

COURSE SYLLABUS
Systematic Theology I: Scripture, Theology Proper and Anthropology
OST508 3 hours
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Professor

Dr. Douglas Kelly is J. Richard Jordon Professor of Theology at the Charlotte campus of Reformed Theological Seminary. Dr. Kelly is the author of *Creation and Change; If God Already Knows, Why Pray?; The Emergence of Liberty in the Modern World*; co-author of *A Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*; and translator for *Sermons on 2 Samuel* by John Calvin.

Course Description

This course is a survey of theology with emphasis upon the practical application of the doctrines to the ministry of the Gospel in contemporary culture. Topics include Scripture, theology proper, and anthropology.

Required Textbooks

Bavinck, Herman. *The Doctrine of God*. Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1997.

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

The Bible.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.

Geisler, Norman (ed.). *Inerrancy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.

Kelly, Douglas F. *Creation and Change: Genesis 1.1 - 2.4 in the Light of Changing Scientific Paradigms*. Great Britain, Mentor, 1997.

Kelly, Douglas. Various readings (included in notebook Appendix).

Westminster Confession of Faith. Glasgow: Free Presbyterian Publications, 1997.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

Suggested Reading

At the end of most lessons, a list of suggested reading is provided. Each of these entries is also included in the Bibliography with this syllabus. These books are not part of the required material for the course. They have been included solely to point interested students to more comprehensive and in-depth treatments of the subjects covered in this course.

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

Requirements in Brief

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Research paper

Midterm examination

Final examination

Major Response Paper (35%)

Each student is required to submit, at the completion of the course, a 10- to 15-page major response paper on a topic relevant to the course. In this paper the student will choose one topic that was discussed in the class lectures and respond concerning the material. This paper should integrate as much of the lecture material as possible. Although this paper is not a research paper *per se*, primary and secondary sources should be incorporated whenever possible. This will show that the student has interacted with the material appropriately. Give fair treatment to opposing viewpoints. The paper must not be over 15 typewritten pages (12-point type font size, Times New Roman font style or equivalent) and must use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, Second Edition, for formatting (Footnotes are preferable).

Examinations (Midterm: 30%, Final: 30%)

There are two examinations for this course. The mid-term examination will cover the lectures and readings from Lesson One through Lesson Nine. The final examination will cover the lectures and readings from Lesson Ten through Lesson Seventeen.

All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments . Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Contact Information

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