Syllabus for
**GTHE 551—Systematic Theology I - ONLINE**
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2012

I.      COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to Christian theology and an examination of the doctrines of revelation, God, creation, and humanity.
Prerequisites:  None.

Systematic Theology I is an introductory course.  Along with its sequel, the course provides an overview of the field and a foundation for the advanced courses in theology. The introductory unit surveys the source and tributaries of Christian theology, the roots and branches of historical theology, and the major types of modern theology. The four succeeding units examine in depth the doctrines of revelation, God, creation, and humanity. The course attempts to interact with the finest international scholarly opinion and also pursue the equally important goal of practical application in the Christian life and the mission of the church.

II.     COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:
A.      Study the theological and historical foundation for ministry in the Christian church.

B.      Learn to correlate the best scholarship in biblical theology with contemporary questions and modern knowledge.

C.      Learn theology as a language **of** faith and not merely as a language **about** faith.

D.      Enhance understanding and appreciation of the diversity displayed in the religious and cultural traditions of the Christian church.

E.      Enable meaningful communication and dialogue between the Christian tradition and modern society.

F.      Develop a perception of theology as the handmaiden of worship and mission in the church.

G.      Become inspired to achieve the goal of producing scholarship reflecting the charismatic-evangelical-catholic vision of Oral Roberts University.

H.      Study the relation between theology and human need.

III.    STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:
A.      Demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the course subject matter in oral and written examinations.

B.      Sketch the broad panorama of Christian theology past and present.

C.       Translate more readily the revelatory truth of the Christian faith into intelligible and coherent language for contemporaries.

D.       Discuss the importance of enhancing Christian praxis by relating theory to practice.

E.       Expound the distinctive classical Christian understanding of God in comparison with and contrast to other religions and philosophies.

F.       Give cogent expression to the Christian belief in God as creator, either orally or in writing.

G.       Match the biblical understanding of humanity to contemporary concepts and problems, either orally or in writing.

H.       Communicate methods of relating personally to God and to others more effectively.

I.       Exhibit a basic knowledge of the contents and methods of Christian theology.

IV.       TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

      A.       Required Materials
           1.       Texbooks
                     Erickson, Millard J. Christian Theology. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998. ISBN: 0801021820

                     Hart, Larry. *Truth Aflame*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN: 9780310259893

           2.       Other

      B.       Optional Materials
           1.       Textbooks
                None

           2.       Other
                None

V.       POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

      A.       University Policies and Procedures
           1.       Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
           2.       Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

       a.      Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;

       b.      Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;

       c.      Failing to cite sources used in a paper;

       d.      Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;

       e.      Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

3. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

4. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.

       a.      The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.

       b.      By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

       a.      An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

       b.      A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**
    a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
    b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **$15 fee,** plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
    c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
    d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures
1. Evaluation Procedures
    a. There are two exams (midterm and final) composed of essay questions; each exam counts as 1/3 of the final course grade.
    b. There is a research paper that counts as 1/3 of the final course grade. (The specific format and topic are supplied in class.)
Class requirements are evaluated according to the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Midterm Exam | 40% |
| Final Exam/Synthesis Paper | 60% |

Grading scale:
A=90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=59% and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
    a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059: ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio
    b. WPA requirements for this course:
        (1) The synthesis paper for GTHE 551 must be uploaded to the student's ePortfoliio.
        (2) The synthesis paper may be used as a required artifact for the Master of Divinity and the M.A. Practical Theology degree programs.

## VI.    COURSE CALENDAR

| Week | Subject |
|------|---------|
| 1-2 | Introduction |
| 3-4 | Revelation<br>**Midterm Exam** |
| 5-9 | God |
| 10-12 | Creation |
| 13-15 | Humanity |

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes**
**School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Divinity**

**GTHE 551 Systematic Theology I - ONLINE**        **Dr. Larry Hart, Instructor**

**Fall 2012**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree as indicated below:
**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.
**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.
**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.
**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes**

| Degree Program Outcomes | Significant Contribution | Moderate Contribution | Minimal Contribution | No Contribution |
|---|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| **Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context** | | | | |
| Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations. | | X | | |
| **Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text** | | | | |
| Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper. | | | | X |
| **Knowledge of Christianity** | | | | |
| Present a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity. | X | | | |
| **Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrine** | | | | |
| Exhibit a basic knowledge of contents and methods of Christian theology. | X | | | |
| **Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies** | | | | |
| Present practical ministry skills and strategies. | | | X | |
| **Christian Ethics for Social Issues** | | | | |
| Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles. | | X | | |
| **Theology and Theory of Ministry** | | | | |
| Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling. | | | X | |
| **Skills for Contemporary Ministry** | | | | |
| Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts. | | | | X |

**Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**
**M. A. Practical Theology**

**GTHE 551 Systematic Theology I - ONLINE     Dr. Larry Hart, Instructor**

**Fall 2012**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Practical Theology degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.
**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.
**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.
**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

| Degree Program Outcomes | Significant Contribution | Moderate Contribution | Minimal Contribution | No Contribution |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Foundational Knowledge of OT/NT Scripture** | | | | |
| Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations | | X | | |
| **Basic Methods of Biblical Interpretation** | | | | |
| Exhibit competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation. | | X | | |
| **Theology and Christian Doctrines** | | | | |
| Exhibit a basic knowledge of the contents and methods of Christian theology | X | | | |
| **History of Christianity** | | | | |
| Research and synthesize key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity | | X | | |
| **Communication Through Preaching/Teaching** | | | | |
| Effectively communicate the message of Christianity through the medium of preaching or teaching. | | | X | |
| **Supervised Practice in Ministry Context** | | | | |
| Demonstrate understanding and skills for contemporary ministry contexts. | | | | X |