Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
THEO 525
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A course beginning the study of systematic theology with special attention given to prolegomena the doctrines of Scripture, God, angels, humanity and sin.

RATIONALE
Christian theology supplies a biblical perspective on reality. Theological reflection is essential for the person who hopes to help others cope with reality; he or she must be able to provide biblical, reasoned, and sensitive responses to the hard questions of faith. Therefore, THEO 525 helps to prepare the student for ministry by introducing them to the study of systematic theology.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Explain how systematic theology relates to the other theological disciplines.
B. Recognize theological terms and crucial issues related to Christian theology.
C. Evaluate peer-reviewed articles relating to the doctrines of the Bible, God, man, and sin.
D. Apply a theological method toward constructive reflection on such matters as the Scriptures, God (His nature and work), and man (his creation and fall).
E. Apply the basic tools of the theological disciplines in order to resolve problems and research issues relevant to the issues of theological epistemology, the authority of Scripture, the nature of God, and the human condition.

F. Assess the importance and difficulties of developing an expression of theology in a contemporary culture.

G. Discuss critical and controversial issues in Christian theology.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

   After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

   Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will participate in 4 Discussion Board Forums, and each forum will span across 2 modules/weeks. First, the student will answer the Discussion Board Forum question(s) in a thread of 400–500 words. Then, he/she must reply to 2 classmates’ threads (in 200–250 words each).

D. Journal Article Critiques (2)

   The student will complete 2 Journal Article Critiques in this course. For each critique you will read a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal article, written within the last 20 years, on a topic covered in this class and write a minimum of 2 full pages but not to exceed 3 pages, double-spaced critique. Each critique must include a cover page and follow Turabian guidelines.

E. Research Paper

   The Research Paper is completed in 3 steps.

   1. Topic

      First, the student must select a topic for his/her paper from a provided list.

   2. Proposal

      After the student’s topic has been approved by the instructor, he/she must complete a research paper proposal. The proposal must contain the following components: a cover page, a working thesis statement, the significance of the topic, the procedure of the study, and a working bibliography.

   3. Submission

      The student must write his/her Research Paper using the approved topic and the proposal. The paper must be 12–15 pages and must include the 7 sections listed in the instructions document; it must also contain 12 sources and follow current Turabian format.
F. Exams (4)

The student must complete 4 exams throughout the course, based on the materials found in the course. All exams contain 25 multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions; are open-book/open-notes; and must be completed in 1 hour.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threads (4 at 40 pts ea)</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replies (4 at 40 pts ea)</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Article Critiques (2 at 100 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (4 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

D- = 680–699   F = 0–679

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the **LUSD Writing Guide** and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments...
and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

E. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

F. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

G. Instructor Availability and Feedback

The instructor will answer most emails within 24–48 hours. He/she will give feedback on the Research Paper – Proposal and Research Paper – Submission. In addition, the instructor will reply to some, but not all, Discussion Board posts.

H. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# Course Schedule

## THEO 525

Textbooks:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Elwell: 8 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 1–3  
              1 presentation | Course Requirements Checklist  
              DB Forum 1 Thread | 10  
              40 |
| 2           | Elwell: 6 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 4–5  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 1 Replies  
              Journal Article Critique 1  
              Exam 1 | 40  
              100  
              50 |
| 3           | Elwell: 10 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 6–10  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 2 Thread  
              Research Paper – Topic | 40  
              10 |
| 4           | Elwell: 15 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 11–14  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 2 Replies  
              Research Paper – Proposal  
              Exam 2 | 40  
              70  
              50 |
| 5           | Elwell: 12 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 15–19  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 3 Thread  
              Journal Article Critique 2 | 40  
              100 |
| 6           | Elwell: 14 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 20–24  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 3 Replies  
              Exam 3 | 40  
              50 |
| 7           | Elwell: 12 articles  
              Erickson: chs. 25–29  
              1 presentation | DB Forum 4 Thread  
              Exam 4 | 40  
              50 |
| 8           | 1 presentation | DB Forum 4 Replies  
              Research Paper – Submission | 40  
              200 |

**Total**: 1010

*DB = Discussion Board*

**NOTE**: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.