The mission of Houston Graduate School of Theology is empowering spiritual leadership through the intellectual, spiritual, and vocational development of men and women in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the necessity, nature, scope, and methods of theology. Major types of theology such as systematic, constructive, historical, and biblical will be surveyed. Major doctrines such as the word of God, the being of God, the person and work of Christ, the doctrine of humankind, the work of redemption, the doctrine of the church and doctrine of last things will be presented. 4 credits.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. The student will explain a method for doing theology (on Midterm).
B. The student will explain inspiration and authority of the Bible (on Midterm).
C. The student will explain names, existence, character, and Trinity of God (Midterm).
D. The student will explain the Father’s involvement in salvation (Final).
E. The student will explain the Spirit’s role in funding Biblical authority (Midterm).
F. The student will explain the Spirit’s role in salvation (Final).
G. The student will explain human sin, salvation and resolution for the problem of evil (Final).
H. The student will explain metaphors for salvation and state the gospel (Final).
I. The student will explain and defend divinity and humanity of Christ (Midterm).
J. The student will explain Christ’s ministries that accomplish salvation (Final).
K. The student will explain Church metaphors (Final)
L. The student will describe and defend what the Greek word for “church” means (Final).
M. The student will describe and defend the purposes of the church (Final).
N. The student will describe prophecy of the Future, especially Kingdom (Final).
O. The student will do personal theological work by completing a theological paper or project.
III. STUDY QUESTIONS FOR EXAMS: The student will:

A. Prologomena:
   1. Define different kinds of theology.
   2. Describe the relationship of exegesis, logic, philosophy and the kinds of theology.
   3. Describe and defend why you need to study theology.
   4. Describe contextualizing theology, with guidelines to keep clear of abuses.

B. Bibliology:
   1. Define and distinguish general and special revelation.
   2. Describe and defend revelation’s authority.
   3. Describe and defend a proper view of inspiration of the Bible.
   4. Define, describe and defend the place of Biblical authority, infallibility and inerrancy.
   5. Define, describe and defend the canonicity of Scripture.
   6. Discuss the history of the formation of the canon and the principles upon which the canon is recognized.
   7. Describe and defend that the Scriptures have been successfully preserved from the autographs to their English Bible.
   8. Describe the basic principles of interpretation and application.

C. Theology Proper:
   1. Explain what is meant by the knowability and incomprehensibility of God.
   2. Define and defend theism, from antitheistic systems.
   3. State and evaluate the rational arguments for God’s existence.
   4. Define the basic meaning of the five primary names for God (Yahweh, Elohim, Adonai, Theos and Kurios).
   5. Define, describe and defend the attributes of God.
   6. Relate the attributes of God to their Christian life.
   7. Define, describe and defend the Trinity.
   8. Describe and defend the relationship of God’s sovereignty and human free will in salvation and life.
   9. Describe and defend the creative and ruling works of God.
  10. Define, describe and defend the deity and personhood of the Father.
  11. Describe and defend the generosity of the Father, and our obligation to worship, pray and trust the Father.

D. Pneumatology:
   1. Define, describe and defend the deity and personhood of the Spirit.
   2. Define and defend the Spirit’s work in inspiration.
   3. Define and defend the Spirit’s work in the life and work of Christ.
   4. Define and defend your view on the following ministries of the Spirit: regeneration, inspiration, illumination, coming or resting upon, sanctifying and exorcism by the Spirit.
E. Angelology
1. Define, describe and defend the personhood of angels (and demons).
2. Describe and defend how Satan and demons impact a person’s life and orchestrate persecution.
3. Describe and defend Christ and the Spirit in kingdom ministry defeat Satan and demons.

F. Anthropology:
1. Describe different views of origins and critique them.
2. Describe and defend creationism.
3. Explain the significance of the components of the Genesis 1-3 account.
4. Describe and defend human’s original nature and state.
5. Describe and defend what is meant by the concepts of the image of God and the image of Christ.
6. Describe and defend the basic Biblical components of humans.
7. Give an answer to the problem of evil.
8. Describe and defend the origin of sin and the fall of humans.
9. Describe the kinds of sin with ramifications and solutions.

G. Christology:
1. Describe and defend what it means for Jesus to be God.
2. Describe and defend what it means for Jesus to be man.
3. Describe and defend what it means for Jesus to be a unified person.
4. Describe and defend Jesus’ virgin birth.
5. Describe and defend the core of Jesus’ teaching.
6. Describe and defend what Jesus accomplishes in His life.
7. Describe and defend what Jesus accomplishes in His death.
8. Describe and defend the meaning and actuality of Jesus’ resurrection, ascension, and second coming.
9. Describe and defend Jesus’ ongoing ministries now.

H. Soteriology:
1. Define and defend the need for salvation.
2. State the gospel in 25 words or less.
3. State and defend that salvation is by grace against improper views which include human requirements to obtain salvation (e.g., Works, proselytizing to Judaism first, and baptism).
4. Gain a new appreciation for grace.
5. State and defend man’s responsibility to trust Christ for salvation.
6. Recognize and critique other views of salvation, pointing out their deficiencies from the Biblical text.
7. Define and defend the significance of: predestination, foreknowledge, atonement, propitiation, expiation, reconciliation, redemption, election, calling, justification, regeneration, conversion, adoption, sealing, sanctification,
assurance, perseverance, glorification, grace, mercy, faith, hope, forgiveness, and imputation.

8. Explain and defend the atonement of Christ both to its limits and quality.
9. In view of the sovereignty of God, explain each of our responsibility to trust God and evangelize others.
10. Attempt to share the gospel this semester with someone not known by them to be a believer.

I. Christian Life
   1. Describe some of the identifying differences of evangelical Christian life views.
   2. Describe how ones view about Jesus affects your Christian life view.
   3. Describe and defend where you position yourself in your view.

J. Biblical Covenants
   1. Describe the difference between a covenant grant and a suzerainty treaty.
   2. Describe and defend the prophesied blessings and curses of each of the following covenants: Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and New.
   3. Describe and defend to which extent these covenants find their fulfillment in Israel in any one generation and ultimately.
   4. Describe and defend whether the Mosaic covenant is applicable for the church.
   5. Describe and defend the relationship between Israel and the church (i.e. they are not identical).
   6. Based on your understanding of Biblical covenants, describe and critique systematic schemes (eg. covenant, dispensationalism, American covenatalism, theonomy).
   7. Describe and defend to what extent the New and Davidic covenants are realized today.

K. Ecclesiology:
   1. Describe and defend the distinguishing characteristics that delineate the church.
   2. Describe and defend the universal and local church and their relationship.
   3. Describe and defend what is meant by the body of Christ (church as an organism).
   4. Describe and defend the Biblical church leadership roles: qualifications, responsibilities, privileges (church as organization).
   5. Describe and defend how the church makes decisions, governs itself, obtains leadership and carries out discipline.
   6. Describe and defend the place of spiritual gifts in the functioning of the church.
   7. Describe and defend the place and meaning of the church ordinances: baptism and Lord’s supper.
   8. Describe and defend the role of men and the role of women in the church.
   9. Describe how you presently conceive of your role in the church, giving reasons where they are available.
L. **Eschatology**:
1. Describe and defend the O.T., Christ’s and the apostle’s conception of the kingdom.
2. Defend the need for a future literal reign of Christ on the earth which fulfils the Biblical covenants.
3. Critique pre-millenialism, post-millenialism and amillennialism.
4. Describe a pre-millennial time schedule of end time occurrences.
5. Describe and defend the purposes of the tribulation.
6. Describe and defend the purposes and timing of the rapture and resurrections.
7. Critique various reasons for rapture views.
8. Describe and defend the second coming of Christ.
9. Describe and defend the everlasting benefit of the believer and the everlasting torment of the unbeliever.
10. Describe and defend where the Christian fits into each eschatological occurrence and what these Christians will be doing.
11. Describe and defend what everlasting future will be like.

**IV. TEXTS**

(E) Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998 or 2013 which should be out in August). 9780801021824 or 978-0-8010-36439

(K) Kennard, Douglas. *Messiah Jesus: Christology in His Day and Ours* (New York: Peter Lang, 2008). 978-0-8204-9739-6 or available electronically on Kennard’s HGST web page: [Dr. Kennard’s website](http://drkennard.com) or google books.


Recommended Books for historical and philosophical issues include:

Dieter et. al. *Five Views on Sanctification* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987). 0310415314 9780310415312


V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. The student will read assignments in text according to schedule. 10% of final grade.

B. Major Project: The student will write a position paper or artistic project of theological significance. Due as scheduled; 30% of final grade.

1. The position paper should be about 2000 words and typed. Choose a topic relevant to the fields covered during the semester and narrow enough to be handled well with some depth. Begin with a thesis statement identifying what topic and breadth of study you are intending to cover in the paper. Make sure any references to Biblical text are sensitive to what the texts say in the original context. Also, eliminate flaws from your arguments. Discuss alternative views with ramifications and defend your view from Biblical contexts and good reasoning. This research paper requires five periodical sources found following data bases. Do not cite Wikipaedia but you may use it. Only cite internet sites from peer reviewed journals. Use citations as necessary and third-person writing throughout. This paper should be submitted to turnitin.com. To do this the student will need to register with turnitin.com. Then the course code is 6361704 with a password Theology.

2. The artistic project should be of theological significance and pertinent to the course. Introduce your art project by explaining what you are trying to do and for which kind of audience. The grade will be based on the: explanation, quality of project, clarity of the correspondence between explanation and project, and creativity. Make sure that the artistic medium (Dramatic dance, poem, music composition, video production, sculpture, painting, short story…) plays to the strength of the particular medium. Obtain Dr. Kennard’s permission for this option.

Notes for Writing Papers though an Artistic Project could modify some of these.
3. Writing assignments should conform to Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th Edition or counseling students may use APA. This includes matters of style and format. Counseling students should pay particular attention to the Manual guidelines on submission of academic papers.

4. The instructor requires the use of footnotes for documentation. The student should number pages. According to Turabian, page numbers should be in the upper right hand corner, except for the first page of the paper (not counting the title page). Margins should be one inch on all four sides, except where major headings require a two-inch top margin.

5. The student should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student not use presentation or report binders or folders. She prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.
Critical or formal writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly. Failure to do so will be penalized.

a. Avoid 1st or 2nd person references (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.

b. Never use contractions.

c. Avoid passive voice construction (i.e. The student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary, but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.

d. Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.

e. Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Failure to spellcheck will result in a substantive reduction on the grade for written assignments.

f. Grammar check works as well!

g. All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.

h. Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.

C. Two exams, according to schedule. The first exam will be a one-hour exam as scheduled and the second exam will be a take-home exam unlimited by time but limited to a maximum length of 800 words. No sources but an unmarked Bible are permitted on the first exam, whereas on the second exam, any sources are permitted, but the final product is the student’s own work. Each test is 30% of the final grade.

D. Any late papers will have the grade deducted at a rate of 3% per calendar day, so include the date on which you turned in the late paper, or the date on which it is found will be assigned to it.

E. Attendance is expected at all classes. Class participation is 10% final grade. A failing grade will occur with 4 classes missed.

VI. Grading Scale:

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69

VII. Policies
A. Regular attendance and submission of assignments on due dates in syllabus is expected. Each student must talk to the instructor about circumstances affecting his or her ability to attend class and complete assignments. Attendance is required at scheduled classes and at
the scheduled start time. The student could lose as much as a letter grade for excessive tardiness.

B. Work is expected on the due date. Students should expect a grade reduction of up to one letter grade on late papers.

C. HGST Policy on electronic equipment in classroom.

It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptops computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.

D. Incompletes

In cases of extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor, a student may request and apply for an extension on all required assignments, which are not completed by the end of the semester or term, subject to a 5-point grade reduction on the final grade of each assignment. If an extension is granted, the instructor will record a grade of “I” (Incomplete) and set an extension of time, not to exceed thirty calendar days from the end of the class, within which to complete the work. Additional extensions may be granted only by the Academic Dean or Associate Dean and only after a student has petitioned the Dean in writing. If the course work is not completed within the extended time allotment, the grade of “I” will be converted to the grade earned by the student up to that point. The student is responsible to ensure that all necessary paperwork is submitted to the registrar’s office by the deadline published in the school calendar.

E. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another person as one’s own without giving proper credit for the use of the information. Students must not quote books, articles, essays, or Internet sites without giving proper credit to the author(s). Students should guard against plagiarism by crediting the original author through use of proper citations. Internet plagiarism is a particularly easy and tempting form of intellectual theft. Cutting and pasting sentences and paragraphs from the Internet without citations is plagiarism. Failure to cite Internet sources is plagiarism. Any student who is found guilty of plagiarism is subject to a range of consequences as outlined below.

1. If a faculty member suspects plagiarism, the instructor will investigate. If suspicions are confirmed, the faculty member will present the evidence to the appropriate Associate Dean as a record of the offense. If the Associate Dean concurs with the allegations, the following procedures should be implemented as applicable:
   • The faculty member may discuss the offense with the student following consultation with the Associate Dean, but the student will meet with the Associate Dean.
   • For a first offense, the faculty member, in consultation with the Associate Dean, may give opportunity for a rewrite of the assignment or may assign a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment.
   • For a particularly egregious case of plagiarism on a major assignment, the consequences could result in automatic failure of the course.

2. The student may appeal the above-mentioned decisions of the faculty member in writing to the Academic Dean.
3. The second confirmed offense will result in expulsion from school. The student will be notified by a letter from the Academic Dean. His or her only opportunity for appeal will be to the President in writing. The President’s decision will be final.

F. Library Usage
A student’s ability to get the most out of library resources will enhance the possibility of earning a high grade in this class. Therefore, students should consider using, in addition to the HGST library, Search HGST Library Holdings (http://66.196.218.34/common/servlet/presenthomeform.do?l2m=Home&tm=Home&l2m=Home), one or more of the following libraries.

1. **Houston Public Library**— Any resident of Texas can obtain a free Houston Public Library card. Library cardholders have access to all of the books in the library system as well as the use of free interlibrary loans, meaning that HPL cardholders can borrow almost any book available. Cardholders can use the library’s website, www.houstonlibrary.org, to search the catalog and manage interlibrary loans. The website also contains links to WorldCat and other online databases that will enhance your research. The HPL location that is closest to HGST, the Collier Regional Branch (832-393-1740), is located at 6200 Pinemont, which is less than three miles from campus. A better option would be the newly expanded and renovated Central Library (832-393-1313), which is located downtown at 500 McKinney. In addition, HPL has many other locations. The HGST library can give you an application for an HPL library card, or you can print the application form from their website.

2. **Fondren Library at Rice University**— The Fondren Library (713-348-5113) is located at 6100 Main. Please visit www.rice.edu/fondren for more information. The procedure for borrowing books at the Fondren Library is, first, go to the online catalog [www.rice.edu/fondren] to search for available books; second, go to the HGST library and fill out a form, signed by HGST library personnel, to take with you to the Fondren Library for each book; third, retrieve the book(s) yourself; fourth, take the book(s) and the signed form to the circulation desk to complete checkout (return the yellow copy to the HGST library; when the book(s) are returned to the Fondren Library, they will indicate so on the pink and gold copies; return the pink copy to the HGST Library and keep the gold copy for your records).

3. Lanier Theological Library is a new resource for scholarly theological research in the Houston area. The library is open to the public. Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The library is a research library with no circulation privileges. Nonetheless, students should consider Lanier Library to be a valuable research option. The catalog of Lanier Library is available online: http://alexandria.lanierlibrary.net/#_.

4. **Cardinal Beran Library at St Mary’s Seminary**— the home of an extensive theological library, St Mary’s Seminary (713-686-4345) is located at 9845 Memorial Drive, only 4.6 miles from HGST. For more information, please visit http://beran.stthom.edu. The Doherty Library on the main campus of University of St Thomas is also an option.

5. **Library of the Presbytery of the New Covenant** – as an HGST student you have borrowing privileges at this library located at 1110 Lovett Blvd, Houston. To search their online catalog, go to http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/cgi-bin/rqm/rqm.cgi.

6. Other options include Harris County Public Library (www.hcpl.net) and the libraries at the University of Houston and Houston Baptist University.
VIII. CLASS SCHEDULE: When assignments are due.

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<th>Readings and Topics</th>
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<td>Jesus, An Introduction</td>
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<td>E: pt 2; D:</td>
<td>The Nature of Necessity; Eternity and Everlasting</td>
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<td>Biblical Anthropology as a Creation and Revelation Framework for Doing Bio-Ethics</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>K: 2-5:</td>
<td>Born to be King, Kingdom Miracle Worker, Jesus is a Kingdom Oriented Jew, and Mosaic Teacher of the Law</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>K: 6-9:</td>
<td>Mark and the Controversy of Jewish Traditions, Luke/John: Spirit Extended Salvation to Gentiles, Discipler, and Jesus, the Sage</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>E: 8; K: 11-14:</td>
<td>Jesus’ Death, Jesus as Sacrifice, Jesus’ Resurrection, and Priestly Messiah</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Messianic Prophet and Jesus as King; D: Problems of Evil; Final due</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>All Graduates work must be turned in.</td>
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