

Course Syllabus

- Course title:** ST 601 God & Decree
- Course description:** A comprehensive and systematic study of what the Bible teaches concerning the existence, attributes, tri-unity, names and decree of God.
- Course instructor:** **Greg Nichols** was ordained as a pastor in 1978. He is a graduate and former professor of Trinity Ministerial Academy, Montville, NJ. He also has a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) from Reformed Baptist Seminary and is the author of *Covenant Theology: A Reformed and Baptist Perspective* (Solid Ground Books, 2012) and *Lectures in Systematic Theology, Volume 1: Doctrine of God* (forthcoming). He is a pastor of Grace Immanuel Reformed Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Greg and his wife Ginger have 4 children.
- Course credit:** 3 credits
- Course requirements:** Student must satisfactorily complete the following course requirements:
- (1) Lectures** The student should listen to all **45 audio lectures** as he is reading through the lecture notes, which are available for download on Virtual Campus.
- (2) Reading** The student must complete the following primary and supplementary reading :
- Primary Reading**
- Gregory Nichols, *An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Truth for Eternity, 2007). [approx. 37 pages] **PDF on Virtual Campus**.
 - Gregory Nichols, *What Does the Bible Say About God? The Biblical Doctrine of God* (Truth for Eternity, 2007). [approx. 260 pages] **PDF on Virtual Campus**
- Supplemental Reading**
- Herman Bavinck, *The Doctrine of God* (Eerdmans, 1955).
 - Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans, 1941).
 - John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1987).
 - John Frame, *The Doctrine of God* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 2002).
 - Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Zondervan, 1994).
 - Robert Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith* (Thomas Nelson, 1998).
- The student should read the selections from Bavinck, Berkhof, Frame, Grudem, or Reymond specified below. The instructor must approve any textbook substitutions.
- Supplementary reading assignments:**
- Introduction to Systematic Theology*
- Read Nichols, *Introduction to Systematic Theology*, 1-37 (37)
- The Existence of God*
- Read Bavinck, 65-80 (15 pages) **AND** Berkhof, 19-28 (9 pages) **OR** Grudem 141-48 (8 pages)
 - **OR** read Reymond, 129-52 (23 pages)
- The Knowledge of God*
- Read Bavinck, 13-64 (51 pages) **AND** Berkhof, 29-40 (11 pages) **OR** Grudem, 149-55 (7 pages).
 - **OR** read Frame, *Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*, 1-61 (61 pages)



The Nature of God-Attributes

- Read Bavinck, 113-251 (138 pages) **AND** Berkhof, 41-46, 52-81 (34 pages)
- **OR** read Bavinck, 113-251 (138 pages) **AND** Reymond, 116-203 (43 pages)
- **OR** read Bavinck, 113-251 (138 pages) **AND** Grudem, 156-225 (69 pages)
- **OR** read Frame, *Doctrine of God*, 387-616 (229 pages)

The Nature of God-Trinity

- Read Bavinck, 255-334 (79 pages) **AND** Berkhof, 82-99 (17 pages) **OR** Grudem, 226-61 (35 pages)
- **OR** read Frame, *Doctrine of God*, 619-735 (116 pages)
- **OR** read Reymond, 205-341 (136 pages)

The Names of God

- Read Bavinck, 83-110 (27 pages) **AND** Berkhof, 47-51 (4 pages)
- **OR** read Bavinck, 83-110 (27 pages) **AND** Reymond, 153-60 (6 pages)
- **OR** read Frame, *Doctrine of God*, 343-61 (18 pages) **AND** either Berkhof or Reymond.

The Decree of God

- Read Bavinck, 337-407 (70 pages) **AND** Berkhof, 100-108 (8 pages)
- **OR** read Frame, *Doctrine of God*, 313-39 (26 pages) **AND** Reymond, 343-381 (38 pages)

Recommended reading (not required for course but highly recommended)

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. (Westminster Press, 1960).
- John Gill, *Body of Divinity* (Reprint, Sovereign Grace, 1971).
- Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, 3 vols. (Repr., Eerdmans, 1989).
- G. H. Kersten, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 2 vols. (Eerdmans, 1983).
- John Murray, *Collected Works*, 4 vols. (Banner of Truth, 1982).
- J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Intervarsity, 1993).
- Augustus Strong, *Systematic Theology* (Judson Press, 1985).
- Cornelius Van Til, *Defense of the Faith* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1967).
- B. B. Warfield, *Biblical and Theological Studies* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1968).

(3) Final Exam

At the completion of the lectures there will be a final exam. The final exam will consist of 25 short-answer questions over the lecture material each worth 3-points and one 25-point discussion question in which the student will be required to discuss and expound one of the divine attributes.

The instructor will provide the student with a “Study Guide” that identifies the material the student will need to know for the exam. The student should direct any questions about the exam to Greg Nichols ([616] 249-7336; ggbrown2006@mac.com) or the seminary dean (dean@rbseminary.org).

Course grading:

Lectures and reading = 10% / Final comprehensive exam = 90%