

## STNC 10 — Introduction to Systematic Theology

Fall 2017, Online

Eugene R. Schlesinger, Ph.D.; 262-226-6854; [eugene.schlesinger@tsm.edu](mailto:eugene.schlesinger@tsm.edu)

### I. Course description

This course introduces the discipline of systematic theology, which provide an orderly account of the Christian faith. From revelation we receive the truth of God in Christ. Systematic theology attempts to promote understanding of that truth, to show how it all fits together in a unified whole. Revelation establishes *that* the gospel is true. Systematic theology receives this truth and provides an account of *how* it is true. In the words of Anselm of Canterbury, it is an enterprise in faith seeking understanding. This course will introduce the basic categories and divisions of systematic theology, and encourage students to think through how they relate to one another. This will also provide us with an opportunity to be introduced to some of the major theologians of the Christian tradition. As a course in the Certificate in Diaconal Studies program, we will also keep an eye trained on the impact of Christian doctrine upon parish ministry in general and diaconal ministry in particular.

### II. Required course texts<sup>1</sup>

McGrath, Alister E. *Theology: The Basics*, 3d. edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-470-65675-4

———. *Theology: The Basic Readings*, 2d. edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-470-65676-1

Other texts will be made available via Google Classroom.

### III. Course design

Our course will follow the basic creedal structure of the Christian narrative, which moves from God to creation, to salvation in Christ and the Holy Spirit, to the church, and the final restoration in God's kingdom. Each week will consist of 30–60 pages of reading in primary and secondary sources relevant to our topic, an audio lecture with lecture notes, and participation in an online discussion forum.

### IV. Course grade

The course is graded on a Pass/Fail Basis. How you are assessed can be broken down into the following categories: weekly reading quizzes, which keep you accountable for doing the reading and assess your grasp of that material (20%); online discussion participation, which affords the opportunity to get clarity for any questions you might have, to think “out loud,” and to aid one another in our learning (20%); a written essay of 6–8 pages in which you do systematic theology by pursuing the coherence of a particular doctrine (30%); and a final exam, which measures the extent to which you have absorbed and mastered the material from the course as a whole (30%).

---

<sup>1</sup> In certain cases, these books may be found cheaper in another edition. In most cases it will be acceptable for you to purchase these alternate editions. Please ask first, though, just so I can be sure that you'll be getting what you need in these alternates.