

#312 Theology 2: Doctrine of God
Western Reformed Seminary (www.wrs.edu)
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Pastoral Mentorship Program
Academic Year 2017-2018

COURSE INFORMATION

Course content

This course deals with what is called theology proper, the study of God himself. There is no higher labor, no more delightful occupation than this. We will study what the Bible reveals about the existence, knowability, and attributes of God, and how he exists in three persons. The deity and separate personality of the Son and the Holy Spirit will be demonstrated. The course will also study how God relates to his works of creation and providence, how he is sovereign and good in all his works. Inadequate and false views of God will also be studied.

Course objectives

You will systematically study lectures from the biblical and Reformed perspective on the vital and central topic of God—his attributes, his trinitarian nature, and his works of creation and providence. You will read three standard works on these subjects, in addition to other specialized readings. You also will study in detail a chosen heretical opinion and give a presentation on it, along with the orthodox response you recommend.

Course outcomes

By successfully completing the course, you will be able to do the following:

- Have a fuller understanding of who God is, and also have a closer fellowship with him
- Explain the doctrine of the Trinity and defend it from Scripture
- Teach the attributes of God – to other individuals, to a Bible class, or by preaching
- Explain and defend the doctrine of creation
- Explain and defend the doctrine of God’s providence
- Identify and respond to the major heresies regarding God and his works that have attacked the church in the past, along with their counterparts today
- If seeking ordination, pass the relevant parts of ordination examinations

Required reading assignment

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 1, ch. 10-18 (in Westminster Press ed., Vol. 1, pp. 96-237)

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Part 1, ch. 5-13 (Vol. 1, pp. 366-648)

A. A. Hodge, *Confession of Faith*, ch. 2-5 (pp. 46-104)

Elective reading assignment

In addition to the required reading assignment, each student is to read a total of 200 pages or 10 clock hours in the fields covered in this course. While these books are the choice of the student, they must be of standard quality and scholarly level. Keep a log of your reading, including date, author and book, pages read, and time spent. This log must be turned in to complete the assignment.

Special presentation assignment

During the concentrated sessions each student will make a class presentation by taking a faulty position regarding the doctrine of God which is presented by some group or writer, accurately presenting that view and its main support, then providing a refutation of that view, and offering a clear definition and support for the corresponding correct view. Please furnish a copy of your outline to each member of the class. This presentation should take about 30 minutes.

Grading

Required Reading	20%
Elective Reading	10%
Special Presentation	10%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	25%
Attendance and class participation	10%