

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I

Study Guide

**AIM Institute | Theology 1**  
**Instructor: Dan Haas**  
**Course Assignments and Meeting Schedule**

Welcome to our first course on Systematic Theology. This publication provides a weekly schedule and preparation to be completed before each session.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Theology I students, welcome to the course! We are about to embark on a journey to learn and understand the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. For those of you in full-time, vocational ministry or desiring to be in full-time vocational ministry, it is essential for you to know these concepts. I have designed the weekly assignments for this class to center around learning the definitions of terms commonly used in theological discussions.

Many of these terms require precise, theological language. Therefore, I have asked you to write out many of the definitions of certain terms or list their key components. Please do not take this as busy work. Writing the theological definitions out by hand, listening to the lectures, and reading the Erickson book will help you to memorize and remember them. The key to learning any new academic discipline is to become familiar with the vocabulary used in that discipline. Theology is no exception! I would advise you to start your own notebook or computer file with the definitions you write for Theology I and compile them with other theological terms you will learn in Theology II, III and IV. It is necessary for you to be accurate in writing out definitions of the terms and your accuracy will be a major part of grading your weekly assignments.

However, accurately writing down the definitions does not mean that you understand what you wrote. I hope that the course videos and reading material will enhance your understanding of the doctrines. Please raise any questions you have about the course work in our zoom sessions. Our zoom discussions should center on: clarifying what terms mean, the implications of the various doctrines, and how they apply to our lives.

## **OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to...

- To introduce the student to the purpose and meaning of theology.
- To encourage the personal faith of the student through careful Bible study of the doctrines covered.
- To provide the student with Biblical answers to key questions that the Christian worker will face concerning the doctrines covered.
- To stimulate the student's thinking by exposing him to new areas of Biblical teaching.

## **INSTRUCTOR: Dan Haas**

Dan Haas founded and led Aurora Community Church in Aurora, Illinois for twenty-seven years. His ministry was characterized by community involvement including serving as President of the Aurora Clergy Association, Co-Founder of the Prayer Coalition for Reconciliation, Co-Founder of Covenant Christian School, Board Member of Wayside Ministries and past Secretary of the Aurora Rotary Club. Dan currently travels as a full time Bible teacher. From 1994-2010, Dan was instrumental in organizing a collaborative community effort that lowered the homicide rate in Aurora, Illinois from 2.5 times the national average per year to zero homicides.

Pastor Haas' educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Western Illinois University, study at John Marshall Law School, Northern Illinois University, and a Master of Arts from Wheaton Graduate School. Dan's commitment to the local church can be seen in his passions for revival and leadership training.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

This directed study format enables you to receive college level instruction while studying at home. Course elements include

- Weekly video assignments
- Required textbook reading assignments
- Contact time with the instructor and classmates is provided in a weekly Zoom debrief classroom.
- Study questions are for your personal benefit as well as preparation for the weekly debrief.
- Course will be graded as pass or fail. Bear in mind your weekly preparation will have a direct bearing on how much you gain from the course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

- The first of twelve debriefs will be on Sunday Weekly Zoom Debrief begin Sunday September 18 at 7:00PM (Eastern Standard Time) for 12 weeks except November 27.
- You will receive a Zoom invite by email for each debrief.
- Preparation can be done at any time before the debrief.
- To maximize the use of your time, we will not cover information from the videos in the debrief unless there are questions.

## REQUIREMENTS

- This is an intensive course; students should plan to participate in all class sessions.
- Complete all course reading, watch videos, and writing assignments.
- Complete course project.

Your final exam will be a 10-15 minute oral, individual presentation on any one of the various doctrines we cover in Theology I. The presentations will be given on zoom for our final class meeting. You must present at least 10 minutes but not more than 15 minutes. Please include the following elements in your presentation.

1. What doctrine are you presenting?
2. What is the meaning and implication of the doctrine?
3. How has this doctrine impacted you?
4. What is/what will be the influence of this doctrine on your ministry?

Before the zoom class final examination, you will need to send me a single spaced, typed document of your presentation. To make the timeframe work, your presentation should be 1,000-1,500 words or 4-6 typed pages. Please ask any questions about this exam throughout the course. God bless you!

## LECTURE VIDEOS

- Videos are available at [CLICK HERE](#)

## TEXTS

- Holy Bible (Translation of your choice)
- “Introducing Christian Doctrine” (third edition) by Milliard Erickson, Baker Academic, 2013 (this textbook will be used for other AIM Institute theology courses. Note the edition and publish date. Other versions will not match up class notes or discussions.)
- “AIM Institute Theology I Class Notes” by Dan Haas [CLICK HERE](#) to download
- “Studies in Systematic Theology” by Terry King [CLICK HERE](#) to download
- Students source their own textbooks.

## Participation

- **Essential:** Our weekly Zoom meeting is a discussion based debrief, not a lecture.
- Please be prepared to turn on your camera. Test your internet connection in advance.

## Study Schedule

Sunday Weekly Zoom Debrief begin Sunday September 18 at 7:00PM (Eastern Standard Time) for 12 weeks except November 27.

### **Sunday September 18 | Session 1 | What is Theology?**

Orientation and Course Introduction

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 3-7
  - Listen to Session 1 video.
  - Write two paragraphs. First, what are the five characteristics of Theology?
  - Second, how does the music you listened to in Session 1 video relate to these characteristics?
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### **Sunday September 25 | Session 2 | The Method of Theology**

Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 7-14
  - Listen to Session 2 video.
  - Write two paragraphs. First, list the steps used in doing Theology or the method of Theology.
  - Second, which steps seem most important to you? Why?
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### **Sunday October 2 | Session 3 | Contextualizing the Christian Message**

Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pages 15-22
  - Listen to Session 3 video
  - Write several paragraphs on the three approaches to contextualizing the Christian message. (The lecture lists two, the text lists three. See page 16 in Ericksen).
  - Which approach would you use in contextualizing the Christian message? Why did you choose this approach?
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## **Sunday October 9 | Session 4 | General and Special Revelation**

### Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 25-48
  - Listen to Session 4 video
  - Write the definition of general revelation and state an example of general revelation.
  - Write the definition of Special Revelation and give one example of special revelation.
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## **Sunday October 16 | Session 5 | Inspiration and Inerrancy**

### Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 49-67
  - Listen to Session 5 video
  - Write out the definition of inspiration. Review pages 52-53. What theory of inspiration do you think is best? Why?
  - Write out the one sentence definition for inerrancy found on page 60. What is the main point of the concept of inerrancy? Read the final definition on page 63.
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## **Sunday October 23 | Session 6 | The Power of God's Word-Authority**

### Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 69-74
  - Listen to Session 6 video
  - Write a brief response to these questions. Does anyone have the authority to tell us what to believe or how to act? If so, who is it?
  - How does the Holy Spirit and God's Word work together?
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## **Sunday October 30 | Session 7 | The Doctrine of God**

### Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 79-85

- Listen to Session 7 video.
  - Write a definition for both immanence and transcendence. Give one implication of both aspects of God that is significant for you.
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### **Sunday November 6 | Session 8 | The Greatness of God**

Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 87-95
  - Listen to Session 8 video
  - Write the definition of God's attributes.
  - Briefly explain the difference between God's attributes and God's properties.
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### **Sunday November 11 | Session 9 | The Goodness of God**

Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 97-105
  - Listen to Session 9 video.
  - Write a paragraph describing which of God's moral qualities is most significant to you? Why?
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### **Sunday November 20 | Session 10 | The Trinity**

Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 107-119
  - Listen to Session 10 video
  - Describe modalistic monarchianism. What is the flaw in this construct of God? What construct did the early Church fathers arrive at to solve this problem?
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## **Sunday December 4 | Session 11 | God's Plan**

### Assignments:

- Read Christian Doctrine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 121-132
  - Listen to Session 11 video.
  - This textbook, like most Theology textbooks written today, presents Calvinism as the framework for explaining God's plan for human history. You need to understand this position. In particular, think about the Calvinist concept of free will in human decision making. Please come prepared to discuss the following concepts at our zoom meeting. 1. Election, 2. Predestination, 3. Conditional Predestination, 4. Point 6 on page 28 of your outline 5. Point 7 on page 29 of your outline. 6. Luke 14:15-24
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## **Sunday December 11 | Session 12 | Creation and the Problem of Evil**

### Assignments:

- Read Christian Theology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Pages 133-143 and 159-166
- Listen to Session 12 video
- On pages 32-33 of your class notes find six points describing the theological meaning of creation. Pick two of these points and write why they are significant to you.
- Page 160 lists the 3 concepts that are in conflict when discussing the problem of evil in our world. Continue to read the chapter and follow the 6 possible solutions to the problem of evil. What part does man's willful sin play in all of this?

### **Session 13**

**Final Exam presentations will be made on Sunday, December 18 starting at 7pm.**

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Instructor Dan Haas  
AIM Institute  
Leadership Development Resources  
PO Box 667  
Hagerstown, MD 21741  
Email: danhaas1@outlook.com  
Phone: (630) 816-9314

