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Dallas Theological Seminary

AS105A, Seminar on God,
Humanity, and Sin
3 hours
Fall 2018
Mondays, 3:50-6:30p.m.

SEMINAR ON GOD, HUMANITY, AND SIN (ADVANCED STANDING)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

DTS Catalogue: "A biblical, historical, and systematic study of the seminal issues in soteriology, sanctification, and ecclesiology. Enrollment is limited to students in the Accelerated Advanced Standing program and requires the consent of the Advanced Standing Committee. *Prerequisite: ST101 Introduction to Theology. 3 credit hours.*

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. To encourage students to develop their thinking about the issues in soteriology, sanctification, and ecclesiology in terms of biblical content, historical development of the doctrines, and contemporary discussions.
- B. Students should anticipate a selection of issues and/or doctrines that are appropriate to the members of the class. They should expect to select a topic to research and present at a deeper level than an introductory survey. They will approach their topics with methods that are best suited for substantive conclusions. These will vary according to the selected topics.
- C. Students will be required to articulate their findings and beliefs about their chosen topics or projects. They should reflect their acquaintance with cross-disciplinary sources that they can better engage their ministerial culture-at-large. They should focus on an understanding of biblical and confessional teachings and, hopefully, will demonstrate an acquaintance with the beliefs of cults, Christendom in its breadth, and world religions.
- D. To encourage students to integrate their understanding of their topics into their worldview and apply them meaningfully to aspects of personal, familial, ecclesial, and public life.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Holsteen, Nathan, and Michael Svigel, eds. *Exploring Christian Theology, vols. 2.2 and 3.1.*
Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2014-15.

In lieu of a lengthy bibliography, students should consult the bibliographies in the required texts.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Course Project (80%)

Each student will choose a topic and a text for research. An alternative assignment is a project for QEP (Agape Project). The initial classes will involve student presentation of their topic and text. The class will discuss the student's initial work, suggest additional sources if needed, and offer suggestions on questions that they would be interested in. The intent of the course is for the students to research a single topic in depth and to gain teaching experience.

A second section of the course will begin approximately **October 15th**. In this section each student will teach a class section by presenting a detailed precis (summary and critique of their topic and text. Their presentation will be accompanied by a visual summary of their topic (such as power points, art, or music), the development of their thinking, and work that needs to be refined by the end of the course. The presentation should be accompanied by a paper in appropriate format for their topic. The length of the paper may vary according to the topic, but 12-15 pages may serve as a standard. The class usually desires a copy of this material. A brief time of critique from the class will

follow the presentation. The Agape Projects will require a summary that will be given to the project director and the class.

A third section of the course will be presented on **December 10th**, which will be a brief report of each student's progress in research and presentation for class discussion.

B. Doctrinal Summary (20%)

The Theological Studies Division desires that each student submit a "Doctrinal Summary" for the three areas in the course description: God, Humanity, and Sin. These outlines should be about three (pages) in length for each subject. One page should be devoted to the content of the syllabus. The following pages should be devoted to biblical, theological, and historical support. A sample of the outlines may be found in Canvas. The outlines may be placed in the student's portfolio. They should be present at the same time as the third section of the project on **December 10th**.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. **Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading**

The **grading standards** will be the same as the *Student Handbook*. Grading on all options of this course will attempt to honor variables among students such as relative exposure to prior education and various demands on time. This course will tend **to favor less advantaged students**, so that a passing grade is possible for students with unforeseen pressures. The goal of the seminary's master's programs is **to prepare students for effective ministry**. However, advanced material is included in the class notes for those who can benefit from it.

B. **Class Participation**

Is encouraged.

C. **Late Assignments**

Course **extensions** will be allowed in accordance with handbook policy, meaning that the Credits Committee has authority over all extension work. Any extension will be for three weeks and will automatically deduct a grade notch (such as A to A-) from the student's final average. A maximum of three extensions are not in the student's best interests unless they are absolutely necessary.

D. **Absences**

Four **unexcused absences** are allowed before the student's grade will be reduced. Under no circumstances can one student "cover" in any way for the absence of a classmate. The student will report his/her attendance at the end of the semester. Grade penalties will be assigned according to the *Student Handbook*.

E. **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		

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.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

August	27	Introduction to the Course and initial discussion
September	3	Labor Day, No class
	10	1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
	17	1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
	24	1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
October	1	1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
	8	Second Section of the Course Begins
	15	1) _____ 2) _____
	22	1) _____ 2) _____
	29	1) _____ 2) _____
November	5	1) _____ 2) _____
November 12-23		Reading Week and Thanksgiving Break
	26	1) _____ 2) _____
December	3	1) _____ 2) _____
	10	Discussion Final Written Summaries Due
December 17-20		Final Exams