

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEMINARY**  
2075 EAST MADISON AVENUE • EL CAJON • CALIFORNIA 92019–1108

**TH-311 THEOLOGY 1: GOD AND ANGELS**

FALL TRIMESTER 2016, MODULE 1  
ONLINE & THURSDAYS 7-10PM  
SEPTEMBER 8 – OCTOBER 20, 2016

**PROFESSOR**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of the biblical doctrines of God and angels. Topics include: the attributes, nature, decree, and the Trinity of God; and spirit beings including angels, demons and Satan.  
*3 Units.*

**PROFESSOR'S COMMENTS**

In addition to the above-mentioned emphases, the course will also explore the historical development of these key doctrines of the Bible as well as the surrounding controversies.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

1. *The Holy Bible*. A translation based on formal equivalence, such as the *New King James Version* or the *New American Standard Bible*, is recommended for study.
2. Ryrie, Charles C., *Basic Theology*. Moody Press: Chicago: Moody Press, 1999.
3. Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1998.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

Noll, Stephen F., *Angels of Light, Powers of Darkness: Thinking Biblically about Angels, Satan and Principalities*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.

**Please Note:** Textbooks can be purchased online through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com), or any alternative means. However, it is your responsibility to order all of the required textbooks at least one month prior to the start of class or be willing to pay for expedited shipping.

*STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:*

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to . . .	Program Objectives*	SCS Institutional Objectives*	Course Requirement (CR #)
1. Define key theological and Biblical terms related to both the doctrine of God and spirit beings.	1,	1, 4, 8	4
2. Defend with Scripture key issues related to God and spirit beings, both angels and demons.	1, 2	1, 3, 4, 8	5, 6, 7, 8
3. Demonstrate a Biblical understanding of the attributes and work of God as well as biblically and historically defend the doctrine of the Trinity.	1, 2	1, 4, 8	5, 6, 7, 8
4. Explain his personal convictions on the doctrines of God and spirit beings.	1, 2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	5, 8
5. Integrate the study of the doctrines with the Christian life and ministry.	1. 3,	2. 2, 7	3. 5

\* *The program objectives and institutional objectives are published in the current Seminary Catalog.*

*In order to successfully complete the course, the student will be required to:*

1. **Complete** all the required readings for the course. This includes all the required sections from Ryrie's *Basic Theology* and Erickson's *Christian Theology* as well as the professor's class notes. Please, see the course schedule for this. (**100 points for all the required reading. A reading report will be submitted at the end of the term**).
2. **Participate in Classroom/Blackboard Discussions.** From the readings, each student will be required to post a "Theological Query," that is, a theological question that arose from that week's readings. As well, the student will be required to respond to at least two other posts from other students posted in the same week. See the course schedule for other class discussion items. In a few cases, the professor will request that you address a specific query arising from the readings with paper length requirements (**100 total points for all this class discussions**).
3. **Submit a major term paper.** Not less than 14 pages in length, this paper will serve as your own doctrinal position concerning the doctrines of either God or spirit beings. It will also serve as an "Apologetic" or "Defense" paper which responds to key challenges to the biblical understanding of these key doctrines. (It can also address a specific, controversial aspect of either of these doctrines—for example—the Trinity). This paper will be completed in three phases: i. Outline, ii. First Draft and, iii. Final draft. During the first two phases, the student will also benefit from critiques of two other fellow students either

on paper or via Blackboard. The final draft will take into consideration these inputs. Please, see the class schedule for the due dates of these phases. **(300 points for the entire project [50 points for the outline, 100 points for the first draft and 150 points for the final draft]).**

4. **Complete and pass both the Mid-Term and Final exams. (200 points for each exam. 400 total points possible).** More information concerning these exams will be provided both here below and as the term progresses.
5. **Create a glossary of key theological terms for each week’s reading.** Submit them as one document by the final week of the course (100 points).

**SESSION ONE ASSIGNMENT DUE:**

Read the table like this, “At Session \_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the assignment due is \_\_\_\_\_.”

SESSION	DATE	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	Sept 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Topics Covered: Introduction to the Biblical Concept of the Christian God: The Nature of God: Divine Attributes</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapters 4-5.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, chapters 13-14</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read Class Notes posted on Blackboard.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit a 3-pg double-spaced paper that answers the question (theology query of the week): Who is the Christian God? When you think about Him, what comes to your mind? Do you believe that you have a biblical view of God? Upload your paper onto Blackboard for discussion.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introduce yourself to the class via Blackboard please!!!</li> </ul>
2	Sept 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Topics Covered: More on the Attributes and Work of God</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapters 6-7</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read</b> Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, chapter 15</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Submit your outline</b> for the theology paper (on ground students should bring a hard copy to class while online students should upload their work onto Blackboard). The outline should reflect your very clear thinking of your subject. It should, for example, demonstrate the fact that you have explored the thesis of the paper (your claim as well as the evidence for the claim), what has been done before (briefly) on the subject as well as the need for your paper.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Read Class Notes</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Post and respond to your classmates’ theological query</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue working on <b>key theological terms</b>.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin <b>critiquing</b> your colleague’s outline(s).</li> </ul>

SESSION	DATE	ASSIGNMENT DUE
3	Sept 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Topics Covered: <i>The Concept of the Trinity and the Work of God</i></b></li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapter 8</li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, chapters 16-18</li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Class Notes</li> <li>❑ <b>Submit</b> your full first draft of your theological paper. NB. The paper should have all the components that you plan to include in the final draft. It should be complete with all the necessary bibliography, needing just some small adjustments and editing here and there.</li> <li>❑ Continue working on <b>key theological terms</b>. Post and respond to your theological query.</li> <li>❑ Begin <b>critiquing</b> your colleagues' first draft.</li> </ul>
4	Sept 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Topics Covered: <i>Challenges to the Biblical Concept of God: The Question of Theodicy</i></b></li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Class Notes posted on Blackboard.</li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Erickson, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapter 20</li> <li>❑ <b>Respond to this key theological question: <i>If God is all-good (Omnibenevolent) and all-powerful (omnipotent), then, why is there evil in His created world? Why, to use a common saying, do the innocent suffer? Please, offer a 2-page succinct response. As well, respond to two other papers.</i></b></li> <li>❑ <b>Complete the Mid-Term Exam.</b> Both exams will be structured the same way. There will be three sections. Section one will be multiple choice questions. Section two will be short answer/definition questions. Section three will be short essay questions. More information will be forthcoming.</li> <li>❑ Continue working on <b>key theological terms</b>.</li> </ul>
5	Oct 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Topics Covered: <i>Introduction to the Doctrine of Spirit Beings</i></b></li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapters 17-21</li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Erickson, <i>Christian Theology</i>, Chapter 21.</li> <li>❑ <b>Theological query: Submit</b> a 3-page response to this question: What is the contemporary view concerning angels and spirit beings (demons)? Do many people today believe in their existence? If so, how do they understand them (what are they to them)? If not, then, why? What are some of the key factors that have contributed to this climate? Please, be succinct. (on ground students should submit this in class while online students should upload it</li> </ul>

SESSION	DATE	ASSIGNMENT DUE
6	Oct 13	<p>onto Blackboard for class discussions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Read the class notes available on Blackboard.</b></li> <li>❑ Continue working on <b>Key theological Terms.</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b><i>Topics Covered: The Reality of Satan: His Existence and Nature</i></b></li> <li>❑ <b>Read</b> Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapters 22-23</li> <li>❑ <b>Read Class Notes posted on Blackboard</b></li> <li>❑ Submit and interact with your theological query.</li> <li>❑ Continue working on <b>Key Theological Terms.</b></li> <li>❑ <b>Submit the final draft of your term paper.</b> Make sure that you have taken into account the comments that came from your classmate(s) during phase 2 of the development of the project. Remember that the paper should be at least 14 pages long, double-spaced. Make sure that you have consulted at least 5 good sources for your work. It should conform in all aspects to Turabian manual of style.</li> </ul>
7	Oct 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b><i>Topics Covered: The Activities of Satan and Demons</i></b></li> <li>❑ Read Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i>, chapters 24-28</li> <li>❑ Read Class Notes</li> <li>❑ Submit your final documents on the key theological terms and the class reading report.</li> <li>❑ Complete the final exam. The format is exactly like that of the mid-term. More details will be forthcoming.</li> </ul>

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

- 1. Class Readings.....100 points (10%)
- 2. Discussion Board.....100 points (10%)
- 3. Mid-Term Exam.....200 points (20%)
- 4. Final Exam.....200 points (20%)
- 5. Term Paper.....300 points (30%)
- 6. Key Theological Terms.....100 points (10%)
  
- 7. Total.....1000 points (100%)**

*GRADE SCALE*

The final grades are not given out until three weeks after the course is finished. A student will not be given their final grade unless the course has been paid for in full.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	= 95–100%	C	= 77–79%
A-	= 92–94%	C-	= 74–76%
B+	= 89–91%	D+	= 72–73%
B	= 86–88%	D	= 70–71%
B-	= 83–85%	D-	= 68–69%
C+	= 80–82%	F	= Below 68%

*ATTENDANCE POLICY*

For the Modular Courses (21 lecture hours/7 weeks), more than 10 minutes missing from class is considered a tardy. More than 20 minutes missing from class is counted as an absence. Two tardies equal one absence. Two absences results in being dropped from the course. You are permitted one absence for a 7-week course but will be required to complete a special assignment to make up for the hours of classroom instruction missed. The nature of the assignment will be at the professor's discretion.

*LATE WORK COURSE POLICY*

Late work will be accepted with the penalty of 10% taken off the total points that could be earned on the assignment, each day it is late, up to a maximum of 50%

*ACADEMIC INTEGRITY*

Southern California Seminary expects its students to be "above reproach" in their personal and academic life. If evidence of academic dishonesty is discovered, the Dean of the program with the Director of Student Affairs will investigate the matter and apply discipline.

Plagiarism is treating another person's work as one's own. It can occur either intentionally or inadvertently. It includes taking another's words, sentences, ideas or outlines without giving proper credit to the source, including that of copying from other students. Anyone who aids another student in plagiarism is likewise guilty of the same deception and will receive an academic penalty. The minimum penalty is failure of the paper; test, etc. where the deception

occurred. The maximum penalty is dismissal from school. The only sure protection against plagiarism is to make sure that all information that is neither yours nor in the public domain is accounted for via footnotes or any other academically acceptable means.

Cheating is never tolerated at SCS, and any student caught cheating will be disciplined accordingly. The discipline may result in suspension or expulsion from the program.

## **Library**

The SDCC/SCS Library website is your gateway to library resources and information. For a complete description of the library's holdings, services, staff and access to its online collections, go to: <http://sdcc.edu/library>.

The Library Catalog accesses the library's holdings by author, title, subject, keyword, and phrase. You can remotely search the catalog through the Library Catalog link under the Find Books menu on the library home page. Library materials are loaned for a 3-week period. You can renew items 1 time through your account (My Library Info) in the Library Catalog or by contacting the library.

The library subscribes to over 80 Research Databases (under the Find Articles menu on the library home page). These selected databases are available from any Internet accessible computer and include indexing and full-text to magazines, journals, newspapers, e-reference, music, streaming video, etc. 93,260 e-books are also available. Help using the databases is available under Search Guides | Database Guides. You will need your SCS network account username and password to access these databases. The library also uses LibGuides to create discipline, course and assignment specific guides for doing library research: <http://sdcc.libguides.com/index.php>.

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is a means of borrowing books or obtaining photocopies of periodical articles from other libraries when the College Library does not own the title. This service is available for students, faculty and staff of SCS and SDCC. Forms are located on the library web site under Services | Interlibrary Loan.

We welcome and encourage any questions you may have about using the library. If you need assistance searching the online Library Catalog or the Library's Research Databases, locating materials, or with any other research or reference need, visit the Library, email the library ([library@sdcc.edu](mailto:library@sdcc.edu)), or call us at (619) 201-8747. The Seminary Librarian, Jennifer Ewing, MLIS, may be contacted at (619) 201-8682, or by email: [jewing@socalsem.edu](mailto:jewing@socalsem.edu).

The library provides service more than 70 hours a week during the fall and spring trimesters and roughly 40 hours a week during the summer. Hours are posted at the library entrance, website & under the Library tab on Blackboard. During the fall and spring semesters, the library is open: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.; Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday CLOSED. Holiday, summer & finals week hours will be posted.