THEOLOGICAL METHOD AND BIBLIOLOGY
SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
A study of prolegomena as the nature, method, and sources of theology; revelation, especially the inspiration, authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and canonicity of the Bible; and theological hermeneutics, including an introduction to dispensationalism. This course is prerequisite to all other Systematic Theology (ST) courses. 3 hours (It may be taken for 2 hours by MABC students)

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE
A. Cognitive Objectives
1. Students will understand essential theological terms, concepts, and key biblical passages related to Theological Method and Bibliology.
2. Students will explain his or her doctrinal convictions regarding doctrines Bibliology, including revelation, inspiration, authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and canonicity of the Bible with biblical, theological, and historical support.
3. Students will defend a basic orthodox, protestant, evangelical theology of revelation that is biblically, theologically, and historically grounded.

B. Behavioral Objectives
1. Students will articulate the orthodox, protestant, evangelical doctrines Bibliology, including revelation, inspiration, authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and canonicity of the Bible.
2. Students will relate the doctrines of Bibliology to his or her life and ministry.
3. Students will argue in favor of the classic orthodox view of the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture in light of a biblical, historical, and theological evidence.
4. Students will construct a preliminary theological method that is biblically, theologically, historically, and practically defensible.

C. Affective Objectives
1. Students will grow in grace, purity, confidence and joy through a richer understanding of God and his revelation.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS
A. Required Texts

Additional readings will be provided on-line.
B. Suggested Texts

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments
Students are expected to have carefully and thoughtfully read the assigned readings for each class. It is expected that the student will be prepared with questions and comments that arise from the readings.

**B. Written Assignments**

Students will be required to write the following papers.

**Divine Revelation Paper** (3-4 pages, due by midnight on Friday, September 25. Submit on Canvas).

This paper will examine the nature of divine revelation and various ways in which God reveals truth. It will examine certain frequently misunderstood aspects of God’s revelation.

**Inerrancy Paper** (3-4 pages, due by midnight on Friday, October 23. Submit on Canvas)

This paper will defend the doctrine of inerrancy against those who believe that the Bible has errors. Students should offer the definition of inerrancy, as well as work through some common objections and misunderstandings of the doctrine.

**Theological Methods** (3-4 pages, due by midnight on Friday, November 13. Submit on Canvas).

This assignment requires the students to explain their method for doing theology, given what they have learned and read in this class. Some specific theological questions will be addressed as a way of exemplifying their method.

**Doctrinal Synthesis Paper** (5-7 single-spaced pages, due by midnight on Friday, December 4. Submit on Canvas)

All students will develop a personal Statement of Faith regarding the Bible. Think of this as a summary of what you have learned in the course and what you will use as a statement of your belief for a church or organization. You MUST follow these instructions and the model carefully. All the ST100 level classes have an assignment like this one, which enables you to build a comprehensive and cohesive doctrinal statement as you study.

The student will develop a 5–7 single-spaced doctrinal synthesis paper on Bibliology (including the doctrines of God’s manifold revelation as well as the inspiration, authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and canonicity of the Bible). There are three distinct parts to the paper:

1) a Brief Statement, 2) a Detailed Exposition, and 3) a Practical Implications Reflection. (Note that elements of this doctrinal synthesis paper will be reused in ST106 Eschatology in the student’s final capstone doctrinal synthesis assignment.) 1) The Brief Statement (150–200 words or one-fourth to one-third of a page). This first section will summarize Bibliology 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 Scripture references and will reflect the orthodox, protestant, evangelical faith. (See sample doctrinal synthesis paper provided.)

2) The Detailed Exposition (500–750 words or two-thirds to three-fourths of a page). This second section will provide a succinct but thorough elucidation of Bibliology using technical, traditional language and covering the major issues related to Sanctification and Ecclesiology (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 three to five 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) The Practical Implications Reflection (500–750 words). This section will provide a discussion of practical applications and ministry implications of Bibliology. 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. The Doctrinal Synthesis Paper will be turned in online through the Canvas course page according to the schedule (VII) below. All written assignments will be analyzed by Turnitin, software that compares your work with published and internet sources, including other student papers from DTS and other institutions. It will determine quite accurately what percentage of the work is yours and what percentage is unoriginal. High Turnitin scores that indicate over-reliance on written sources (with or without citation) will result in grade reduction. This work should be your own. A sample Doctrinal Synthesis Paper (covering a completely different area of theology) is available online at the Canvas course page under “files.”

C. Quizzes and/or Exams
There is an on-line Final Exam, which must be completed after the last class and before the end of finals week. The exam will be worth 5% of your final grade. Graduating seniors must submit all papers by April 26.

D. Course Requirements for MABC students taking the course for 2 credits
Students in the MABC program taking this course for 2 credits are expected to attend all the classes and to read the required books, however, the assignments from McGrath and Kreider/Bingham will be modified. They are also exempt from the papers on Theological Method and Inerrancy. The other assignments (the Revelation paper, the Doctrinal Statement, and the Final Exam) they are required to complete. Specific clarifications of the requirements for students taking this course for 2 credits are made available to students in a separate memo, which is available on Canvas or from the professor.

V. COURSE POLICIES
A. Grading – The student’s grade will be based on the following percentages:
   - Revelation Paper 20%
   - Inerrancy Paper 20%
   - Theological Method paper 20%
   - Participation 10%
   - Doctrinal Statement 25%
   - Final Exam 5%

B. Class Participation and Attendance
   Attendance and active participation is expected at each class session. The attendance policies of the Student Handbook will be enforced. Students who miss more than two class sessions will lose points in their participation grade. To promote class participation and thoughtful engagement of the issues, students are not permitted to use electronic devices for activities
that do not relate to the class. Students may use laptops for taking notes, or e-readers to access readings. Failure to adhere to this policy will have a detrimental impact on the student’s participation grade.

C. Late Assignments
Written assignments should be submitted on Canvas, or as a hard copy, as directed, and they should adhere to the standards set forth in the Student Handbook. All papers should be double-spaced, unless otherwise noted. Late papers are accepted, but a penalty of 10% will be assessed on a paper that is up to 3 weeks late, and 20% on late papers after that point. A maximum of 30% may be deducted from papers that are very late. Students should make every effort to submit their papers on time, but even if they are late, students are very strongly encouraged to submit all their written assignments.

D. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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E. Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious violation of the standard of academic integrity and the Christian virtue of honesty. Submitting the work of another as your own is plagiarism. Whenever you use the work of another individual, you must give credit via proper citation. Failure to meet this standard is plagiarism. Any course work involving dishonest academic practices will be graded as a zero with no resubmission permitted. In each case, the Office of the Dean of Students will be notified.

VI. COURSE INFORMATION

A. Office Hours
If I am in my office, students are welcome to stop by with questions. I am also available by email for student interaction. If a student would like to set up an appointment, please email me at tyoder@dts.edu.

B. Disabilities
Dallas Theological Seminary works to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with psychological, medical, physical, and learning disabilities. A student desiring or needing accommodations on the basis of such disabilities or of medical incidents such as hospitalization or severe injury is to contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (https://students.dts.edu/studentlife/disability-services/). If the student is aware of a condition that may impact his/her studies, the student should contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities prior to the beginning of the semester or at the onset of a crisis.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE -
More details will be provided on Canvas regarding the specific videos to watch, and also the reading assignments.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>8/22</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>The Task of Doing Theology</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>Divine Revelation</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Bibliology - Authority &amp; Uniqueness</td>
<td>Blomberg</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Bibliology - Inspiration</td>
<td>Revelation Paper due 9/25</td>
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<td>Bibliology - Canonicity</td>
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<td>Theological Method - Role of Exegesis</td>
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<td>Theological Method - the Theologian and the Virtuous</td>
<td>Inerrancy Paper due 10/23</td>
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<td>Theological Method - the Philosopher and the Scientist</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Theological Method - the Historian, the Artist and the Minister</td>
<td>McGrath</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>video</td>
<td>Practicing Theological Method</td>
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<td>11/16-20</td>
<td><strong>No Classes</strong> - Reading Week</td>
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<td>11/23-27</td>
<td><strong>No Classes</strong> - Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>video</td>
<td>Dispensational Theology</td>
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<td>Final Exam – taken on-line during Finals week</td>
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