

**Systematic Theology I**  
ST502: Revelation and Inspiration  
New Geneva Theological Seminary  
Rev. J.P. Mosley, Jr.

Fall 2018

**Goals:**

**Knowledge:**

- To come to an understanding of the orthodox doctrine of Revelation and Inspiration.
- To know and defend the biblical evidences of these doctrines against those who oppose said doctrines.
- To know the historical structure of understanding these biblical doctrines.
- To know the relevant confessional material: The Ecumenical and Reformed Creeds and Confessions.

**Skills:**

- To be able to explain with clarity and simplicity these core doctrines.
- To be able to refute all heresies and errors as they relate to these doctrines.

**Character:**

- To grow in faith—a sure knowledge and hearty trust concerning what the Triune God has done and continues to do for us.
- To grow in humility, love, and a fervor to share the gospel with others.

**Methods:**

Main instruction format will be lectures and discussions, written assignments, reading assignments, and final examination. Questions are encouraged and needed for growth and development for self, class, and the professor.

**Catalog Description:**

An exposition of key biblical passages exploring the first principle of the Christian faith that God is there and He has spoken. The course examines the basic doctrines of revelation and inspiration of Scripture, and the canons of grammatico-historical and theological exegesis.

**Course Requirements:**

All assignment deadlines are final. It is necessary to learn the priority of the “Sunday” deadline. Therefore, unless severe providence, the dates are fixed. It is best to start now.

Research Paper: 20% of grade

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This paper must follow the Turabian research style: 12-point font, Times New Roman, double space, etc. The student will be graded on content, argumentation, tone, application, and conclusion. I will be looking to see if you can clearly present your topic with proper primary and secondary sources. There must be a bibliography that utilizes primary sources (church fathers, medieval theologians, or reformers) and secondary sources. The paper must be between 12 and 15 pages. If the student goes over 15 pages, they will not pass the assignment. If the paper goes under 12 pages, they will not pass this assignment. The student must learn the discipline of lucid brevity. If one is found to have plagiarized, that is an automatic failing grade! This is a matter of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> commandment:

**Exodus 20:15-16** <sup>15</sup> " You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> " You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

This paper is due during the 10<sup>th</sup> week of class—see schedule.

(See Research Assignments below.)

Book Review: 20% of grade

Pick one to Review:

William Witaker, *Disputations on Holy Scripture*

B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*

E.J. Young, *Thy Word is Truth*

This review should be eight pages. Interact with the book. Ask questions, critique, and express pros and cons of the book. The style must consist of 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. The margins must be 1in.

Sermon Manuscript or Bible Study Plan: 20% of grade

- a. These messages must be presented with a clear theme and outline. I desire to see a full manuscript, but the student is encouraged to preach in their own style and comfort. The grade will consist on presentation, clarity, exegetical content, theological content (Trinitarian, Christ-centered), application, and most of all: did we hear the Gospel?

The student will not have a full 25-30 minutes to present his sermon, but they will be allowed during the first lecture's opening devotion time to present a short exhortation based on their sermon.

This is only for those looking to enter pastoral ministry. The manuscript must be submitted one week before the message is to be preached in class. To see the passages to be preached, look to the page with Scripture passages for sermon prep.

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- b. The Bible Study Plan: this project is for the purpose of preparing an entire series of lectures one of these two choices:

R.C. Sproul, *Scripture Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine*

James White, *Scripture Alone: Exploring the Bible's Accuracy, Authority, and Authenticity*

Keith A. Mathison, *The Shape of Sola Scriptura*.

This does not need to be a full manuscript of each lesson, just an outline. Questions should be included for each lesson to promote discussion on the book or the lesson.

This assignment is meant for non-M.Div. students.

Attendance and Participation in class: 20% of grade

(Arrangements should be made if you miss class to make up the lecture material.)

Final examination: 20% of grade

### **Required Readings:**

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Prolegomena, Volume One*, Edited by John Bolt and Translated by John Vriend (Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, 2006), pages 283-621.

Total Page Count: 338 (This total does not include your book review or your bible study project).

Book Review: (Pick One)

William Witaker, *Disputations on Holy Scripture*

B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*

E.J. Young, *Thy Word is Truth*

Bible Study: (Pick One)

R.C. Sproul, *Scripture Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine*

James White, *Scripture Alone: Exploring the Bible's Accuracy, Authority, and Authenticity*

Keith A. Mathison, *The Shape of Sola Scriptura*.

**Recommended Book List:**

Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*.

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*.

Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*.

Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenant Between God and Man*.

W.G.T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*.

A.A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology*.

Whilemus á Brakel, *The Christian's Reasonable Service*.

G.C. Berkouwer, *Studies In Dogmatics: Holy Scripture*.

**Outline of Lectures:**

**Week 1: Introduction**

**Lecture 1: Introduction to Syllabus**

**Lecture 2: Introduction to Theological Loci and where does the doctrine of Revelation and Inspiration fit into our System.**

**Week 2: The Idea of Revelation— (Bavinck 283-300)**

**Lecture 3: The Necessity of Revelation**

**Lecture 4: Naturalist Confusion about Revelation**

**Week 3: General Revelation— (Bavinck 301-322)**

**Lecture 5: Natural/Supernatural Revelation**

**Lecture 6: Insufficient Revelation**

**Week 4: Special Revelation— (Bavinck 323-351)**

**Lecture 7: Modes of Revelation**

**Lecture 8: God's Self-Revelation**

**Week 5: Revelation in Nature and Holy Scripture— (Bavinck 353-385)**

**Lecture 9: Natural/Supernatural (Roman Supernaturalism)**

**Lecture 10: Revelation and History**

**Week 6: The Inspiration of Scripture— (Bavinck 387-448)**

**Lecture 11: Scriptural and Historical Witness**

**Lecture 12: The Rise of Critical Protestantism**

**Week 7: The Attributes of Scripture— (Bavinck 449-494)**

**Lecture 13: Attributes in General**

**Lecture 14: Authority of Scripture**

*(Book Review Due)*

**Week 8: The Attributes of Scripture**

**Lecture 15: Necessity of Scripture**

**Lecture 16: Clarity of Scripture**

**Week 9: The Attributes of Scripture**

**Lecture 17: Sufficiency of Scripture**

**Lecture 18: Veracity of Scripture**

**Week 10: Infallibility & Inerrancy**

**Lecture 19: Infallibility**

**Lecture 20: Inerrancy**

*(Research Paper Due)*

**Week 11: Methodologies— (Bavinck 497-507)**

**Lecture 21: The Formation of the Canon**

**Lecture 22: Faith and Theological Method**

**Week 12: Faith's Foundation— (Bavinck 507-559)**

**Lecture 23: Rational Methodologies**

**Lecture 24: Empirical Methodologies**

**Week 13: God's Fatherly Care— (Bavinck 561-621)**

**Lecture 25: Approaching Revelation by Faith**

**Lecture 26: Our Certainty**

*(Sermon Manuscripts due and Presented; Bible lesson plans due)*

**Final Exam:**

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**Research Assignments: Choose one**

- 1. Research paper detailing the history of the doctrine of Sola Scriptura**
- 2. Research paper on the Chicago Statement of Inerrancy**
- 3. Research paper on the Attributes of Scripture**
- 4. Research paper on the Barth's view of Scripture and the Modernist view of Scripture in contrast with the Reformed Orthodox view of Scripture**
- 5. Research paper on Organic Inspiration in comparison with other views of Inspiration**
- 6. If you have a topic not listed, submit to the Professor for approval.**

**Sermon Passages: Choose a passage either on the Trinity, Creation, or the Knowledge of God. The passage must be approved by the Professor.**