



**COVENANT BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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INFORMED SCHOLARSHIP • PASTORAL HEART

HT15 • Historical Theology Overview

Dr. Sam Waldron

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3 Credit Hours

Description: This course in the History of Theology gives an introduction to and survey of the major questions and resultant ideas in the history of the development of Christian doctrine from the immediate post-Apostolic writers to the present.

Purpose: The purpose of this course in the context of this survey is to provoke the student to examine each theological development in the light of Scripture and in the light of previous theological ideas so as to produce a personalized theology on the basis of the most biblically defensible synthesis of doctrine.

Specific Outcomes:

- Each student should end with a deeper knowledge of and appreciation for the present systematization of confessional reformed/evangelical theology.
- Each student should be able to articulate the historical process by which greater biblical clarity, or loss thereof, became infused into the separate heads of doctrine.
- Each student should grasp the inter-relationships of the heads of doctrine so as to discern how changes in one affect the single unity of the content of biblical revelation.
- Each student should see the importance of the cumulative knowledge of gifted Christians through the ages. He should embrace the positive and edifying advances made while detecting the departures from biblical faith. Each student should advance in personal aptitude through incorporating into a philosophy of ministry and preaching the increased clarity, coherence, and apologetic value of historical theology.
- Each student should be encouraged in how God superintends through his Spirit the illumination of his word in protecting the revealed deposit of truth (2 Timothy 1: 12-14). This was given us in completeness and sufficiency as the sole authority for Christian belief and practice and every development in theology represents the church's expansion of understanding of this deposit.

Requirements

- Each student must attend and take notes on all lectures.
- Each student must complete reading the text assignments. This constitutes 10% of the final grade.

- Each student must successfully complete two examinations—one over the first seventeen lectures and a second over the next seventeen lectures. Each of these constitute 35% of the final grade.
- Each student must write a research paper. The content will consist of a treatment of the historical development of one of the thirty-two doctrines listed as heads in the contents of the Second London Confession. This paper must incorporate at least five primary sources and five historical theologies. The length is to be 4,500 words and must follow the CBTS Style Guide. This constitutes 20% of the final grade

Texts

- The lead text is Louis Berkhof, *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1975. 269 pages.
- Read at least one other historical theology, This may include one of the following, though not limited to this list. Total pages read must be at least 1,000 pages.
 - Greg Allison. *Historical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. 733 pages.
 - Geoffrey Bromiley. *Historical Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. 464 pages. {Also published by Wipf & Stock and T & T Clark. And Blackwell Publishers.}
 - George Park Fisher. *History of Christian Doctrine*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark. 557 pages.
 - E. H. Klotzsche. *The History of Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1945 (Chapter xxxi, 1979). 387 pages.
 - Alister McGrath. *Historical Theology*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Sessions on history of Theology Lectures 1-17

1. – Prolegomena to Historical Theology
2. – Expansion of Christianity
3. – Apostolic Fathers
4. – Apostolic Fathers Continued
5. – Recognition of the Canon
6. – Recognition of the Canon Continued
7. – Apologists – Justin Martyr and Epistle to Diognetus
8. – Polemicists and Theologians – Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Origen
9. – Arius and Athanasius and Nicene Christology

10 – The Cappadocians and Council of Constantinople (381)

11 – Nestorians, Eutychians, Leo and Post Nicene Christology

12 and 13 – Pelagius and Augustine on human Sin and grace

14 and 15 – Augustine on the Cross and the Trinity

16 and 17 – The Impact of Scholasticism

- Anselm
- Aquinas
- Sacramental system

Sessions on history of Theology
Lectures 17-32

18. – The importance of the Reformation and summary of its Theological ideas

- Problems
- Five solas

19. – Luther

- Progress of his thought
- Theological contribution

20. – Zwingli – The Reformed Option

21. – Anabaptists – The Free church option

22, 23. – Calvin – Maturing the Reformed option

24. – The Council of Trent – Response to the Reformation

25. – The Making of the Book of Concord – Solidifying Lutheranism

26. – The Synod of Dort – Solidifying Reformed Soteriology

27. – English Reformation – An attempt at a hybrid

- 39 Articles
- Westminster Confession
- The Puritan option

28. – The Particular Baptists

29. – The Impact of Pietism

30. – Jonathan Edwards

31. – Charles Spurgeon and the Downgrade

32. – Modern Roman Catholicism

33. – Modernism and the development of Liberalism,
Neo-orthodoxy and modern theologies

34. – Concluding overview and Loose Ends