

## TH 204 – Introduction to Systematic Theology

Fall Semester 2006

Thursdays 5:30 – 8pm

David Dault, Instructor

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The goal of this course is to teach you to use the basic tools and topics of systematic theology and situate their development within the history of Christianity.

**Course Website:** <http://shoeleg.yak.net/82>

The website will serve as an online resource for announcements, course texts, and general information. Each week's lectures will be posted there for your study reference. It can be accessed from the library terminals as well as your own computer, and requires no password. Please note there is **no** "www." in the address.

### Required Texts:

Shirley Guthrie, *Christian Doctrine: Revised Edition* (Louisville: Westminster / John Knox, 1994)

Other texts for the course are **posted online** and should be printed by the student.

**Students are expected to attend every class.** If you will to be absent, please let the instructor know **in advance** if possible. Doctor's notes and other documentation are not necessary; your word is fine for an excused absence. **It is the policy of American Baptist College that you will be allowed up to two absences from an evening class, after which each additional absence penalizes the student one-third of a letter grade off their final average for the course.**

You should arrive at each class session *fully prepared* to participate and discuss the readings. **Please read the assigned texts prior to your arrival to the lecture.** Class time will be a mixture of lecture and discussion formats.

### Expectations:

- 1) Please bring a Bible to every class meeting. Feel free to bring whatever translation you feel comfortable with—the more variety, the better.
- 2) Please complete the reading assignments for each class before you arrive.
- 3) Be on time. Roll will be taken. Please let me know in advance if possible (most preferably by **emailing me at david.dault@vanderbilt.edu**) if you plan to be absent. Please do not contact me through the "Messages" section of my website. I do not check that section frequently and it does not alert me when new messages are posted. **Email me.**
- 4) Leave your cell phones at home. It is not acceptable to interrupt the learning of others to accept telephone calls during class time.

- 5) It is expected that all work done in your name for this course will be *your* work alone. There will be no tolerance for the giving or receiving of unauthorized help on any assignment for credit in this course. It is certainly acceptable to work together, study together, and discuss material for the course. Cheating, cribbing, and plagiarism, however, will result in severe academic consequences. If you have any questions regarding this expectation, ask.

**Grading will be based upon performance on pop quizzes over the reading, class participation, a midterm and a final examination given on the last day of class.**

- **TH 204 05 Week 1** - [Aug 24] - What is Theology? and Historical Backgrounds;
- **TH 204 06 Week 2** - [Aug 31] - Guthrie chapters 1 + 2: Historical Backgrounds 2:  
Patristics, Councils and Creeds
- **TH 204 06 Week 3** - [Sep 7] - Discuss Guthrie 3 + 4 : General and Special Revelation
- **TH 204 06 Week 4** - [Sep 14] - Discuss Guthrie 5 + 6; : Trinity and Attributes of God
- **TH 204 06 Week 5** - [Sep 21] - Discuss Guthrie 7 + 8: Predestination and Creation
- **TH 204 06 Week 6** - [Sep 28] - Discuss Guthrie 9 + 10 : The Problem of Evil,  
Theological Anthropology;
- **TH 204 06 Week 7** - [Oct 5] - Discuss Guthrie 11; Sin and 'The Consequences Game';  
MID TERM REVIEW
- **TH 204 06 Week 8** - [Oct 12] - **MID TERM EXAM**
- **TH 204 06 Week 9** - [Oct 19] - Discuss Guthrie 12 + 13: Incarnation and Atonement
- **TH 204 06 Week 10** - [Oct 26] - Discuss Guthrie 14 + 15: Resurrection and the  
Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- **TH 204 06 Week 11** - [Nov 2] - Discuss Guthrie 16 + 17: Justification and  
Sanctification
- **TH 204 06 Week 12** - [Nov 9] - Discuss Guthrie 18 + 19 : Doctrine of the Church and  
Eschatology
- **TH 204 06 Week 13** - [Nov 16] - NO CLASS - Dault at AAR conference
- **TH 204 06 Week 14** - [Nov 23] - NO CLASS - HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- **TH 204 06 Week 15** - [Nov 30] - Wrapping up and **FINAL EXAM REVIEW**

- **TH 204 06 Week 16 - [Dec 7] - FINAL EXAM**

**Texts for Further Study:** The following recommended books might be helpful for this class and for your continued growth in theological study – please note that these are **not required for the course**

Placher, William, *A History of Christian Theology* (Westminster John Knox, 1983) – Gives an excellent overview of the subject from the first century to the present.

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* – A clear example of a systematic theology, laid out in plain language with much Scriptural support.

Harvey, Van, *A Handbook of Theological Terms* – this is an indispensable guide to assist you in acquiring a theological vocabulary.

McKim, Donald K., *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*—similar to the Van Harvey book. A very helpful resource.