 hrs	
	Project	40 hrs	
	Presentations	10 hrs	
Total Hours:		135	

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Course Requirement	Book Report on Doctrine of God	A. One paragraph summary of each chapter to be handed in on the first class period, on Sunday. This is to maximize the quality of in-class discussion during the intensive.
1. Reading Reports	A qualitative measure of reading comprehension with discriminating intellectual engagement.	A. Name-title-chapter B. 3 significant- insights learned C. 2 in-depth questions from reading D. 1 paragraph outline of content
2. Student Presentation on the Biblical Picture of God	Original presentation of the divine name	A. 15 min. Powerpoint Presentation

“God is “	chosen, demonstrating clarity, coherent theological connections, practical persuasion and conviction.	B. Systematic accurate content C. Cogent and balanced Biblical evidence for or against each major point D. Practical Application in Pastoral Ministry
3. Project- Post Intensive	a. Two Sermons OR b. One Weekend Seminar (detailed) Outline	A. 30 min sermon (4 SS/8 DS pgs) B. Minimum of Three Meetings: -Friday Vespers Program -Sabbath Worship Program -Sabbath Afternoon Program

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates are given in the Course Overview above.

Assignment Description	Weighting
Book and Reading Reports	30%
Student Presentations	20%
Final Exam	20%
Projects	30%

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements. Individual arrangements can be made for those requesting last minute grade adjustment or extra credit at the discretion of the instructor.

The AU Bulletin states that: “An Incomplete (I) indicates that the student’s work is incomplete because of illness or unavoidable circumstances and not because of negligence or inferior performance. Students will be charged an incomplete fee for each incomplete grade issued.” DGs are not an option for most types of courses.

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be turned in on Learning Hub before the **BEGINNING** of the class period at which they are due (unless otherwise announced).

Late Submission

Because student assignments are an essential part of class activities, assignments turned in after the time they are due will be worth a maximum of 50% of possible points. Any requests for extra time on an assignment must be made in advance with the professor. Such requests should be a rarity and should be accompanied by a valid reason why the work could not be done by the date due.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Arlyn S. Drew is a retired physician, former CFO and adjunct professor at the SDA Theological Seminary. Her MD was from Loma Linda Medical School, her MBA from Bethel University, and her PhD from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Her specialty is systematic theology with an emphasis on hermeneutics. Her dissertation on a new interpretation of the Sacrifice of Isaac was successfully defended in March 2020, titled *A Hermeneutic for the Aqedah: A Way beyond Jon Levenson and Terence Fretheim's Models*. She resides in Berrien Springs, MI with her husband, Dr. Kevin Drew, and six children. Her passion is for biblical narratives through a theocentric hermeneutic.



OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.

- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses. Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Learning Hub, and iVue alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu .

APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

Letter Grades and Percentages

95-100%	A	80-84%	B	65-69%	C
90-94%	A-	75-79%	B-	60-64%	C-
85-89%	B+	70-74%	C+	55-59%	D

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed.

APPENDIX 2: ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC(S)

READING REPORT/JOURNAL RUBRIC

Criteria		Meets Standard (5)	(4)	Good (3)	(2)	Does Not Meet Standard (1)	Absent (0)	Score	
Category									
75 %	Content	The student exhibited understanding of the material in the summary and critical evaluation. Three significant discussion questions and three points of useful/interesting information show evidence of thoughtful reading and reflection		Some understanding of the material is exhibited in the summary. There are some questions and points of interesting information. Little evidence of thoughtful reading and reflection.		It appears that the material was not carefully read. Questions and points of insight are either missing or poorly done.		Out of 5 _____	Out of 75 _____
25 %	Presentation of the Assignment	It is evident that the journal was composed with care and thoughtfulness. No spelling mistakes. Follows the prescribed format. It is clear that this assignment was not written in the last minute.		The journal is generally well done but includes some spelling and grammatical mistakes, only follows some of the instructions, and shows evidence of being completed in a rushed and halfhearted manner.		The journal looks messy; there are spelling mistakes and major departures from the instructions. It is evident that the student did not spend much time or effort preparing this assignment.		Out of 5 _____	Out of 25 _____

Total (out of 100):

APPENDIX #: PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

MASTERS PROGRAMS

1. Master of Divinity (MDiv)

- 1) (Character) Models spiritual humility, maturity and integrity grounded in a living experience with God in joyful assurance of His salvation, nurtured by the sanctifying presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) (Scholarship) Manifests the practices of a Biblical scholar-theologian engaging the Bible, Christian/Adventist heritage and professional resources with theological maturity for personal growth and for facilitating the theological competence of others.
- 3) (Discipleship & Evangelism) Demonstrates personal commitment, passion and essential skills for discipleship and evangelism, while equipping members to carry out ministry within the scope of the local and global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- 4) (Leadership) Exercises creative and visionary leadership as a minister and servant of Christ, discerning the needs, spiritual gifts and potential of others, in order to equip and engage in their God-given ministries.
- 5) (Worship) Facilitates enriching corporate worship that brings diverse peoples into the transforming presence of God.

- 6) (Administration/Management) Engages the abilities of self and others to strategically steward personal and corporate resources including time, health, finances, property and service in areas of spiritual giftedness.
- 7) (Relationships) Models effective relationships with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, character, and persuasions, reflecting the wisdom, compassion, and discernment of Jesus through the work of the Spirit.

2. MA in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM)

- 1) Deliver effective biblically-based sermons
- 2) Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills
- 3) Understand the historical-theological development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 4) Exhibit capability for training church members for evangelism
- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership
- 6) Exhibit capability for reaching specific social groups

APPENDIX #: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RECOMMENDED BOOKS & RESOURCES

Boyd, Gregory A., and Paul R. Eddy. *Across the Spectrum: Understanding Issues in Evangelical Theology*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

Boyd, Gregory A. *God at War: The Bible & Spiritual Conflict*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Buber, Martin. *I and Thou*. Translated by Ronald Gregor Smith. New York, NY: Continuum, 2004.

Canale, Fernando. "A Biblical Epistemology for Adventist Scholarship." Paper presentation, Fourth Symposium on the Bible and Adventist Scholarship, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Riviera Maya, Estado Quintana Roo, Mexico, 2008.

Canale, Fernando. "Doctrine of God." In *Handbook of Seventh-Day Adventist Theology*, edited by Raoul Dederen. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2000.

Carasik, Michael. "The Limits of Omniscience." *JBL*, 119, no. 2 (2000): 221-232.

Cobb, John B. Jr., and Clark H. Pinnock, eds. *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue between Process and Free Will Theists*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2000.

Cobb, John B. Jr., and David Ray Griffin. *Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1956.

Cole, Dorothee, ed. *Servant God: The Cosmic Conflict over God's Trustworthiness*. Loma Linda, CA: Loma Linda University Press, 2013.

Dederen, Raoul, ed. *Handbook of Seventh-Day Adventist Theology*, Commentary Reference

- Series. Hagerstown, MD: Review & Herald, 2000.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- Fretheim, Terence E. *The Suffering of God*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1984.
- Gadamer, Hans Georg. *Truth and Method*. New York, NY: Continuum, 1989.
- Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson. *20th -Century Theology: God and the World in a Transitional Age*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Gulley, Norman R. *Systematic Theology: God as Trinity*. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2011.
- Heschel, Abraham J. *Man is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion*. New York, NY: The Noonday Press, 1951.
- Heschel, Abraham J. *God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism*. New York, NY: Farrar, Status and Giroux, 1955.
- Lipton, Peter. *Inference to the Best Explanation*. New York, NY: Routledge, 1991.
- Lonergan, Bernard. *Method in Theology*. Toronto, CN: University of Toronto Press, 1971.
- Olson, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 1999.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. and expanded, 2nd ed. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- Peckham, John C. *The Doctrine of God: Introducing the Big Questions*. London: T&T Clark, 2019.
- Peckham, John C. *The Love of God: A Canonical Model*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2015.
- Petersen, Michael, and William Hasker, et al. eds. *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Pinnock, Clark H., Richard Rice, John Sanders, William Hasker, David Basinger. *The Openness of God: A Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- Rice, Richard. *The Openness of God*. Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing Company, 1980.
- Reid, George, et al. *Understanding Scripture: An Adventist Approach*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2005.
- Ricoeur, Paul. *Figuring the Sacred: Religion, Narrative, and Imagination*. Mark Wallace, ed. David Pellauer, trans. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995.

Stump, Eleonore. *The God of the Bible and the God of the Philosophers*. Marquette: Marquette University Press, 2016.

Thiselton, Anthony C. *New Horizons in Hermeneutics: The Theory and Practice of Transforming Biblical Reading*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing Home, 1992.

Westphal, Merold. *Overcoming Onto-theology*. New York, NY: Fordham University Press, 2001.

White, Ellen G. *The Story of Patriarchs and Prophets*. Vol. 1 Conflict of the Ages series. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1958.