

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Doctrine of Man and Sin

Course Lecturer: Roger R. Nicole, ThD, PhD
Former Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Reformed Theological Seminary

Prepared By: Frank T. Jones, MAR

Course Description

As ambassadors for Christ and the gospel, we must understand the true nature of man and the magnitude of his sin. This course presents a critical and historical overview of positions regarding the nature of mankind: both as the image of God and as corrupted by sin. The course presents a distinct Reformed anthropology coupled with a fair treatment of differing views and objections. Important and controversial questions regarding the origin of evil, the nature of man, and the effects of sin on humanity are all considered, allowing students to draw informed conclusions on these and other key issues.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand and define the key terms used in the discussion of anthropology.
- Explain the Reformed perspective on mankind as the image of God and as a fallen creation, and interact with views on the origin of evil.
- Interact with alternative viewpoints and offer arguments which support both sides of various issues.
- Understand the study of anthropology within its historical context.

Course Lecturer



Roger R. Nicole, ThD, PhD (1915-2010)

Education:

- Wheaton College, DD
- Harvard University, PhD
- Gordon Divinity, STM and ThD
- Paris-Sorbonne University in Paris, France, MA
- Gordon Divinity, BD
- Gymnasie Classique in Lausanne, Switzerland, AB

Teaching Career:

- Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Reformed Theological Seminary
- Bedrock of Systematic and Christian Theology for Gordon and later Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (1945-1986), where he solidified his reputation as one of the leading Christian teachers, writers, and scholars in the world
- Taught and preached at the finest institutes and universities around the world on every continent
- Fluent in Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin

Other Career Highlights:

- Founding member, International Council on Bible Inerrancy and the Evangelical Theological Society (of which he was president in 1956)
- Associate Editor, *New Geneva Study Bible*
- Corresponding Editor, *Christianity Today*
- World-class bibliophile and distinguished librarian with a personal collection including Calvin's *Commentaries on the Gospels and Acts* published during Calvin's lifetime, a copy of the first edition of Heinrich Bullinger's *Decades* published in 1552, and many other rare volumes from the 1500s and 1600s
- Ordained Baptist minister

Publications:

- Assisted in the preparation of the *New International Version* (NIV)
- Approximately 100 articles and contributor to over 50 books and reference works
- *Standing Forth, Our Sovereign Saviour*, and *The Glory of the Atonement* are included among his most influential publications.
- Two books written honoring Dr. Nicole's life and works: *The Glory of the Atonement: Biblical, Historical & Practical Perspectives: Essays in Honor of Roger R. Nicole* and *Speaking the Truth in Love: The Life and Legacy of Roger Nicole*

Recommended Reading

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

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1996, 126-164 and 181-301.

Hoekema, Anthony. *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1994.

Murray, John. *The Imputation of Adam's Sin*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1992.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, 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 (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
 - **Lectures:** 45-minute lessons that can be listened to as many times as needed.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.