



# LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## The Doctrine of God: LCTH4350

Dr. Micah Chung  
Adjunct Instructor

Spring 2024

LSC – Leavell College  
micah.chung@gmail.com

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*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore theological topics, such as the existence, nature, attributes, and acts (creation, sustenance/providence) of God. Special attention will be given to the doctrines of the Trinity and providence (divine sovereignty and human responsibility).

### COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Examine, reconstruct, and assess biblical and traditional ways of understanding the doctrine of God.
2. Explain and defend a doctrine of God consistent with the Christian faith.
3. Explain and apply the doctrine of God to various ethical, social, and pastoral circumstances within contemporary culture.

### COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

Barrett, Matthew. *None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God*. Ada, MI: Baker, 2019.

Swain, Scott R. *The Trinity: An Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Ware, Bruce, Paul Helm, Roger Olson, and John Sanders. *Perspectives on the Doctrine of God: Four Views*. Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2008.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (15% of class grade): Students will attend weekly class meetings and participate in guided discussion (late attendance or no participation will receive half credit). **FLEX students will report weekly interaction through Discussion Boards in the Canvas shell.**
2. Reading Inventories (20% of total grade): Students will complete assigned readings. One Reading Inventory is due each week before the Monday class meeting. At least ten Reading Inventories must be submitted in order to earn full credit for this assignment. In other words, you may be exempt from three Reading Inventories. For each assigned reading students will:

- Summarize the reading in one paragraph.
  - Record at least three content questions based on the reading for class consideration and any questions of clarification.
  - Identify key terms, names, and connections with other topics covered in class.
3. Position Paper (20% of total grade): Students will write a 5-page paper in (12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced, .docx) arguing for one of the positions presented in *Perspectives on the Doctrine of God*. Position papers should include the following:
- Concise summaries of all four positions presented in the book (one paragraph)
  - A thesis that chooses one of the positions and argues for it.
  - A section identifying criteria by which to evaluate all four positions.
  - A clear and well-argued case made for the chosen position.
  - A section that answers objections to the chosen position, which acknowledges yet disputes the strengths of the other three positions.
4. Research Paper (30% of total grade): Students will write a 12-page paper (12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced, .docx) on a research question of their choice. Research questions should seek to answer a particular historical or theological problem rather than merely report a historical narrative. Students should cite at least fifteen substantial historical or theological resources using footnotes in the text of the paper and provide a bibliography of all substantial sources useful to their research. Students will present and discuss their research papers in class during weeks 12 and 13 of the semester.
5. Personal Reflection (15% of total grade): Students will write a 3-page reflection (12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced, .docx) answering the following questions in one page each:
- Why does the Creator-creature distinction matter in theological thought and life?
  - What practical import does the doctrine of the Trinity have?
  - How specifically does the doctrine of God help you walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission?

## GRADING

Attendance/Participation:

	15%
Reading Inventories:	20%
Position Paper:	20%
Research Paper:	30%
Personal Reflection:	15%

## GRADING SCALE

- A: 93 – 100
- B: 85 – 92
- C: 77 – 84
- D: 70 – 76
- F: below 70

## COURSE OUTLINE

\*\*All assignments are due Tuesday before the start of class.

**MB = Matthew Barrett, *None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God***

**SS = Scott Swain, *The Trinity: An Introduction***

**WHOS = Ware, Helm, Olson, and Sanders, *Perspectives on the Doctrine of God: Four Views***

Week	Date	Daily Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1	Jan. 17	Introduction to Class, Definitions	MB-Introduction; SS-Introduction
Week 2	Jan. 22	Incomprehensibility	<b>Reading Inventory</b> MB-Chapter 1
	Jan. 24	The Creator-creature Distinction	MB-Chapter 2
Week 3	Jan. 29	Infinity	<b>Reading Inventory</b> MB-Chapter 3
	Jan. 31	Aseity	MB-Chapter 4
Week 4	Feb. 5	Simplicity	<b>Position Paper (WHOS)</b> <b>Reading Inventory</b> MB-Chapter 5
	Feb. 7	Immutability	MB-Chapter 6
Week 5	Feb. 12	Impassibility	<b>Reading Inventory</b> MB-Chapter 7
	Feb. 14	God and Time	MB-Chapter 8
Week 6	Feb. 19	Omnipresence	<b>Reading Inventory</b> MB-Chapter 9
	Feb. 21	Omnipotence, Omniscience, and Omnisapience	MB-Chapter 10
Week 7	Feb. 26	Righteousness, Goodness, and Love	<b>Reading Inventory</b> MB-Chapter 11
	Feb. 28	Jealousy and Glory	MB-Chapter 12
Week 8	Mar. 4	Introduction to the Trinity	<b>Reading Inventory</b> SS-Chapter 1
	Mar. 6	The Bible and the Trinity	SS-Chapter 2
	Mar. 11–15	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Week 9	Mar. 18	The Trinity and Simplicity	<b>Reading Inventory</b> SS-Chapter 3
	Mar. 20	God the Father	SS-Chapter 4
Week 10	Mar. 25	God the Son	<b>Reading Inventory</b> SS-Chapter 5
	Mar. 27	God the Holy Spirit	SS-Chapter 6
Week 11	Apr. 1	The Shape of God's Triune Work	<b>Research Paper Due</b> <b>Reading Inventory</b> SS-Chapter 7
	Apr. 3	The End of God's Triune Work	SS-Chapter 7
Week 12	Apr. 8	Research Paper Presentations and Discussion, Part 1	<b>Reading Inventory</b>
	Apr. 10	Research Paper Presentations and Discussion, Part 2	

Week 13	Apr. 15	Research Paper Presentations and Discussion, Part 3	
	Apr. 17	Research Paper Presentations and Discussion, Part 4	
Week 14	Apr. 22	Reflection	<b>Personal Reflection</b>
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>May 2–8</b>		

## ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine classroom hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.
2. FLEX Delivery: If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:
  - a. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the course attendance policy.
  - b. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through **Required Discussion Board Journals** after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
  - c. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame and fulfill the **Discussion Board Journal** for that class meeting, you will be considered absent for that class session.
  - d. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.
3. Policy for Late Submissions: A late project assignment will be assessed a **10 percent penalty if it is submitted after the deadline and a 20 percent penalty after five days. No assignment will be accepted after one week past the deadline.**
4. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
5. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
6. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
7. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Canvas site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Canvas site.

8. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barrett, Matthew. *None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God*. Ada, MI: Baker, 2019.

Emory, Gilles, and Matthew Levering, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Fairbairn, Donald. *Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001.

Frame, John M. *The Doctrine of God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2002.

González, Justo L. *A History of Christian Thought*, vols. 1 & 2. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1970.

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Harwood, Adam. *Christian Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Systematic*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2022.

Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Continuum International Publishing Group, 2000.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Malden, MA: Wiley and Sons, 2017.

Schaff, Philip, ed. *The Creeds of Christendom*. Revised by David S. Schaff. Vol. 2: *The Greek and Latin Creeds*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2007; reprint, Harper and Row, 1931.

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Ware, Bruce, Paul Helm, Roger Olson, and John Sanders. *Perspectives on the Doctrine of God: Four Views*. Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2008.

Whitfield, Keith S., ed. *Trinitarian Theology: Theological Models and Doctrinal Application*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2019.