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## STH101 Introduction to Theology

### Syllabus Highlights

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*  
—2 Timothy 3:16–17

Fall 2024  
Dr. Keith A. Mathison

### Course Description

A study of the nature, method, and sources of theology; general and special revelation, including the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture; and canonicity.

### Learning Outcomes

The primary outcome is to grasp the confessional Reformed understanding of the nature and sources of theology, with a particular focus on the Reformed doctrine of Scripture. At the end of this course of study, successful students will be able to:

1. Analyze different theological methods and be able to explain the ways in which methodology can and does impact the content of theological systems.
2. Explain the relation between philosophy and theology and analyze the ways in which a theologian's underlying philosophical assumptions shape his or her theology.
3. Explain the late medieval ecclesio-sacerdotal soteriological system of Roman Catholicism with a goal toward understanding exactly what Reformed theology re-formed in the sixteenth century and why such theological reformation was necessary.
4. Explain and defend the confessional Reformed understanding of the canon, inspiration, and attributes of Holy Scripture.
5. Critically evaluate the arguments of theological texts and clearly communicate the findings in writing.

### Textbooks

1. F.F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture* (IVP Academic, 1988).
2. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge (Hendrickson, 2008).
3. R.B. Jamieson and Tyler R. Wittman, *Biblical Reasoning* (Baker Academic, 2022).
4. Petrus van Mastricht, *Theoretical-Practical Theology*, Vol. 1: Prolegomena (Reformation Heritage Books, 2018).
5. Richard A. Muller, *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Baker, 2017).
6. Guy Prentiss Waters, *For the Mouth of the Lord Has Spoken* (Mentor, 2020).
7. *We Believe: Creeds, Catechisms, & Confessions of Faith* (Ligonier, 2023).

### Course Requirements

1. Attend and participate in class.
2. Complete all reading assignments.
3. Submit theological reflection worksheets.
4. Submit *Biblical Reasoning* writing project.
5. Complete final exam.

\*This abbreviated syllabus is subject to revision. A complete syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.