

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

I. CLASS INFORMATION:

Class Periods (Online): Thursdays, February 27 – April 16, 2020

8:00–9:30pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Direct Link to Zoom Conference Call: <https://zoom.us/j/622776909>

Alternatively, you may call in at (646) 558-8656; ID 622 776 909

Class Landing Page: <https://portal.moody.edu/cgte/ada-bible-church>

Class Instructor from Moody Bible Institute:

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Class Facilitator from Ada Bible Church:

Doug Redford

Pastor of On-Campus Groups and Men's Ministry

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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is Moody School of the Bible's foundational course on systematic theology. The class will survey the primary categories of systematic theology: *Theology Proper* (the study of who God is), *Christology* (the study of the person and work of Jesus Christ), *Soteriology* (how Christ's death and resurrection secure salvation), *Pneumatology* (the study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit), *Ecclesiology* (the study of what the church is), and *Eschatology* (the study of the end times). This course will also introduce the Apostles' Creed—which is the oldest and most universal statement of the Christian faith—as a useful measure of historic Christian doctrine.

III. OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ We will survey the attributes of God.
- ❖ We will acquire a working knowledge of each of the primary categories of systematic theology.
- ❖ We will learn that the Bible is the foundation of systematic theology, and we will study through many biblical texts in our survey of Christian doctrine
- ❖ We will see how the Apostles' Creed can serve as a faithful summary of the foundational points of the Christian faith.

IV. PROCEDURES:

Online Class Periods: Class periods will be conducted as online conference calls, each of which will be 90 minutes in length total, including a 10-minute break.

Video Recordings: Class periods will be video recorded, and these video recordings will be distributed to the students via the cohort landing page. The video recordings are not intended to serve as independent educational resources; rather, the video recordings are created so that students may review any class periods from which they are absent and may thereby remain fully integrated in online class periods.

V. TEXTBOOK (FOR PURCHASE):

Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973.

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date:	Place and Time:	Subject:	Readings:	Assignments:
Thursday, February 27, 2020	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	The Attributes of God and the Bible as the Foundation of Theology		
Thursday, March 5, 2020	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	The Doctrine of God (Theology Proper)	Packer, Chapters 1–3	(Article I): "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Thursday, March 12, 2020	Online, 8:00– 9:30pm (EST)	The Trinity	Packer, Chapters 4–6	(Articles II–III): “[II] I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, [III] who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.”
Thursday, March 19, 2020	Online, 8:00– 9:30pm (EST)	The Doctrine of Christ (Christology)	Packer, Chapters 7–10	(Articles IV–V): “[IV] He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; [V] he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.”
Thursday, March 26, 2020	Online, 8:00– 9:30pm (EST)	The Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)	Packer, Chapters 11–13	(Articles VI–VII): “[VI] He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. [VII] From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.”
Thursday, April 2, 2020	Online, 8:00– 9:30pm (EST)	The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)	Packer, Chapter 14–17	(Article VIII): “I believe in the Holy Spirit,”
Thursday, April 9, 2020	Online, 8:00– 9:30pm (EST)	The Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)	Packer, Chapters 18–20	(Article IX): “the holy catholic ¹ church, the communion of saints,”
Thursday, April 16, 2020	Online, 8:00– 9:30pm (EST)	The Doctrine of the End Times (Eschatology)	Packer, Chapters 21–22	(Articles X–XII): “[X] the forgiveness of sins, [XI] the resurrection of the body, [XII] and the life everlasting. Amen.”

¹ Some translations of the Apostles’ Creed read “universal” instead of “catholic.” In this context, “catholic” does not mean “Roman Catholic” but simply “universal,” that is referring to the entire church.

VII. ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. *Attendance*: In the case that a student is not able to be present for a class period, we recommend that (1) the student notify the class facilitator by email concerning the absence and (2) the student review the video recording of the class period prior to the next class period.
- B. *Reading*: There are reading assignments for each of the seven class periods following the initial class period. Students are expected to read the assigned sections of the textbook prior to the start of the class for which they are assigned.
- C. *Quizzes*: We will complete 7 quizzes during the course, and each quiz will consist of about 15 questions. The quizzes are designed to ensure class participants are reading the textbook with comprehension.
- D. *Apostles' Creed Project*: Each student will write a position paper on the Apostles' Creed. The purpose of this exercise is for students to develop an in-depth understanding of the biblical basis for each article of the Apostles' Creed. The position paper should list out each article of the Apostles' Creed and then present the student's personal commentary on the individual article, including a rich supply of Bible references. This project should be 1500–2000 words in length.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY (FOR REFERENCE):

Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Bray, Gerald. *God Has Spoken: A History of Christian Theology*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.

Chesterton, G. K. *Orthodoxy*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Hill, Graham. *Global Church: Reshaping our Conversations, Renewing our Mission, Revitalizing our Churches*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2016.

Lane, Tony. *Exploring Christian Doctrine: A Guide to What Christians Believe*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: HarperCollins, 1980.

Louth, Andrew. *Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.

Pink, Arthur W. *Gleanings in the Godhead*. Chicago: Moody, 1975.

Tennent, Timothy. *Theology in the Context of World Christianity: How the Global Church Is Influencing the Way We Think about and Discuss Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2015.

Treier, Daniel. *Introducing Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Faith Speaking Understanding: Performing the Drama of Doctrine*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

Volf, Miroslav, and Matthew Croasmun. *For the Life of the World: Theology That Makes a Difference*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2019.