

#311 Theology 1: Revelation and Theological Method  
Western Reformed Seminary  
John A. Battle, Th.D.  
Fall, 2006

## COURSE INFORMATION

### **Course goals**

The seminary catalog describes the subject matter of this course as follows: “God’s manifestation of himself and methods of theological studies; discussion of revelation, Word, inspiration, inerrancy, authority, and the methodology of theology.” In this course the student will become familiar with the orthodox and reformed views of natural and special revelation, the relationship by which God has revealed himself to mankind (covenant), the process and results of biblical inspiration, and the manner in which we understand the truth of God and that which he reveals to us. Topics (such as inerrancy) which are controversial today will receive special attention. The course will involve lectures, considerable reading, responses to direct questions, and a special project.

### **Required reading**

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 1: ch. 1-9 (in Westminster Press edition, Vol. 1, pp. 35-96)

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, Introduction, ch. 1-6 (Vol. 1, pp. 1-188)

A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith*, Introduction, ch. 1-2, and Commentary, ch. 1 (pp. 1-45)

Ned B. Stonehouse, “The Authority of the New Testament,” in *The Infallible Word*, pp. 88-136

### **Written questions**

At the end of each of the assigned three chapters in A. A. Hodge, is a list of questions. The student is to write these questions with the proper answers. This may be done by writing either complete sentence answers, or by writing the questions with short answers.

### **Elective reading**

In addition to the required reading assignment, each student is to read a total of 300 pages or 15 clock hours in the fields covered in this course. While these books are the choice of the student, they must be of standard quality and scholarly level. Keep a log of your reading; this log must be turned in to complete the assignment.

### ***Special presentation***

Each student will make a class presentation by taking a faulty position regarding the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible which is presented by some group or writer, accurately presenting that view and its main support, then providing a refutation of that view, and offering a clear definition and support for the corresponding correct view. One copy of the outline of the presentation must be turned in for the library. These will be summary presentations, and should take no more than 20 minutes.

### ***Grading***

Required Reading	20%
Questions	10%
Elective Reading	15%
Special Presentation	15%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%

Attendance and class participation may affect the final grade, either positively or negatively.

### ***Class schedule***

Sept.	6	Introduction to the course
	13	
	20	
	27	
Oct.	4	(NW Presbytery meeting)
	11	
	18	REQUIRED READING DUE
	25	MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Nov.	1	QUESTIONS DUE
	8	
	15	(ETS meeting)
	22	SPECIAL PRESENTATION DUE
	29	
Dec.	6	ELECTIVE READING DUE
	13	FINAL EXAMINATION