

SOTERIOLOGY SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“A study of the grace of God in salvation including election, the ministry of the Savior in His humiliation and exaltation, the nature and extent of the Atonement, efficacious grace, justification, regeneration, the salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit (including Spirit baptism, indwelling, and sealing), and eternal security. *Prerequisite:* ST101 Introduction to Theology.”

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed:

- A. To encourage the students to formulate and to develop their thinking about these important doctrinal areas through class notes, readings, and discussions. The student should expect to:
 1. gain a synthetic overview of the doctrines
 2. gain some appreciation for the historical development and contemporary expression of the doctrines
 3. become aware of the central passages and key definitions of the doctrines and
 4. obtain a bibliography to facilitate further study.
- B. To encourage the students to develop their comprehension of the implications of theology for Christian living, ministry, and relevant issues through the class sessions and personally selected assignments. The student should expect to be exposed to various approaches to theology as a basis for refining skills such as:
 1. traditional proof-texting
 2. biblical theology
 3. contemporary case studies.
- C. To encourage the students to formulate personal conclusions to subjects and issues of personal interest through personally selected assignments and discussion. The student will be encouraged to:
 1. begin to comprehend the marvelous grace of God in Christ
 2. rejoice in the security of salvation in Christ
 3. recognize the nature and urgency of the gospel message
 4. communicate these truths to others.
- D. In terms of specific content, at the conclusion of the course the student should be able to:
 1. Describe the way of salvation, the place of faith, and the role of the sacrifices under the Old Testament economy
 2. Explain the divine purpose behind the death of Christ and relate it to various historical models.
 3. Define justification, contrasting Protestant and Roman Catholic approaches.
 4. Describe the relationship between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of people in salvation.
 5. Compare and contrast Calvinism and Arminianism.
 6. Defend the doctrine of eternal security.
 7. Define pluralism, inclusivism, and exclusivism, and identify arguments for each.
 8. Explain how an individual can be saved.
 9. Explain the means of assurance.
 10. Identify obstacles to the gospel in the culture in which he or she plans to minister.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required

Demarest, Bruce. *The Cross and Salvation*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1997.

Yancey, Philip. *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997.

Course notes by Dr. Robert Pyne.

B. Suggested

Oden, Thomas. *The Justification Reader*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002.

Okholm, Dennis L. and Timothy R. Phillips, eds. *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Rausch, Thomas. *Catholics and Evangelicals*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Ryken, Philip. *The Message of Salvation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Schreiner, Thomas R., and Bruce A. Ware, eds. *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge, and Grace*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999.

Stackhouse, John, ed. *What Does it Mean to be Saved?* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2002.

Stuhlmacher, Peter. *Revisiting Paul's Doctrine of Justification*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent Atonement*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001

C. Supplementary Bibliography

Aquinas on Nature and Grace, edited by A. M. Fairweather. Library of Christian Classics. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954.

Calvin, John. *The Bondage and Liberation of the Will: A Defence of the Orthodox Doctrine of Human Choice against Pighius*. Edited by A.N.S. Lane, translated by G. I. Davies. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.

Carson, D.A. (ed.) *Right With God: Justification in the Bible and the World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

_____. *Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.

Chafer, L. S. *Systematic Theology*. (the portion dealing with soteriology)

Edwards, Jonathan. *Treatise on Religious Affections*. (available in various editions)

_____. *The Freedom of the Will*. (available in various editions)

Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*. (available in various editions)

McGrath, Alister. *Iustitia Dei: A History of the Christian Doctrine of Justification*. (2nd edition) New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Morris, Leon. *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

_____. *The Cross in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Crucified God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Okholm, Dennis, and Timothy Phillips (ed.) *More Than One Way? Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Owen, John. *The Death of Christ* (Vol. 10 of his collected works [Banner of Truth]).

Pinnock, Clark. *A Wideness in God's Mercy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

_____, ed. *The Grace of God and the Will of Man*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Plantinga, Richard J., ed. *Christianity and Plurality: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

Ryrie, Charles C. *So Great Salvation*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989.

Sproul, R. C. *Chosen By God*. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1986.

Stott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

All students will be expected to read the required textbooks and class notes in their entirety and according to the attached schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: The student is expected to arrive in class on the evening of June 3 having read chapters 1 through 3 of Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation*.

The reading will be worth up to 30 points, depending on the percentage completed. For example, if the student completes half of the assigned reading, he or she will receive 15 of the 30 points available. The percentage of reading completed must be indicated on the final exam (see below).

D. Written Assignments (papers, journals, study exercises, charts, etc.)

The Critical Response Paper – In addition to the required reading, students will choose to read one of the suggested books listed above. After reading the book, the student will write a 7-10 page critical response paper. This paper is not simply a book review, but a critical interaction with the material. Briefly summarize the author's thesis, explaining key arguments used to support the thesis, then evaluate the thesis and the means of presentation. Finally, discuss personal and ministerial application of this material. Please note: Not all the books listed reflect the perspective of the professor.

The critical response paper is **due on July 8** and is worth a maximum of 20 points.

“Optional” Assignments – Students may accumulate up to 20 additional points by completing projects selected from this list. Please note: completion of the reading, final examination, and critical response paper will accumulate a maximum of 80 points. All of these assignments are **due on July 22**.

1. Scripture Memorization (1/2 point per verse) – the student may choose to memorize passages of Scripture relevant to the course material. Submit the list of verses to the professor for approval prior to completing the assignment. In order to receive credit for this assignment, the verses from a published translation must be recited to another individual in one sitting, word perfectly, without helps or hints. A statement signed by the student and the listener must be submitted to the professor indicating the verses memorized and recited correctly.
2. Critical Response Paper (20 points) – the student may choose to read an additional book from the suggested list and write a critical response paper as explained above.
3. Film/Movie Reviews (10 points/film) – the student may choose to watch a movie dealing with subject matter for this course and write a 4-5 page critical response paper. In this paper, briefly summarize the plot and then discuss the theological implications of the material. Significant depth of theological evaluation is expected.
4. Music Reviews (5 points/album) – the student may choose to listen to a collection of music and write a 4-5 page critical response paper. It is recommended that an “album” of an artist's work be chosen for this project, although selecting several songs by different artists (constituting “album” length) is also acceptable. The music may be of any style and content, as long as it is relevant to the subject matter of this course.
5. Research Paper (20 points) – the student may choose to write a research paper on any topic related to soteriology. Most research papers will be 12-15 pages (double spaced, normal font and margins) and will include a bibliography of at least 30 good sources. Please follow Turabian style.

Criteria for grading will include depth of research, accuracy and completeness in argument and conclusions, clarity of expression, and style.

6. Lesson Plans or Sermons (10 points each) – the student may choose to develop lesson plans or sermons for material on the subject matter of this course. The submitted material should be more than just an outline of material to be covered. To the extent that it is possible, a manuscript should be submitted, along with any other helpful supporting material.
7. Short Essays (5 points each) – the student may choose to write a well-crafted, thoughtful essay on topics related to soteriology. Not as thoroughly documented as a research paper and written with more creative flair, these essays should package thoughts and issues on a more popular level for discerning readers. Each essay should consist of approximately 1500 words and deal with a specific relevant topic.
8. Creedal Statement (20 points) – the student may choose to produce a personal doctrinal statement on soteriological issues. This tightly worded, precise statement must also include detailed defense and explanation of the issues involved. Use endnotes for the explanation and defense to avoid cluttering the statement itself. Since endnotes will be single-spaced, the total project should not exceed 20 pages.
9. Other – the student may choose any combination of above assignments or may propose additional alternatives. The student and professor will agree in advance on the points available for any other assignment.

E. Exam

All students will also be required to complete the “take home” final exam included at the end of this syllabus. It is designed to encourage each student to articulate answers to some of the questions that will be raised by the course, not to test whether the student can accurately restate the view of the professor. Criteria for grading will be: clarity, accuracy, consistency, response to key arguments, use of biblical evidence, and depth of thinking.

The procedure for taking the exam will be as follows:

1. The student should study for the exam throughout the semester.
2. The exam must be taken in one sitting (allowing short breaks but not additional study between questions). It will be expected that answers will be completely in your own words.
3. Answers should be brief, but adequate to answer the question. No answer need be longer than a paragraph or two.
4. The exam will be **due on July 29**.
5. The exam will be worth a maximum of 30 points.

V. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- A. The selection of textbooks should not be interpreted as implying the professor’s endorsement of any of the views of the authors. Textbooks are selected for their perceived value in helping to meet the course goals and objectives.
- B. “The purpose of this department is to encourage students to think theologically, to help them develop systematic theology from the dispensational, premillennial interpretation of biblical revelation, and to help them comprehend the implications of theology for Christian living, for ministry in the body of Christ, and for addressing contemporary issues” (Catalog).
- C. Course notes are available in the Book Center and are intended to facilitate your study. Other materials may be given from time to time. PLEASE NOTE: These materials are for your use only. Do not copy or distribute them to individuals not registered for this course. Any requests for these materials by non-registered individuals should be directed to the professor.

- D. Students may not tape class sessions without permission of the professor. If a student desires to tape record a class session, written permission must be obtained in advance of the taping. Please submit a written request explaining the purpose of taping and the extent of use of the tapes. Under no conditions may tapes be duplicated, given, or lent to anyone not registered for this class. No transcriptions of class lectures or discussions are allowed.
- E. Please turn off cell phones and paging devices during class sessions.
- F. Work that has been done for other classes may not be used to earn credit in this class. Submission of work for this class is presumed to include an affirmation that it is the student's own work and has not previously been submitted in another course.
- G. Students are responsible for any additions or corrections made to this syllabus at the discretion of the professor and announced in class.
- H. DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VI. COURSE POLICIES

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

The overall course grade is a composite of several factors. It is not a measure of personal worth or necessarily of the amount of information that a student feels that he or she has learned. Rather, it is a cumulative figure that bears a relationship to the student's successful completion of the course requirements. This figure is determined in the following manner:

Reading	30 points
Critical Response Paper	20 points
"Optional" Assignments	20 points
Final Examination	30 points

C. Class Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and to support their classmates in theological conversation. Theology is best done in community. The professor assumes that all students share in this conviction and desire to build up one another in love.

D. Late Assignments

Late assignments are generally not accepted. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the professor in extreme circumstances. Such exceptions will usually include a significant grade reduction of up to a letter grade per day late.

E. Absences

Attendance at class sessions is required. Students will be responsible for keeping track of their attendance and reporting the number of absences on the final exam. The attendance policy in the *Student Handbook* will be followed in this course.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: The student is expected to arrive in class on the evening of June 3 having read chapters 1 through 3 of Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation*.

Date	Subject	Reading/Assignments Due
June 3-4	<i>Orientation, Sin and Grace Salvation and Election in OT</i>	Demarest, chapters 1-2 Demarest, chapter 3
June 10-11	<i>Cross of Jesus Christ Calling and Conversion</i>	Demarest, chapter 4 Demarest, chapters 5-6
July 8-9	<i>Regeneration and Indwelling Justification by Faith Fruit of Salvation</i>	Demarest, chapters 7-8 Demarest, chapter 9 Demarest, chapter 10 Critical Response Paper Due
July 15-16	<i>Perseverance and Eternal Security Salvation in Contemporary Thought Pluralism, Inclusivism, Exclusivism</i>	Demarest, chapters 11-12 Yancey (all)
July 22	No Class	Optional Assignments Due
July 29	No Class	Final Exam Due

FINAL EXAM

Please answer the following questions on separate sheets of paper. Use as much or as little space as you wish, but be sure to answer the question completely and accurately. Each question is worth three points. Please include with your exam a statement of the percentage of reading completed and a statement of number of absences from class discussions. Please follow the instructions and procedure specified on page 4 of this syllabus. The exam is due on July 29.

1. *Describe the way of salvation, the place of faith, and the role of sacrifices under the Old Testament economy.*
2. *Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? Contrast your view to at least two other models of the atonement.*
3. *List at least four terms describing either Christ's work on the cross or the nature of salvation. Define each term and offer a biblical text for its use.*
4. *What is the meaning of justification? How does the Protestant understanding of that concept compare with the Roman Catholic model?*
5. *How would you describe the relationship between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of humans in salvation? Compare your view to both the Calvinistic and Arminian models.*
6. *From your perspective, what are the best arguments for eternal security?*
- 7-8. *Define pluralism, inclusivism, and exclusivism, and identify one argument for each. Refute the arguments for the positions you do not hold, and offer Scriptural support for the position you favor.*
9. *How can an individual be saved? Can they have assurance? How? (Define any theological jargon carefully.)*
10. *What do you regard to be the greatest obstacle to the gospel in the culture within which you plan to minister? What strategies would you suggest to someone doing evangelism in that culture?*

Percentage of reading completed on time _____

Number of absences _____

Signature _____

Name (Printed) _____