

SOTERIOLOGY SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“A study of sanctification, the doctrine of the spiritual life; and ecclesiology, the doctrines of the body of Christ and the local church, including its organization, ministry, ordinances, government, and purpose. Prerequisite: ST101 Introduction to Theology. 3 hours. (DTS Catalog)”

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Hours	Description	Assessments
All Students (2 and 3 credits) Core Objectives	The student will know the significant phases, events, persons, and theological movements associated with the historical development of sanctification and ecclesiology.	-Final Exam
	The student will know and articulate the significant terms, claims, and key biblical passages associated with sanctification and ecclesiology.	-Final Exam -Doctrinal Synthesis Paper, especially Section 1 (Brief Statement) and notes.
	The student will explain his or her doctrinal convictions regarding Sanctification and Ecclesiology with biblical, theological, and historical support.	-Doctrinal Synthesis Paper, especially Section 2 (Exposition) and notes
	The student will relate the doctrines of sanctification and ecclesiology to his or her life and ministry.	-Doctrinal Synthesis Paper, Section 3
	The student will be able to engage in sympathetic but critical dialogue with diverse Christian communities, traditions, and denominations striving for unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.	
3 Hour Student Additional Objectives	The student will incorporate biblically-based, theologically-sound thinking regarding sanctification and ecclesiology into his or her own model of leadership and development as a leader.	Position Papers

III. REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS FOR ALL STUDENTS (COURSE TAKEN FOR 2 OR 3 CREDITS)

Biblical books: Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 Corinthians (approx. 50 pages).

Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. (approx. 450 pages)

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *He That is Spiritual: A Classic Study of the Biblical Doctrine of Spirituality*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1967. (approx. 143 pages)
Now available electronically in the DTS Student Logos Library.

Dieter, Melvin E., Anthony A. Hoekema, Stanley M. Horton, J. Robertson McQuilkin, and John F. Walvoord. *Five Views on Sanctification*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996. (approx. 240 pages)

Holsteen, Nathan D. "Created in Christ Jesus: Church, Churches, and the Christian Life." In Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svigel, *Exploring Christian Theology, Vol. 3: The Church, Spiritual Growth, and the End Times*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2014. (approx. 124 pages)

Miscellaneous readings as assigned over the course of the semester. All will be made available online. (approx. 100 pages)

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments (All students; course taken for 2 or 3 credits)

Reading must be completed prior to the class session as indicated on the schedule below. The completed reading will be reported on Canvas prior to the beginning of class session in which it is due in order to receive credit. There is no credit for reading that is not completed and reported by the beginning of the class in which it is due.

B. Written Assignments

1. Doctrinal Synthesis Statement (All students; course taken for 2 or 3 credits)
Due December 19th, 5 p.m.

The student will develop a 7–10 single-spaced doctrinal synthesis paper on ecclesiology and sanctification. There are three distinct parts to the paper: 1) a Brief Statement, 2) a Detailed Exposition, and 3) a Practical Implications Reflection. (Elements of this doctrinal synthesis paper will be reused in ST106 Eschatology in the student's final capstone doctrinal synthesis assignment.)

- 1) **Brief Statement** (1/2–3/4 page; 250–375 words). This first section will summarize soteriology in non-technical (but biblically and theologically accurate) language similar to an article in a church's or ministry's doctrinal statement. It will include parenthetical key scriptural references and will reflect the orthodox, protestant, evangelical faith. (See sample doctrinal synthesis paper provided.)
- 2) **Detailed Exposition** (1½–2½ pages; 750–1250 words). This second section will provide a succinct but thorough elucidation of soteriology using technical, traditional language and covering the major issues related to soteriology (see course description and outline for major issues in this area of doctrine). This exposition should read like a paper one would submit as part of an ordination or interviewing process. Substantiating his or her detailed exposition, the student

will include 4–5 single-spaced pages of endnotes (not footnotes) that provide biblical-exegetical, historical-theological, and scientific-philosophical evidences, arguments, and explanations of the doctrinal assertions. These endnotes will include not only key biblical references but also interpretive notes that incorporate commentaries, theological works, or historical citations. Biblical citations should be without quotation, except when an exegetical point is not obvious. Justify interpretations of ambiguous passages with clarifying notes. Exegetical, theological, and historical sources, references, and observations should explain the student's reasons for the affirmations in the main Detailed Exposition. In these notes, the student should incorporate insights gained from other courses in the curriculum, especially from other courses in the Biblical Studies and Theological Studies divisions. Bibliographic references should use Turabian formatting. E.g., Glenn R. Kreider, "Wise Unto Salvation: Gospel, Atonement, and Saving Grace," in Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svigel, eds., *Exploring Christian Theology*, vol. 2, *Creation, Fall, and Salvation* (Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2015), 127. The student must incorporate sources beyond the required reading for this course.

- 3) **Practical Implications Reflection** (1–1^{3/4} page; 500–875 words). This section will provide a discussion of practical applications and ministry implications of soteriology. In this section the student will integrate insights from the course into his or her ministry emphasis, degree program, or anticipated area of vocational ministry focus. The student should also incorporate any insights gained from other courses in the curriculum, especially from the Ministry and Communications Division, as well reflections on his or her Christian walk and ministry experiences. Footnotes in this section should be minimal, but the student must properly cite any sources or quotations.

2. Position Papers (Students taking course for three credits)

Over the course of the semester, each student will write a total of five (5) Position Papers that will demonstrate a reflection on the manner in which specific theological concerns within ecclesiology and sanctification contribute to one's model of leadership as well as the development and practice of a leader. The general question that will frame each assignment will be "How does the doctrine of _____ within (ecclesiology or sanctification) inform my theology of leadership?" Each paper should address a different theological concern. Each paper is due on the day specified in the course schedule below. No late papers will be accepted. The lowest Position Paper grade will be dropped.

Sources:

- Any source may be used, but at least one of the required texts for the course must be referenced in the paper itself.

Form:

- Each paper should be written in such a way as to make it suitable for posting on a blog, that is, to inform as well as to engage and elicit responses from readers. The author should assume that the reader has not been exposed directly to the doctrine under consideration. This requires that a section of the paper informs the reader of the doctrine at stake and provides enough biblical and theological warrant to take a position on that doctrine. The remainder of the paper should integrate the truth of that theological concern into the reality of leadership by answering the framing question.

- Given the informal nature of blog entries, papers may include first-person and anecdotal information.
- Each paper will be 800–900 words (and the word count will be listed on the top of the paper alongside the student’s name).
- Any sources that are cited in the body of the paper should be properly identified within the body itself. Any sources that are consulted but not cited in the body of the paper may be attached in a separate bibliography.
- Papers will be graded on how well the paper communicates the points being made in terms of substantial clarity and logical coherency, as well formal attributes (e.g., use of paragraphs, grammar, syntax, capitalization, spelling, punctuation, typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font. No cover sheet is necessary.)
- The papers will be submitted on Canvas by the due dates on the schedule below. (Please note that papers are due on Tuesdays by 5 p.m.) Papers will be chosen randomly to be read aloud by the authors in class. Fellow class members will assist in critiquing and refining the paper both formally and substantially. An initial grade will be given to the paper as it is presented. After incorporating revisions suggested by the professor and the class, the student may resubmit the paper to the professor and the new grade will replace the initial grade. If no revised paper is submitted within one week after receiving it from the professor, the original grade will stand.

C. Final Exam (All students; course taken for 2 or 3 credits)

There will be one online, multiple choice, comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester. It will be closed book, closed note, and closed Bible, with no helps. The goal of this exam is to prompt a thorough review of the course materials to firm up essential theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to Soteriology. Studying the major biblical texts, central issues, and key definitions will best prepare the student for the exam. It is recommended that students utilize *Exploring Christian Theology* as a study guide.

The exam will be taken online, in the Canvas environment, at online.dts.edu. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the exam during the time that it is available in the Canvas environment. **Exams must be completed by December 19, 5 p.m.** Exams may not be submitted late without prior written permission. Exams submitted after the date and time due as shown in the Course Schedule will not be accepted unless arrangements are made beforehand.

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Summary of Time Estimate for This Course

The Student Handbook states, “Graduate-level work is expected to be more rigorous than at the undergraduate level. However, in order to help ensure that the amount of work required of students in their classes at the Seminary is appropriate, the faculty follow the guideline that for every hour students spend in class each week, they may expect to spend on average two to three hours outside of class on reading and other assignments. The amount of work required for classes will vary based on the material and content of each course” (Student Handbook 2016–2018, p. 7, “Academic Workload”).

The Academic Dean has advised professors to estimate 2 hours of homework for every “class hour” (50 minute period). For a three-hour class, that is a total of 84 hours of work outside of class (3 class hours per semester week x 14 class weeks x 2). For MABC students taking this course for two credit hours while participating in the 3-hour class period, the total hours of work outside of class should total approximately 42 hours (2 class hours per semester week x 14 class weeks x 2 = 56, minus 14 hours spent in the extra third hour of class participation).

Please note that any time estimates are based on reasonably established averages; therefore, they are approximations only. Actual time spent on assignments will necessarily vary based on content of reading, the nature of assignments, and student’s own reading speeds and workload capacities. Students are encouraged to plan according to their own strengths. The inevitable variables between students and between assignments is a key factor in establishing time estimates that are on the lower end of the Student Handbook’s “average two to three hours outside of class.”

B. Weighting of Course Requirements for Grading

For MABC students (course taken for 2 credits)

Reading	30%
Doctrinal Synthesis Paper	45%
Final Exam	25%

For non-MABC students (course taken for 3 credits)

Reading	30%
Doctrinal Synthesis Paper	30%
Position Papers	30%
Final Exam	10%

C. 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	

D. Class Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and to support their classmates in theological conversation. Theology is best done in community. The professor assumes that all students share in this conviction and desire to build up one another in love.

E. Late Assignments

Late assignments are generally not accepted. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the professor in extreme circumstances. Such exceptions will usually include a significant grade reduction of up to a letter grade per day late.

The professor cannot grant extensions beyond the last day of the semester (see *Catalog* for the date for this semester).

PLEASE NOTE: “Students needing additional time to complete course work must petition the Credits Committee for an extension. The petition form is available on CampusNet, and must be submitted before the last day of the semester or session. Financial and grade penalties may apply to students who do not petition for extensions before the end of the semester or session. Students must read the extenuating circumstances criteria (Section 1.33) prior to submitting the petition, and must specify how their circumstances fit the criteria” (*Handbook*, 1.20.4)

F. Absences

Attendance at class sessions is required. Students will be responsible for keeping track of their attendance and reporting the number of absences on the final exam. The attendance policy in the *Student Handbook* will be followed in this course.

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. The selection of textbooks should not be interpreted as implying the professor’s endorsement of any of the views of the authors. Textbooks are selected for their perceived value in helping to meet the course goals and objectives.
2. “The purpose of the Department of Theological Studies is to equip godly servant-leaders for worldwide ministry by: passing onto students an understanding of the church’s one true faith embraced within a distinctively dispensational, premillennial evangelicalism; encouraging students to think theologically as a response to Scripture with a sensitivity to the history of theology, philosophy, and culture; [and] helping students gain perspectives essential to spiritual formation, global servant-leadership, and the evaluation of contemporary issues and trends.” (*Catalog*).
4. Students may not record class sessions without permission of the professor. If a student desires to record a class session, written permission must be obtained in advance of the recording. Please submit a written request explaining the purpose of recording and the extent of use of the recordings. Under no conditions may recordings be duplicated, given, or lent to anyone not registered for this class. No transcriptions of class lectures or discussions are allowed.
5. Please turn off cell phones and paging devices during class sessions.
6. Work that has been done for other classes may not be used to earn credit in this class. Submission of work for this class is presumed to include an affirmation that it is the student’s own work and has not previously been submitted in another course. “Plagiarism is defined as ‘passing off as one’s own ideas, writings, etc., of another.’ Plagiarism is academically dishonest and is contrary to biblical standards. Any course work involving dishonest academic practices will be graded as zero without any resubmission permitted. In each case, the Dean of Students’ Office will be notified” (*Student Handbook*). Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be referred to the professor or the Dean of Students.

7. Students are responsible for any additions or corrections made to this syllabus at the discretion of the professor and announced in class.
8. All written assignments will be submitted at online.dts.edu (Canvas). Login instructions can be found on the home page.
9. Electronic Etiquette: “Students should refrain from using cell phones, laptop computers, or other devices in a manner that distracts others in the class. Playing games, browsing the Internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc., are considered unacceptable when class is in session. Unless permitted by the professor, students should turn off all electronic devices during tests and quizzes.” (*Student Handbook*). The professor requests that students refrain from talking on their cell phones or having headphone(s) in ear during class.
10. 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 LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (SPRING 2018)

	DATE	CONTENT	Reading
1	August 29	Introduction to Course	RA01
2	September 5	Theological Foundations of Ecclesiology & Sanctification	RA02
3	September 12	The Nature of the Church	RA03
4	September 19	The Nature of the Church	RA04
	September 25	NOT A CLASS DAY: Position Paper 1 due before 5:00 p.m.	
5	September 26	The Activity of the Church	RA05
6	October 3	The Activity of the Church	RA06
	October 9	NOT A CLASS DAY: Position Paper 2 due before 5:00 p.m.	
7	October 10	Sanctification	RA07
8	October 17	Sanctification	RA08
	October 23	NOT A CLASS DAY: Position Paper 3 due before 5:00 p.m.	
9	October 24	Sanctification	RA09
10	October 31	Sanctification	RA10
	November 6	NOT A CLASS DAY: Position Paper 4 due before 5:00 p.m.	
11	November 7	Sanctification	RA11
	November 14	NO CLASS: Reading Week	
	November 21	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break	
	November 27	NOT A CLASS DAY: Position Paper 5 due before 5:00 p.m.	
12	November 28	The Governance of the Church	RA12
13	December 5	The Governance of the Church	RA13
14	December 12		RA14
	December 19	Doctrinal Synthesis Paper Due Exam Due	

Assign-ment	Units and Description	Total Pages	Due date
RA01	1. The Syllabus [8]	9	Aug 29
RA02	1. Holsteen, <i>Exploring Christian Theology</i> , Part One [30] 2. Biblical books: Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 Corinthians [~50]	80	Sept 5
RA03	1. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers</i> , Chapters 1, 2 and 3 [96]	96	Sept 12
RA04	1. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers</i> , Chapters 4 and 5[56] 2. Other reading as assigned		Sept 19
RA05	1. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers</i> , Chapter 10 [43] 2. Other reading as assigned		Sept 26
RA06	1. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers</i> , Chapter 11 and 12 [99] 2. Other reading as assigned		Oct 3
RA07	1. Biblical books: Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 Corinthians [~50] 2. Other reading as assigned		Oct 10
RA08	1. Dieter, <i>Five Views of Sanctification</i> , Chapters 1 and 2 [91] 2. Other reading as assigned		Oct 17
RA09	1. Dieter, <i>Five Views of Sanctification</i> , Chapter 3 [44] 2. Other reading as assigned		Oct 24
RA10	1. Dieter, <i>Five Views of Sanctification</i> , Chapter 5 [37] 2. Chafer, <i>He That Is Spiritual</i> , Chapters 1, 2, and 3 [54]		Oct 31
RA11	1. Chafer, <i>He That Is Spiritual</i> , chapters 4–7 [73]	73	Nov 7
RA12	1. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers</i> , Chapters 6 and 7 [68] 2. Other reading as assigned		Nov 28
RA13	1. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers</i> , Chapters 8 and 9 [68] 2. Other reading as assigned		Dec 5
RA14	1. Holsteen, <i>Exploring Christian Theology</i> , Part One [105]	105	Dec 12