

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AND PREACHING

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a teaching practice and laboratory to give students tools, models and opportunities integrating the disciplines of Systematic Theology and preaching. It includes viewing online content delivered by the Charles Simeon Trust and participating in discussions on the content, which are then supplemented with additional readings that focus attention on the exegetical demands of Systematic theology, specifically concerning how to study for teaching and preaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course:

1. Students will have an accurate grasp of the main characteristics of Systematic Theology and understand the specialized opportunities and demands of teaching from texts while utilizing Systematic Theology.
2. Students will improve the quality of their own study and preparation for teaching by interacting with instructional material from expert practitioners and over their own preparation with both Systematic Theology and preaching.
3. Students will, by presenting their own work in the context of collegial and critical small group, be better able to identify and improve in skills and strategies relevant to expounding the Scriptures using Systematic Theology.
4. Students will appreciate the value of offering and receiving constructive feedback.
5. Students will allow the taught Word itself to inform their lives in ways consistent with the reasons the Holy Spirit saw fit to include them in Scripture.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is divided into four primary components:

1. The first component is the student's viewing of the eight online videos and the completion of the relevant *Study Questions* or *Sermon Evaluation*. These eight videos include five instructions on putting Systematic Theology to use in preaching broadly speaking, and three lessons on how a particular doctrine can be of help to the preacher.
2. The second component is the small group sessions where the student will discuss the assigned *Study Questions* or *Sermon Evaluation* as well as prepare and present two *Sermon Preparation Worksheets* for the assigned passages.
3. The third component is reading all assigned texts and writing one critical book review.
4. The fourth component and capstone project is to prepare and preach two sermons from assigned passages using the tools, skills, and strategies taught in the course and provide supporting preparation documentation.



REQUIRED TEXTS

There are five required readings:

- Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin*. (158 pages)
- DeYoung, Kevin. *Taking God at His Word*. (144 pages)
- Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God*. (304 pages)
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Biblical Authority After Babel*. (289 pages)
- Charles Simeon Trust. *Study Guide on Preaching and Systematic Theology*. (17 pages)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is expected to:

1. Actively view each of the eight online videos and thoroughly complete the relevant *Study Questions* or *Sermon Evaluation*.
2. Prepare, present, and submit two *Sermon Preparation Worksheets* (Texts 1 & 2).
3. Prepare and deliver two recorded sermons on different texts (as assigned) that employ the tools, skills, and strategies covered in the course (Texts 3 & 4).
 - a. Submit a *Sermon Preparation Worksheet* one week in advance of giving each sermon.
 - b. Submit audio or video recording of each sermon.
 - c. Submit a two-page self-assessment of the sermon by answering the following questions:
 - i. In what way did the sermon most encourage you personally?
 - ii. What are the two most important things that could be done to improve?
 - iii. What were the two best features of the sermon overall?
4. Read *Biblical Authority After Babel* (Vanhoozer) by the thirteenth lesson of the Course and on a ten-page, double-spaced report a) affirm that you have read the book, b) in 6-7 pages, summarize main point(s) of the author's argument(s), being sure to reference specific supporting insights and giving page numbers in parentheses, and, c) in the remaining 3-4 pages, engage personally with the content that you have already summarized. You should address the following questions: 1) How do the author's arguments affirm or challenge my current beliefs or practices in teaching ministry? 2) What from the book will I implement immediately? 3) Why would I recommend (or not recommend) this book?

BIBLICAL TEXTS AVAILABLE FOR OUTLINE AND SERMON ASSIGNMENTS

Genesis 5	2 Kings 17
Romans 4:13-25	Psalm 19
Psalm 8	John 5:19-47



COURSE SCHEDULE

Lesson 1	View INSTRUCTION #1 (J.I. Packer) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #1
Lesson 2	View INSTRUCTION #2 (Michael Lawrence) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #2
Lesson 3	View INSTRUCTION #3 (R. Albert Mohler) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #3
Lesson 4	View INSTRUCTION #4 (Michael Lawrence) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #4
Lesson 5	View INSTRUCTION #5 (Andreas Köstenberger) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #5
Lesson 6 <i>Scripture</i>	View INSTRUCTION (Kevin DeYoung) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for INSTRUCTION #6
Lesson 7 <i>Scripture</i>	View DEMONSTRATION (Michael Lawrence) Discuss/Write <i>Study Questions</i> for DEMONSTRATION #1
Lesson 8 <i>Scripture</i>	View EXPOSITION (Thabiti Anyabwile) Discuss/Write <i>Sermon Evaluation</i> for DEMONSTRATION #2

COURSE GRADING

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Study Questions (required for each lesson)	30%
Practice Outlines (two required)	20%
Capstone Sermons (including notes, outline, rationale; Texts 3 & 4)	30%
Reading Report	10%
Reading Affirmation	10%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

94-100	A	87-89.9	B+
90-93.9	A-	84-86.9	B
		80-83.9	B-

The same distribution in the 70s and 60s will be used for the C and D ranges.



COURSE RESOURCES

In addition to the required readings, we recommend consulting:

Adam, Peter. *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Preaching*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2000.

Carson, D.A., and G.K. Beale. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

Duduit, Michael. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.

DeYoung, Kevin. *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible Is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough, and What That Means for You and Me*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.

Frame, John. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2013.

Lawrence, Michael. *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church: A Guide for Ministry*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.

Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.

Scharf, Greg R. *Prepared to Preach: God's Work and Ours in Proclaiming His Word*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2005.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Biblical Authority After Babel: Retrieving the Solas in the Spirit of Mere Protestant Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press: 2016.