

COURSE SYLLABUS

Foundations of Systematic Theology

Course Lecturer: John M. Frame, DD

Course Description

Welcome to *Foundations of Systematic Theology*, an online graduate-level course designed to help you establish a foundation of concepts and terminology on which to build a theological framework. This foundation will prepare you to access important theological works and confidently discuss various teachings of Scripture and how they apply to life. The goal of this course is to equip you to understand God's Word more fully.

The course deals with the essentials of all major areas of systematic theology with the goal to orient you to the basic concepts and terminology necessary to understand God's Word more accurately and deeply. The lectures focus on the overarching theme of God's lordship using the three attributes of control, authority, and presence as a means of organizing the doctrines of Scripture. You will gain an understanding of how the great teachings of Scripture fit together and will be able to apply those teachings to life and ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of your study, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand the nature of theology.
- Summarize what the Bible teaches on the subjects commonly discussed in theological literature.
- Trace ways in which biblical teachings are linked together by the overarching theme of lordship.
- Understand key theological terms and concepts to apply in future theological studies.
- Identify major doctrinal controversies in the history of the church and show how those controversies affected the study of theology.
- Apply good theological methods to analyze issues not explicitly discussed in the course.
- Appreciate the personal spiritual significance of understanding basic theological concepts.
- Analyze your own spiritual life in light of biblical doctrine in order to identify areas in which you need to grow.
- Place a high value on theology for spiritual growth for yourself and those you teach.

Course Lecturer



John M. Frame, DD

Education:

- Belhaven College, DD
- Yale University, MPhil
- Westminster Theological Seminary, BD
- Princeton University, AB

Teaching Career:

- J.D. Trimble Chair of Systematic Theology and Philosophy, Reformed Theological Seminary
- Professor of Systematic Theology and Philosophy, Reformed Theological Seminary
- Founding faculty member (taught apologetics and theology courses), Westminster Theological Seminary, California (1980-2000)
- Professor of Apologetics and Systematic Theology, Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (1968-1980)
- Balanced time between teaching and extensive academic research

Other Career Highlights:

- Discerning media critic and talented musician, playing both organ and piano
- Local ministry work, training pastors and lay leaders
- Ordained by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church
- Associate pastor in churches in Pennsylvania, California, and Florida
- Considered one of the foremost scholars on the thought of Cornelius Van Til and has been published extensively on Van Til's writings
- Activity in various professional societies and organizations for decades, including the Evangelical Theological Society and the Society of Christian Philosophers

Publications:

- Articles in *The Westminster Theological Journal* and *Christian Culture*
- Author of several books, including *Apologetics: A Justification of Christian Belief*, *A History of Western Philosophy and Theology*, *Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*, *Apologetics to the Glory of God*, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord*, and *The Doctrine of the Word of God*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

You will also need to have access to a Bible and the following historical documents: Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, which are included as appendices to Grudem's text and are also available online at www.creeds.net and www.reformed.org/documents/.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text. Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.