



*The College at Southeastern equips students to give their lives for the cause of Christ in the Church, among the nations, and in every aspect of society.*

**Spring 2021**  
**COURSE: THE3110 Online**  
**THEOLOGY I**

(Revised 11-11-2020)

Professor: Dr. Ken Keathley  
 Office: Director, Center for Faith and Culture  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Patterson Hall  
 Phone: 919-761-2190  
 Email: [kkeathley@sebts.edu](mailto:kkeathley@sebts.edu)

Secretary: Kim Wiley  
[kwiley@sebts.edu](mailto:kwiley@sebts.edu)

Please include: name and course code in every email

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Attendance**

Responsible Christian conduct should encourage the student to be faithful in regular class attendance.

2. **Reading**

The class schedule lists the pages of the textbooks the student must read each week. The reading load is substantial and the student should be diligent to complete the weekly assignments.

3. **Quizzes**

Each week there will be an open-book online test over the textbook readings assigned for that week. The quizzes are located on the Moodle course page. The student has ten (10) minutes to complete ten (10) questions. There will be a total of twelve (12) quiz grades recorded, of which the top ten (10) will be averaged and the bottom two (2) will be dropped. In addition, you may opt to attend events at the Center for Faith and Culture or other campus events determined by the professor to receive more dropped quiz grades. The events that qualify for this semester are: **TBD**. See [here](#) for details.

4. **Examinations**

Midway through the semester there will be an examination over the material covered to that point (see class schedule). At the end of the semester there will be a final examination (see class schedule).

5. **Goodness of Creation Writing Component**

The student will attend the virtual conference: *Goodness of Creation and Human Responsibility* on Feb. 18-20 and write a 1-2 page summary of each of the presenter's papers. The summaries will include: 1) Speaker's thesis statement; 2) Brief summary (1-2 paragraphs); 3) Outline; and 4) Personal observations or assessment (1-2 paragraphs). Conclude with a one-page assessment of the conference as a whole.

More information about the conference can be found [here](#). **Any student unable to view the conference during the live event times should reach out to Kim as soon as possible regarding an alternative assignment (viewing the recorded event later in the semester will not suffice for the assignment).**

**Required Course Textbooks:**

Akin, Daniel. *A Theology for the Church*. Revised Edition. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Academic, 2014.

Keathley, Kenneth D. and Rooker, Mark F. *40 Questions About Creation and Evolution*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2014.

Piper, John. *A Peculiar Glory: How the Christian Scriptures Reveal Their Complete Truthfulness*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016. (You may download a **free** .PDF version of John Piper's book on his website <http://www.desiringgod.org/books/peculiar-glory>)

**Suggested Textbooks:**

Elwell, Walter A. ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

**Content and Academic Requirement Details****Course Content Objectives:**

Christian Theology I should provide the student with a working knowledge of the theological topics outlined below:

1. ***Prolegomena***

We will cover the importance of presuppositions and essential criteria in establishing a credible belief system; identify major approaches (methods) to theology; and survey the relationships between historical theology, biblical theology, philosophical theology, systematic theology, and pastoral theology.

2. ***Revelation***

We will explore the nature of revelation; define and outline the issues concerning the nature of biblical inspiration and authority; and expound methods of applying this authority to contemporary issues.

3. ***Theology Proper***

We will address the issues involved in arguing for the existence of God; survey the divine attributes; and develop a biblical doctrine of the Trinity.

4. ***Providence***

We will explore the ways that God relates to his Creation; survey the issues related to the creation vs. evolution debate; study the relation of God's sovereignty to humanity's freedom and nature; examine the nature of miracles; and special attention will be given to the problem of evil.

5. ***Humanity***

We will cover the nature of the divine image; the constitution of the soul; and biblical understanding of male and female.

6. ***Hamartiology***

*To demonstrate an understanding of the origin, nature, and consequences of sin from a biblical perspective.* We will discuss the effects of The Fall and the nature of human depravity; define the nature of sin; and explore the various approaches to the concept of original sin.

**Grading:**Weight:

Mid Term:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Quizzes:	25%
Writing Component:	25%

**Scale:**

A:	95 – 100
B:	87 – 94
C:	77 – 86
D:	70 – 76
F:	Below 70

## Course Schedule:

1/25	<p>Class Begins</p> <p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin, (pp. 3-39) <i>Ch. 1- before "How Do We Put It All Together"</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp.11-36) <i>Intro-Ch. 1</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 1:</b> closes on Moodle 1/31 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Theological Method</p>	3/29	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Easter Break! Enjoy!</u></b></p>
2/1	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.39-66) <i>"How Do We Put It All Together"- Ch. 1 End</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp. 39-86) <i>Ch. 2-4</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 2:</b> closes on Moodle, 2/7 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Theological Method</p>	4/5	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.205-248) <i>Ch. 5</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Keathley/Rooker (pp. 15-54) <i>Q. 1-4</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 8:</b> closes on Moodle, 4/11 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Providence</p>
2/8	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.67-101) <i>Ch. 2</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp.89-124) <i>Ch. 5-7</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 3:</b> closes on Moodle, 2/14 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Revelation</p>	4/12	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.249-282) <i>Ch. 6</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> K/R (pp.189-224) <i>Q. 19-22</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 9:</b> closes on Moodle, 4/18 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Providence</p>
2/15	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.103-120) <i>Ch. 3- before "How Does It All Fit Together"</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp.127-179) <i>Ch. 8-10</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 4:</b> closes on Moodle, 2/21 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Scripture</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Goodness of Creation Conference 2/18-2/20</u></b></p>	4/19	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.285-336) <i>Ch. 7</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> K/R (pp101-107; 227-243) <i>Q. 10, 23-24</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 10:</b> closes on Moodle, 4/25 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Evil and Angels</p>
2/22	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.120-153) <i>"How Does It All Fit Together- Ch. 3 End</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp.181-226) <i>Ch. 11-13</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 5:</b> closes on Moodle, 2/28 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Scripture</p>	4/26	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.337-366) <i>Ch. 8-before "How Does It All Fit Together"</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> K/R (pp. 245-270) <i>Q. 25-27</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 11:</b> closes on Moodle, 5/2 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Humans</p>
3/1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Spring Break! Enjoy!</u></b></p>	5/3	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.366-387) <i>"How Does It All Fit Together- Ch. 8 End</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> K/R (pp. 285-310) <i>Q. 30-31</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 12:</b> closes on Moodle, 5/9 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> Sin</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Conference Writing Component due on Moodle by 5/9 at 11:55 p.m.*</u></b></p>
3/8	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.157-181) <i>Ch. 4- before "What Has the Church Believed?"</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp.229-250) <i>Ch. 14-15</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 6:</b> closes on Moodle, 3/14 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> God</p>	5/10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Final Exam (Date TBD)</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please allow enough time to take the exam.</b></p>
3/15	<p>1. <b>Read:</b> Akin (pp.181-204) <i>"What Has the Church Believed" – Ch. 4 End</i></p> <p>2. <b>Read:</b> Piper (pp.253-286) <i>Ch16-Conclusion</i></p> <p>3. <b>Quiz 7:</b> closes on Moodle, 3/21 at 11:59pm</p> <p>4. <b>Lecture:</b> God</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Last Day of Classes 5/12!</u></b></p>
3/22	<p><b><u>Mid-term Exam: (Date TBD)</u></b></p> <p><b>Please allow enough time to take the exam.</b></p> <p>1. <b>Lecture:</b> Creation</p>		

## Appendix

### Mission Statement:

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

### Course Teaching Methodology:

The primary teaching methodology employed in the classroom will be interactive lecture. Other methods, including case studies and debates, will be utilized during the semester. A research assignment will engage the student in formal theological research and increase their skill in the proper use of research methods.

### Core Competencies:

To equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission, the Southeastern Faculty build curricula and courses, drawing upon the great tradition of Christian orthodoxy and our Baptist heritage, to develop the following core competencies so that Southeastern graduates:

#### *Spiritual Formation*

Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an authentically Christian way of life, manifested by trust in God, obedience to Christ's commands, and love of God and neighbor.

#### *Biblical Exposition*

Demonstrate the ability to properly and effectively interpret, apply, and communicate the Scriptures.

#### *Theological Integration*

Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to life and ministry.

#### *Ministry Preparation*

Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and Christian disposition necessary for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.

#### *Critical Thinking and Communication*

Demonstrate the ability to think critically, argue persuasively, and communicate clearly.

We strive to do all of this while cultivating in students a delight in God, His Word, and His Church.

### Core Competency Addressed:

*Theological Integration:* The goals of this course are (1) to provide the student with a working knowledge of the basic Christian doctrines and (2) equip the student with the tools necessary to do further theological study.

### Course Description:

Christian Theology I is an introduction to the foundations of Christian theology, including a study of the doctrines of revelation, Scripture, and God. Also included in this semester is the study of the doctrines of humanity and sin. The nature of theology, its methods and claims are discussed. Theology I is a comprehensive study of the major doctrines of the Christian faith from the point of view of those who are within the Christian church.

### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify and express in a systematic, coherent way the biblical teaching on the doctrines of revelation, God, and humanity.
2. Students will be able to explain the theological controversies that have swirled around these doctrines in the course of church history and to choose at least a provisional position to take on the issues raised by these controversies.
3. Students will be able to recognize the challenges being raised for theology by the contemporary context and the responses we may give.
4. Students will be able to formulate a theological basis upon which they can build their ministry.
5. Students will be able to research the differing theological positions on a point of doctrine, compare different positions on that point of doctrine, and demonstrate how their position on that point of doctrine would be implemented in their Christian life and ministry.

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6. Students will be able to relate theological concepts to their personal spiritual formation.
7. Students will be able to recognize contemporary contextual challenges to theology and respond to those challenges.

**Workload Expectations:**

1. The professor expects students to give two hours (120 min.) of course work outside of class for every hour (60 min.) in class; therefore, for a three-hour (180 min.) class, that is six hours (360 min.) per week.
2. The professor expects you to read approximately 20 pages per hour (60 min.) in order to meet the requirements of the class.
3. The professor expects you to study a total of 12 hours (720 min.) for the midterm exam.
4. The professor expects you to study a total of 12 hours (720 min.) for the final exam.
5. In order to prepare for exams, the professor expects you to study your lecture notes 30 to 60 minutes each week looking over the notes.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and The College at Southeastern comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests and submit documentation to the Dean of Students Office.

TIPS FOR GOOD WRITING<sup>1</sup>**What are some key aspects of a good essay?**

- Clear thesis statement
- Well-signposted, logical structure
- Coherent and well-developed argument
- Analysis of the subject/topic/positions as well as a description of the ideas and positions
- Explicit and well-supported conclusions
- Clear and grammatically correct prose
- Appropriate (and limited) quotations used to illustrate positions or support arguments
- Fulfill the stipulated requirements for the project

**How should you start the research process?**

- Choose a question that interests and challenges you or connects with your ministry. Do not simply go for the easiest topic.
- Spend some time thinking about the essay well in advance (to become familiar with the subject, to allow for interruptions, to allow for follow-up research). Begin with your own thoughts. Then turn to other sources.
- Break down the task into manageable chunks.
- Start with overviews and work down into details.
- Make notes as you research. Write down page numbers with notes. Do not write too many notes – you need a manageable amount that you can organize later. Try to summarize information in your own words.
- Identify good quotes. Make sure quotes are accurate
- Organize your thoughts and research.
- Draft your paper.
- Allow time to proof-read before the paper is due.
- Save all your work meticulously.

**What tone should you use for good writing?**

- Write in a way that comes naturally. Do not overwrite. Do not overstate or be emotive. Let the facts speak for themselves.
- Think about your readers and address them in a natural way. Develop the essay as an imaginary explanation to them. But address them as you would in a seminar, not as you would on the street or in a one-on-one meeting.
- Write about the subject, not about what you feel. Make sure the reader knows who is talking or whose opinion is being offered. Avoid unsubstantiated opinion.
- Make sure *your voice* is heard in the essay or paper. *This is not license for you merely to state your opinion about the topic.*
  - Don't let your understanding of the issues related to the topic and your analyses on the topic get missed in merely reporting on what others have said about the topic. The paper is about what you have to say. You are to do research on the topic, analyze what others have said, draw theological conclusions, and explain how to integrate the topic to life and ministry. What we mean by make your voice heard is your paper is not merely a report/description of what others have said. We want to see you interact with the topic and the ideas of others in a way that demonstrates that you understand the ideas and that you also have something to say about topic. There are usually two parts of a research paper: research and analysis. In the research section, your voice is heard in the way you organize the research, the way you explain the research, and the way you demonstrate the most significant features of someone else's view. In the analysis section, your voice is heard as you make informed and reasonable theological judgments and conclusions.

**Do you know your “big idea”?**

You cannot expect to write clearly if you do not have a clear idea about what you are writing. Wherever possible identify your “big idea” – the main thing you want to communicate or your central argument. Try to give a two or three sentence summary. This “big idea” will give a clear goal to your essay and help to structure your essay coherently.

**Why use a clear structure and headings in your paper?**

A good plan will help you write your essay, and it will also help others read it. For instance, headings give the readers an overview of the ideas and the place of each section in the context of the whole.

1. Structure and headings are key in a good essay.

□□ good headings = good structure = good argument

2. Good headings, structure and argument start with **ordered ideas**.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is adapted from Porterbrook Seminary material.

1. Brainstorm ideas. List all the ideas, facts, sources, and evidence you think may be relevant.
  2. Organize ideas.
  3. Identify the big idea/thesis.
  4. Order ideas again in a way that builds and supports an argument for the thesis.
  5. Give your sections clear headings.
  6. Edit the amount of information you will use in your paper. Use questions like: What do your readers need to know for you make your argument? Which ideas contribute to the big idea?
3. Example of a simple structure: introduce issue and state your thesis, address arguments for and arguments against, argue for your position, and draw a conclusion that includes relevant application.
  4. Remember: The conclusion should integrate or critique, and your voice should be the defining voice in the paper.
  5. Everyone has their own way of doing this initial process. For example:
    - mind-mapping
    - color-coding - write all your ideas on paper and color-code them into groups
    - on PC - just type ideas into a PC document before cut-and-pasting into sections
    - for other brainstorming techniques, see this summary of many helpful practices: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/brainstorming/>

**Citations**

Turabian formatting should be used for all writing assignments, unless stated otherwise by your instructor. Tips for the use of Turabian formatting can be found at the following link: <http://campusnet.sebts.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=40>

**Some Big No-No's**

- Do not over quote. We are looking for your thought.
- Do not make lists. We want to see an argument developed and be applied.
- Do not include “fluff” paragraphs. Make sure all paragraphs have a purpose, namely to support the thesis for which you are arguing.
- Do not turn in your first draft. Proofread your paper carefully and have someone else help you if necessary.