



iTHINK: Systematic Theology

(An Overview)

Spring 2018

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Periods 1 - 2

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Last semester, we made an argument for the proof claims of Christianity. In particular, we argued for the existence of God and the trustworthiness of the Scriptures via Classical Apologetics. Building upon the examination of those ideas, the Spring semester part of the seminar will address the question, What does Orthodox, historic Christianity actually confess and believe? In other words, last semester we addressed the question, Is there a reason to believe? And this semester, we will address the question, What does Christianity actually believe?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND COURSE FORMAT

This part of the seminar will consist of an overview of Systematic Theology. Students will study and learn what Orthodox, historic Christianity has and continues to confess. Furthermore, the class will also address such issues as the Authority of the Scriptures and the trustworthiness of Jesus' teachings. In doing so, this part of the seminar will give the necessary intellectual and spiritual skills needed to help students fulfill the Mission of Shiloh Christian School: *To develop Godly leaders who engage our culture and change it.* From that premise, this course is both introductory and restrictive. It is not a comprehensive study of apologetics but a primer on the two major propositions Christians must defend in culture today: the existence of God and the authority of the Bible.

1. To give students a overview Systematic Theology
2. To expose students to the primary doctrines held and confessed by Orthodox, historic Christianity.
3. To allow students the opportunity to study these doctrines.

The course involves a series of interactive lectures. The student is encouraged to engage the instructor via questions and comments. Because of the nature of the content of this course and the volume of the material to be covered, it is necessary for students to participate in all class sessions.

REQUIRED READINGS AND RESOURCES

Reading resources for this class will be presented primarily in the form of handouts.

Required Reading

Handouts and outside materials found on the Internet or in library research.

Make-Up Test Policy

The following guidelines will be used by all secondary faculty regarding the giving of and the make-up of exams.

- Exams/quizzes will be announced on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester. Any adjustments to the exam schedule will be communicated to the students at least one week in advance.
- All students will take a scheduled exam on the day it is given. An absence the class(es) prior to the exam will NOT exempt the student from the exam on the scheduled day the exam is given.
- The only scenario where a student will not take an exam on the day it is scheduled is if the student is physically absent from class. In such a case, the student will be expected to take the exam the first day back in class *during* the class time.
- Failure to abide by the above guidelines will result in a non-negotiable "0" for the exam without the possibility of another make-up exam.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS

The following assignments and assessments are to be completed as described below by the dates outlined in the course schedule or as indicated by the instructor.

Grading

Percentages: **Quizzes (15 Quizzes) = 60%**
Exam (4) = 40%

*Late Assignments******

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for life as is the mastery of course content. Therefore, assignments are due *in class* on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments not submitted *in class* are considered late and earn an **automatic extension penalty of 20% for the first day and an additional 20% for each day that follows.** Thus, a student is allowed one week to submit a late paper to receive any possible credit, *no exceptions*.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Any time a student is absent, he/she will be expected to make-up all missed work. Whenever a student is absent from class that absence will fall under one of three categories:

Excused Absences:

An excused absence as outlined by the Student Handbook will result in 100% credit for all make-up work completed within the allotted time frame.

Unexcused Absences:

Unexcused absences as outlined by the Student Handbook will result in 50% credit for all make-up work completed within the allotted time frame.

Unexcused Absence with Parental Permission:

An unexcused absence with parental permission as outlined by the Student Handbook will result in 100% credit for all make-up work completed within the allotted time frame.

Excessive Absences:

iTHINK: Apologetics

Seven absences per semester will be considered excessive. See the Student Handbook for penalties related to excessive absences.

Tardies:

Four tardies per semester in the same class will be considered excessive. The fourth tardy will constitute one unexcused absence.

COURSE VALUES AND ETIQUETTE

The following values and etiquette are to be observed in this course.

Class Devotions

Class devotions will be held at the beginning of the class. A sign-up sheet will be passed around for students to have an opportunity to volunteer to share a devotion of no more than 10 minutes in length, including in that time the compilation of class prayer requests and leading the class in prayer.

Respect for Divergent Viewpoints

Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual theft or literary theft better known as plagiarism. Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

Special Needs

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.

GRADING SCALE

The final grade will be based on the total accumulations of points as indicated under *Learning Activities and Assessments* converted into a percentage. The following grading scale will be used to assign the final letter grade:

	PERCENTAGE GRADE	LETTER GRADE
	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	60-69	D
F	Less than 60 points earned – which is almost impossible to achieve unless you don't do the work!	