



THEOS
BIBLIOLOGY

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BIBLIOLOGY & THEOLOGY  THEOLOGICAL & EPISTEMOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

SYS 501 – Behavioral Objectives

TO COMPLETE SYS 501 SUCCESSFULLY YOU WILL NEED TO...

1. Identify two untrustworthy sources of evidence which are solved by the LORD God Almighty providing the Scriptures.
2. List two forms of internal authority that provide a standard by which people believe.
3. Describe why monotheism did not evolve and how it actually manifested itself.
4. Identify the implications of calling the Bible *the Scripture*, *the Scriptures*, *the Bible*, *the Old & New Testaments*, *the Hebrew & Greek Scriptures*, and/or *the Word of the LORD God Almighty*.
5. Resolve *The Bibliology-Christology Conundrum*: Who is the Word, Jesus the Christ (e.g., John 1:1) or the Scriptures (e.g., Mark 7:13)?
6. Describe the epistemological implications of a plenary or partial inspiration view of the Bible.
7. Identify the implications of two words used in the New Testament Scriptures denoting "doctrine;" (δογμα and διδασκαλια).
8. Be able to identify the relative contributions of the *Lausanne Covenant (1974)* versus *The Chicago Statement (1978)* as to how they purport to support the inerrancy of Scripture.
9. Be able to contrast these three sources of belief standards beyond Scripture; to wit, canonical authority, theological authority, and ecclesiastical authority.
10. Distinguish between an autograph and an apograph of Scripture.
11. Be able to describe and provide an example of these three modes of interpretation (presumably by Gregory the Great): literal/historical, metaphorical, and allegorical.
12. Describe the differences between these five approaches to evince the Lord God's existence: Consideration of creation (cosmological), Intelligent design (teleological), Man's nature (anthropological), Overruling providence (historical), or Universal belief.
13. Be able to define and provide an example of polytheism, pantheism, agnosticism, and atheism.
14. Describe the implications of calling God "Elohim, Jehovah, El, Adonai" or "Father."
15. Identify by whom the canon was established by whom it was encouraged to be accepted.
16. Clarify the apologetic value of asking "Why deny what does not exist?" to an atheist.
17. Identify and describe the LORD God Almighty's active and moral attributes as they reflect the LORD'S character; include at least five active and five moral attributes. (Extra credit)

JUST WHAT IS SYS 501

This 3 hour graduate course provides an in-depth look at the development and canonization of the Scriptures (Bibliology); i.e., a study of various types of Biblical literature which constitute the “Bible.” We will also introduce the doctrine of the person of the LORD God Almighty (Theology). While our primary evidence for understanding the LORD God Almighty will be the Scriptures, we will also consider note how providence, history, and the natural world inform us about the LORD God Almighty. Secondary evidence will be examined so we become familiar (on a basic level) how others have developed a doctrine of the LORD God Almighty (e.g., various “creeds”).

CLASS TEXTS

Although other reading assignments will be made as requested and needed, these textbooks & readings will serve as the core of SYS 501 –

- ℵ Heywood, J. *An Introduction to the Bible and Theology*.
*1512756423 (WW756421 – both hard copy and eBook available) [Available online here](#).
- ℵ Schneider, L.C., Ray, S.G. Jr. (Editors) *Awake to the Moment: An Introduction to Theology*.
*0664261884 (WW261888 – both hard copy and eBook available) [Available online here](#).

Some Additional Sources You Will Find Useful

- ℵ Our Website for Accessing Additional Readings: DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/SYS501
- ℵ Baker, D. L. *Two Testaments, One Bible*. [Available online here](#).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Read all textbooks and required reading to meet the minimum 675-page reading requirement and submit a signed affidavit concerning the completion of this requirement (to be provided).
- B. Attendance in all classes is required; the final exam is posed on the last class and will be given then unless previous arrangements have been made with me.
- C. Because this is a graduate level program of study, the student is expected to demonstrate a high levels of insight and creativity in their work. Professionalism and original thought is highly desirable. Generic and vague papers will not be accepted. Expectations of the graduate student are greater than those of the undergraduate.
- D. Prepare an oral presentation either supporting or refuting a selected topic from theology or bibliology to be presented in class and be ready for discussion following the presentation.
 - 1. Present a topic approved by the professor **before** said presentation.
 - 2. Submit a single (1) page outline of the presentation.
 - 3. Presentation should be a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of ten (10) minutes in length.
 - 4. Prepare for a question and answer period from fellow students and your professor.

Attendance in all class sessions is required, particularly for oral presentation and the final exam, unless prior arrangements are made with the professor. Note: the following grading scale applies to this course only:

1. Attendance: 9% (each night worth 1.5%)
2. Oral Presentation: 15%
3. Final Exam: 40%
4. Written Requirement: 36%

E. Complete a high-quality research paper that reflects the content of the textbooks as well as incorporating any insights from the reading assignment and may focus on a major topic of your choice on the course subject. The paper needs to be submitted one 168 hours (1 week) after the last class session (lateness will cause a grade deduction).

1. Paper must be a minimum of seven (7) content pages in length, not including the title page and bibliography.
2. Grammar, spelling, composition, neatness of presentation and depth of research are considered points of importance.
3. Paper must be one-sided, double-spaced and no larger than 11 or 12pt Times New Roman font on a computer; 1 inch top & bottom, left & right margins.
4. Suggested topics which could be used are:
 - a. How Culture Affects and Effects Translations of the Scriptures
 - b. The Strength of the Word of God
 - c. Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
 - d. Knowing God Personally
 - e. Knowing the God of the Bible
 - f. The People Who Wrote the Bible
 - g. What the Scripture Does Not Tell Us about the LORD God Almighty
 - h. Translation Challenges from the Aramaic, Hebrew and NT-era Greek (Koine) Languages