



Queensland  
Theological College



# TRT32/52

# Foundations of Systematic Theology

## Unit Outline

### **About this Unit Outline**

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Foundations of Systematic Theology**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

**SEMESTER 2 2017**

## Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at [www.acttheology.edu.au](http://www.acttheology.edu.au)

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (See also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

# Information about this unit

## Unit description

This preparatory half unit examines the importance of systematic theology, takes a bird's eye view of Christian doctrine and gives the learner skills on 'how to do theology'.

## Learning Outcomes

### TRT32 Learning Outcomes

1. To introduce students to the aims and methods of systematic theology.
2. To provide students with clear overview of the whole scope of Christian doctrine.
3. To do this with a view to:
  - Preparation for Systematics in the following years
  - The integration of doctrine, church history, biblical study, and Christian life and practice

Upon completion of this unit students will be able to:

1. Understand what the discipline of systematic theology is
2. Understand why systematic theology exists as a discipline
3. Be aware of the major topics generally covered in systematic theology
4. Understand why the major topics are what they are
5. Grasp how the major topics relate to each other
6. Understand basic issues of method in doing systematic theology
7. Be able to present their own theological reflections on a topic

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6. Understand basic issues of method in doing systematic theology
7. Be able to present their own theological reflections on a topic
8. Be able to discuss and evaluate recent developments in Systematic Theology

## How this Unit Contributes to the Course

Theology can be intimidating for beginners. Many students have been overwhelmed by the diversity of opinions and sheer volume of information to comprehend. Studying this unit in your first year of theological studies helps you establish a foundation of concepts and terminology on which to build a theological framework and should help to equip you for 400/600 level theology units usually completed later in your course. For those doing a one-year course, this unit helps to establish the foundations for good theological thinking.

## Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

This unit is a Type B Elective. It caters for students studying for the following accredited courses of the Australian College of Theology: BTh/BMin/AssocDegTh/DipTh/DipMin and MDiv/GradDipDiv/GradCertDiv.

This unit is being taught at QTC at foundation level (300/500 level), therefore there are no prerequisite requirements.

## How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

In Semester 2 of 2017, this unit will be taught on **five Thursdays** at intervals during the semester. The lecture dates are:

**Thursdays 03 August, 10 August, 31 August, 05 October and 12 October. You must arrange in advance to be present on all of these days.**

There will be **four hours of lectures on each of these days**, commencing at **11.45am** and concluding at **4.15pm**, with a break for lunch between 12.35pm and 1.25pm. These arrangements will provide a total of 20 hours of contact time involving lectures, class discussion time and work in small groups.

This unit is a half-unit, worth 2 credit points (cps) towards your degree or diploma. A 2cp unit is considered to require an average total time commitment of approximately 4 hours per week outside of class time.

Students are required to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date.

## Teaching staff

LECTURER

### Rev Dr Peter Jensen

Principal of Moore Theological College, Sydney (1985-2001), and Anglican Archbishop of Sydney (2001-2013).

For general questions about this unit, especially prior to the commencement of lectures, please contact QTC Registrar, Ted Brennan, who will arrange for your questions to be answered. [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@qtc.edu.au)

QTC Theology Lecturer, Mark Baddeley will be the on-site Coordinator for academic matters relating to this unit. [mbaddeley@qtc.edu.au](mailto:mbaddeley@qtc.edu.au)

Do not attempt to contact Dr Jensen during this unit. If need be, QTC Staff will contact him on your behalf.

## Other Key Contacts

### Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3062 6939 Extension 2

E [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@qtc.edu.au)

### Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

P 07 3062 6939

E [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@qtc.edu.au)

### Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

P 07 3062 6939

E [library@qtc.edu.au](mailto:library@qtc.edu.au)

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

College Day	Lecture Topic
Thurs 3 August 11.45am – 4.15pm	Nature of Doctrine, Revelation, Scripture
Thurs 10 August 11.45am – 4.15pm	The Trinity, characteristics of God's nature
Thurs 31 August 11.45am – 4.15pm	Creation, humanity, sin, providence
Thurs 5 October 11.45am – 4.15pm	The gospel – who Jesus Christ is, what he has done, how we receive salvation, the nature of the Christian life
Thurs 12 October 11.45am – 4.15pm	Our life together as God's people (church, ministry, sacraments), the final goal of God's salvation in Christ (eschatology)

## TRT32 Assessments

**Assessments are submitted online via Moodle**

**In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.**

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time and within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASKS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Portfolio</b> <b>2050 words total</b> <b>100%</b></p>	<p>Select one of the following two options:</p> <p>(1) A Portfolio of connected tasks on <b>Justification</b></p> <p>(a) Annotated list of biblical passages relevant to how we are saved (750 words)</p> <p>(b) Review of Luther's <i>Freedom of a Christian</i> (1000 words)</p> <p>(c) Outline of a talk on what salvation is (300 words)</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>(2) A Portfolio of connected tasks on <b>Revelation</b></p> <p>(a) Annotated list of biblical passages relevant to the topic of how we know God (750 words)</p> <p>(b) Review of Michael Horton's <i>Pilgrim Theology</i> introductory chapter entitled "Why Study Theology?" and Chapter 1 entitled "Knowing God" (1000 words)</p> <p>(c) Outline of a talk on what it means to 'know God' (300 words)</p>

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ASSESSMENT TASKS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Portfolio</b> <b>3000 words total</b> <b>100%</b></p>	<p>Select one of the following two options:</p> <p>(1) A Portfolio of connected tasks on <b>The Atonement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Annotated list of biblical passages relevant to how God has saved us in Christ (750 words)</li> <li>(b) Review of Calvin's <i>Institutes</i> Book 2 Chapter 16 (750 words)</li> <li>(c) Review of <i>Pierced for our Transgressions</i> (Jeffrey, Ovey Sach) Chapters 3 and 4 (750 words)</li> <li>(d) Outline of a talk on how Christ has saved us, followed by around 400-500 words of reflective comment explaining your thinking and how Parts a-c of the Portfolio have contributed to your thinking (750 words)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>(2) A Portfolio of connected tasks on <b>Revelation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Annotated list of biblical passages relevant to the topic of how we know God (750 words)</li> <li>(b) Review of Calvin's <i>Institutes</i> Book 1 Chapters 1-2 (750 words)</li> <li>(c) Review of <i>The Revelation of God</i> (Peter Jensen) Chapters 1-4 (750 words)</li> <li>(d) Outline of a talk on what it means to 'know God', followed by around 400-500 words of reflective comment explaining your thinking and how Parts a-c of the Portfolio have contributed to your thinking (750 words)</li> </ul>



## Guide to Assessments

### Annotated list of Biblical passages

The challenge of this part of the task involves two dimensions—the selection of the biblical texts and the comments you make upon them.

In the selection of the texts we are looking for the widest possible grouping of texts that are *significant* in establishing the Bible's teaching on this topic. This means we are looking for texts to be included that have something genuinely important to say on the topic, something not already covered by other texts that are included.

In the comments made upon the texts we are looking for the comments to *clearly explain how* the texts contribute to the Bible's teaching on that topic: i.e. what each text actually adds to our picture of the Bible's teaching on the matter. We don't want *any* comments of a 'general' nature on the texts - about authorship, context, the main idea of the passage or the like - only what it contributes to our understanding of the topic you have chosen.

The challenge of this task is that the need for breadth in texts chosen is in tension with the need for depth in explanations. This means that we are looking for judicious selectivity - only the most significant texts, and only the most significant comments to be made on texts.

### Reviews

This task is looking for two main skills to be demonstrated: your skill in reading a document, and your ability to critically reflect on what you have read.

In showing your reading ability we need to be able to see a *clear description of the content of what you have read*. This involves selectivity - you need to pick out what you thought were the most important points said, for you cannot simply repeat everything. It also involves looking at how the writer has structured their material and/or how their argument builds and develops and helping your reader have insights into the way the content of the document is organized and how it functions in his argument.

Demonstrating some grasp of the writer's purpose is also important. In showing your critical reflection we need to be able to see *an independent mind that judiciously weighs the strengths and weaknesses of the document*. This does not require you to be positive or negative about the document - a critical reflection can be a deeply appreciative reflection. It does require you to be able to say *why* (i.e. give reasons for) you think the work you read is valuable - and where its value lies - and to indicate where you think it said something wrong, offered a weak argument, adopted an approach of arguing or structuring that had limitations with it, or was unclear, and to identify any aspects of the topic that were not included in the document and that you believe needed to be for it to accomplish its purpose.

### *For historical documents*

Some of the documents included are 'historical', being written in an earlier period than the last one hundred years or so. Reviewing these involves demonstrating an additional skill - of reading them as a historical document rather than a modern one. As this is a doctrine unit,

and not a church history unit, this is less important than it would be for church history - we are more interested in what the documents contribute to our understanding of the teaching of Scripture than our understanding of the Church's past. Nonetheless, reading them well and critically reflecting on them will involve appreciating how they would have functioned for their original audience, and not reading them as though they are written to a modern audience.

### **Talk Outline**

This task is looking for your ability to harness your work in producing the bibliographies and reviews to formulate a piece of Christian teaching on the topic. There are three possible areas to try and address – seek to be comprehensive in explaining the topic, seek to ensure that the audience understands the essential core of the topic by discussing it at some depth, seek to show why the topic matters and/or what its implications are. Usually trying to do all three equally will result in doing none of them well, so again, selectivity is the key. Ideally the talk outline will reflect which biblical texts you have identified in your bibliography, and your critical reflections on the strengths and weakness of the approaches to the topic undertaken by the documents you reviewed.

### **Reflection on talk outline (TRT52 only)**

Here we are looking for your ability to self-reflect and explain yourself. In particular, we are looking for you to explain the issues raised in the previous paragraph - how your selection of the biblical texts helped determine how you went about constructing your talk (e.g. which texts you decided to use and why) and how your reviews helped inform your approach (e.g. where did you say something like 'that worked well, and I can use that in my talk', and where did you say, 'that needed something more, so I'll make sure I don't have that weakness in my talk'?).

## Learning Resources

### Set Texts

Students should purchase ONE of the following:

Jensen, P.F. *At the Heart of the Universe*, Homebush West, NSW.: Lancer, 1991.

Milne, B. *Know The Truth*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.

Horton, M. *The Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

### Required Texts for Book Reviews – Students should purchase ONE of the following:

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

Horton, M. *The Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Jeffrey, Steve, Michael Ovey, and Andrew Sach. *Pierced for our Transgressions*. Nottingham, Eng: IVP, 2007

Jensen, Peter. *The Revelation of God*. Leicester, Eng: IVP, 2002

Luther, M. *The Freedom of A Christian*. Translated by Mark D. Tranvik. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2008.

### Recommended

#### The Nature and Purpose of Systematic Theology

Clark, D. K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003.

Franke, J. R. *The Character of Theology: An Introduction to its Nature, Task, and Purpose*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.

Healy, N. M. "What is Systematic Theology?" *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 11 (2009): 24-39.

Vanhoozer, K.J. "Christ and Concept: Doing Theology and the "Ministry" of Philosophy." Pages 99-145 in *Doing Theology in Today's World*. Edited by J.D. Woodbridge and T.E. McComiskey. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Webster, J. "Introduction: Systematic Theology", pp 1-15 in *The Oxford handbook of Systematic Theology*. Edited by J. Webster, K. Tanner, I. Torrance. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007.

#### The Central Topics of Systematic Theology

Ford, D. *Theology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Gunton, C. E. *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002.

Hammond, T.C. *In Understanding be Men*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Edited by D. F. Wright, Leicester, Eng: IVP, 1968.

Jensen, P.F. *At the Heart of the Universe*, Homebush West, NSW.: Lancer, 1991.

Knox, D.B. *The Everlasting God*, Welwyn: Evangelical Press, 1982.

Larsen, T. and Treier, D. J. *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

McGrath, A. E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

McGrath, A. E. *Theology: The Basics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.

Milne, B. *Know The Truth*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 2010.

Packer, J.I. *Concise Theology*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers Inc., 1993.

### The Method of Systematic Theology

Bowman, R.M. *Orthodoxy and Heresy: A Biblical Guide to Doctrinal Discernment*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992.

Clark, D. K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003.

Clendenin, D.B. *Eastern Orthodox Theology: A Western Perspective*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.

Edwards, D.L., and J.R.W. Stott. *Essentials: A Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1988.

Kim, S. C. H., ed. *Christian Theology in Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Kreeft, P. *Fundamentals of the Faith*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1988.

Larsen, T. and Treier, D. J. *The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Letham, R. *Through Western Eyes. Eastern Orthodoxy: A Reformed Perspective*. Fearn, Rosshire: Mentor, 2007.

Lossky, V. *Orthodox Theology: An Introduction*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Press, 1978

Mackintosh, H.R. *Types of Modern Theology*. London: Collins, 1937.

Migliore, D. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

Muller, R.A. *The Study of Theology*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Muller, R.A. "The Role of Church History in the Study of Systematic Theology." Pages 77-97 in *Doing Theology in Today's World*, editors J.D. Woodbridge and T.E. McComiskey. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.

Nichols, A. *The Shape of Catholic Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1991.

O'Collins, G. *Fundamental Theology*. London: DLT, 1981.

Ott, L. *The Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*. Rockford: Tan Books and Publishers, 1960.

Ratzinger, J. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Homebush, NSW: St Pauls, 1994.

Schleiermacher, F. *The Christian Faith*. Edited by H.R. Mackintosh and J.S. Stewart. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1960.

Schwarz, H. *Theology in a Global Context: the Last Two Hundred Years*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.

Stott, J.R.W. *Evangelical Truth*, Leicester, Eng: IVP, 1999.

Sykes, S. *An Introduction to Christian Theology Today*, Atlanta, GA: John Knox, 1971.

Sykes, S.W. "The Fundamentals of Christianity." Pages 64-80 in *Unashamed Anglicanism*, London: Darton, Longman, & Todd, 1995.

Vanhoozer, K. J. *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Ware, T. *The Orthodox Church*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Penguin Books, 1993.

Warrington, K. *Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter*. London: T&T Clark, 2008.

Williams, R. *Tokens of Trust*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2007.

Zizoulas, J. D. *Lectures in Christian Dogmatics*. New York: T & T Clark, 2008.

#### Classics:

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologiae*. 2nd rev. ed. Translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province. 22 vols. London: Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1912-1936.

Augustine. *On Christian Doctrine*. In Vol. 2 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Series 1. Edited by Philip Schaff. 1886-1889. 14 vols. Repr. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Barth, Karl. *Evangelical Theology: An Introduction*. Translated by G. Foley. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1968.

Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003-2008

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 vols. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated by Ford Lewis Battles. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

John of Damascus. *The Orthodox Faith*. In Vol. 9 of *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Series 2. Edited by P. Schaff and H. Wace. 1886-1889. 14 vols. Repr. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Peter Lombard. *The Sentences*. Translated by G. Silano.. 4 vols. Toronto: [Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies](#), 2007-2010.

Origen. *On First Principles*, In Vol. 4 of *Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. 1885-1887. 10 vols. Repr. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1989.

Pannenberg, Wolfhart. *An Introduction to Systematic Theology*, Grand Rapids. MI: Eerdmans, 1991.

Schleiermacher, F. *The Christian Faith*. Edited by H.R. Mackintosh and J.S. Stewart, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1960.

Turretin, Francis. *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*. Edited by J. T. Dennison. Translated by G. M. Giger. 3 vols. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1997.

## ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4