

Syllabus for  
**eTHE 313/eGTHE 551—Systematic Theology I**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Instructor: Dr Anders Gerdmar

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the idea of theology, the existence and character of God, the doctrine of the Scriptures, and Christology.

II. COURSE GOALS

- A. Obtain an overview of major sections of the teaching of the Christian Church.
- B. Demonstrate the abiding value of the historic, orthodox Christian faith for contemporary Christianity.
- C. Develop the ability to effectively communicate theological ideas.
- D. Form an understanding of a broad range of doctrines, issues and ideas integral for a reflective study of Christianity and thereby enable the student to intelligently “dig deeper” after the close of the semester.
- E. Acquire critical-thinking skills useful for future academic and vocational pursuits.

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. Define theology and explain its relation to ethics, religion, and philosophy.
- B. Define and explain theism, general and specific revelation, and various aspects of the Christian understanding of the Triune God.
- C. Define and explain the various sources of Christian theology, including Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.
- D. Explain central themes of modern Christological debates.
- E. Explain Trinitarian Christian approaches to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbooks:

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2010.

McGrath, Alister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2011.

Plus one of the following books, needed for the book report (you get advise in the Introductory Lecture posted at the website):

Erickson, M. J. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Hart, Larry. *Truth Aflame. Theology for the Church in Renewal*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2005.

Jenson, Robert W. *Systematic Theology, Vol 1: The Triune God*. Oxford: U.P., 1998.

Kolb, Robert. *The Christian Faith*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1993.

## V. COURSE PROCEDURES

A. Course Prerequisites: None

B. Evaluation Procedures:

1.	<u>Grading Scale</u>	
	A = 90-100	D = 60-69
	B = 80-89	F = below 60
	C = 70-79	
2.	<u>Assignments</u>	
	Discussions	5%
	Quizzes	21%
	Assignments	21%
	Mid-Term Exam	15%
	Book Report	13%
	Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	TOTAL	100%

C. Assignments:

1. The written assignments: summarizing the lectures in respective units (instructions online)
2. The Book Report. Write a *6-page book report* on the chosen book (see above). Due the last week of the class. It should consist of three parts:
  - 1) Brief *summary* of the book (2 pages)
  - 2) *Evaluation* of the book, positive/negative features (2 pages)
  - 3) *Application* of the book, how the book helped you in getting familiar with Systematic Theology (2 pages)

D. Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Livets Ord Theological Seminary. Absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.

2. Students and faculty at Livets Ord Theological Seminary must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. 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.
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.

## VI. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### A. Evaluation Policies

1. Completion of a Course
  - a. All assignments for each Week or Unit are due on the week established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment.
  - b. No work is accepted after the final exam date.
2. Incompletes
  - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her 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 will be 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 at least 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 appropriate academic committee of the school.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
  - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
  - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**

- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the Dean. Proper documentation must accompany the petition. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied.**
  - d. **All exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
  - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the school.
4. Attendance
- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the LOTS is as follows for a three credit course: the missing of 6 class sessions (two weeks) will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions (four weeks) will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
  - c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**
5. Internet Study Policies
- a. The student is expected to listen to all the internet lectures and participate in all activities unless administratively excused. Only administrative excuses, notice by e-mail or phone to the office or teacher, are accepted.
  - b. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
  - c. Illness and injuries are not considered excused absences (You always have to notify your teacher when for some reason you cannot do certain course work).

## B. Academic Honesty

1. By signing the Honor Code, the student has pledged, "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments."

2. The Catalog and Student Handbook reiterate that "no Christian intellectual community can maintain its integrity or be faithful to its members if violations of its central purpose are tolerated for any reason. This principle of intellectual responsibility applies to all work done by students."
3. Cheating and plagiarism attack the basis for academic accreditation and Judeo-Christian civilization. They are violations of God's moral codes. Plagiarism is literary or artistic theft and misrepresentation. It is not only a moral wrong, but it is illegal. For a full description of plagiarism, see Alexander Lindley, Plagiarism and Originality, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1952.
4. No collaboration among students on assignments will be allowed without prior written approval from the professor. The Catalog specifies that "each student will do his or her own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. A student violating this principle of intellectual responsibility will receive an F grade in the course involved and face disciplinary action including possible suspension from Livets Ord Theological Seminary."

## VII. COURSE CALENDAR

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reading 1</b> <i>(McGrath: "Introduction")</i>	<b>Reading 2</b> <i>(McGrath: "Reader")</i>
Unit 1	Theology and Its Divisions	p. 3-4	
Unit 2	Patristic Period: theologians	p. 5-14	p. 2-8
Unit 3	Ecumenical Creeds	p. 14-21	p. 9-11
Unit 4	Trinity, Middle Ages Intro	p. 22-42, 234-264	p. 11-20
Unit 5	Reformation	p. 43-59	p. 21-22
Unit 6	Theological Developments	p. 59-65	p. 22-30
Unit 7	Empiricism, Liberal Theology MIDTERM EXAM	p. 66-96	p. 30-47
Unit 8	The Purpose and Sources of Theology	p. 101-119	p. 65-83
Unit 9	Revelation and Faith	p. 152-170	p. 84-99
Unit 10	The Scripture and Its Inspiration	p. 120-151	p. 99-114
Unit 11	Method and Structure of Theology	p. 171-194	p. 114-127
Unit 12	Israel: The Missing Perspective		p. 127-148
Unit 13	God of Israel and His Descriptions	p. 197-215	p. 150-152 158-168
Unit 14	The Doctrine of Creation	p. 215-223	p. 193-195
Unit 15	God and the Problem of Evil BOOK REPORT DUE	p. 223-233	p. 153-158

## FINAL EXAM

**Course Inventory for LOTS' Student Learning Outcomes  
eTHE 313/eGTHE 551—Systematic Theology I**

This course contributes to the LOTS student learning outcomes 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.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; Proficiencies/Capacities</b>		<b>Significant Contribution</b>	<b>Moderate Contribution</b>	<b>Minimal Contribution</b>	<b>No Contribution</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			X	
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior			X	
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities</b>				
4A	Communication skills		X		
4B	Interpersonal skills			X	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	