

HISTORY OF DOCTRINE

I. Catalog Description

A Study of the historical development of selected doctrines, with attention to the development of each theological theme from the church fathers to the present day. (3 hours)

II. Course Objectives

This course defines the origins and development of the theology of the church. It traces the historical development of the major branches of systematic theology, noting specifically the formulation and modification of each branch from the early church to the present day. In addition, the course defines the major formulation of doctrine, whether orthodox or heterodox. Finally, an investigation of the contemporary trends in Protestant thought enables students to gain perspective on the issues with which the church is grappling.

Upon completion of this course, students will . . .

- A. Know the historical development of the major branches of systematic theology.
- B. Understand the catalytic issues in the formulation of dogma, thus not only knowing how theological conceptions have changed, but also why they changed.
- C. Apply aspects of doctrinal development through answering the questions that accompany each session.
- D. Analyze the validity of theological perspectives through the responding to the questions for each lesson.
- E. Synthesize the historical development of trends that have emerged in areas of theology.
- F. Evaluate the premises, expression, and perspectives of various aspects of historical doctrines.

III. Course Textbooks

A. Required

Find the class notes in the pages of the course, or purchase a copy in the Book Center (590 pages).

Hannah, John D. *Our Legacy: The History of Christian Doctrine*. Reprint. 2001. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2013. (395 pages)

B. Suggested

See class notes and textbook.

C. Supplementary Bibliography

Allison, Gregg R. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Bromiley, Geoffrey W. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.

- Cunningham, William. *Historical Theology*. 2 vols. 1862. Reprint. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1969.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 vols. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1970, 1971, 1975.
- Hagenbach, K. R. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. 7 vols. 1900. Reprint. New York: Dover Publications, 1961.
- Heick, Otto W. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976. (Heick's work is a revision of J.L. Neve's *A History of Christian Thought*.)
- Klotsche, E. H. *The History of Christian Doctrine*. 1945. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.
- McGiffert, Arthur Cushman. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. 1933. Reprint. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1994.
- _____. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998.
- Miles, Margaret R. *The Word Made Flesh: A History of Christian Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2005.
- Neander, August. *History of Christian Dogmas*. 2 vols. London: Bell & Daldy, 1866.
- Neve, J. L. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: The United Lutheran Publication House, 1943.
- Olsen, Roger E. *The Story of Christian Theology: Twenty Centuries of Tradition and Reform*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Orr, James. *The Progress of Dogma*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1907.
- Seeberg, Reinhold. *Textbook of the History of Doctrines*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.
- Sheldon, Henry C. *History of Christian Doctrine*. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1886.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Reading Assignments

To understand the historical development of doctrine, thoughtfully read the class notes and the assigned sections in the required textbook prior to attending the lecture videos.

This introductory course emphasizes the student's initial access to the course material. The written notes reduce note taking during the lecture videos by providing basic course content. Because repetition benefits learning, the textbook provides a more coherent survey of the course content.

B. Study Questions

Answer the study questions that accompany the class notes to apply and analyze the material covered in the course. Answer questions for each session, and submit your answers at the end of each module.

C. Exams

Take two extensive, closed-book examinations: a mid-term (module 4) and a final (module 9).

The Mid-term in module 4 covers the first 4 modules of material.

The Final Exam in Module 9 covers the material in Modules 5-8. If you are graduating, then you will have an earlier due date for the exam.

D. Interactions

Post your response to a discussion question. Then discuss one another's responses with your classmates. Use this guided discussion to enhance your learning and to develop a learning community with your classmates.

E. Videos

Attend the lecture videos. Failure to attend lecture videos results in a grade penalty.

V. Course Policies

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Reading.....25%
 Study Questions20%
 Mid-term20%
 Final20%
 Interactions.....15%

C. Late Assignments

No late assignments are accepted except under extraordinary circumstances.

VI. Course Supplemental Information

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

The Presence of the Professor

While the online learning environment is different than the live classroom environment, your professor is still involved and available. You can expect your professor to participate in the required interactions/discussions regularly and substantially. You can also expect your professor to have at least 3 virtual live “office hours”. Your professor will inform you of the times and means that these will occur. Most professors will likely use the Chat feature provided by our online platform at online.dts.edu.

VII. Course Schedule

Module	Subject	Readings	Assignments Due
1	Introduction to the History of Doctrine	Syllabus Class Notes #1 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 1	Study Questions Interaction
2	The Doctrine of the Scriptures (Bibliology)	Class Notes #2-4 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 2	Study Questions: Lessons 1-4
3	The Doctrine of God (Theology Proper)	Class Notes #5-9 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 3	Study Questions: Lessons 5-9
4	The Doctrine of Christ (Christology): The Person of Christ	Class Notes #10-13 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 4	Study Questions: Lessons 10-13 Mid Term Exam
5	The Doctrine of Christ (Christology): The Work of Christ	Class Notes #14-17 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 5	Study Questions: Lessons 14-17 Interaction
6	The Doctrine of Salvation (Hamartiology, Anthropology, & Soteriology)	Class Notes #18-22 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 6	Study Questions: Lessons 18-22 Interaction
7	The Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)	Class Notes #23-25 <i>Our Legacy</i> ch. 7	Study Questions: Lessons 23-25
8	The Doctrine of "Last Things" (Eschatology)	Class Notes #26-28 <i>Our Legacy</i> chs. 8 & 9	Study Questions: Lessons 26-28
9			Final Exam