

## ST6100 The Doctrine of the Trinity (v. 033126)

Josh Malone

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Day: Tuesday-Friday; Jun 2-5

Time: 9am-4:30pm

Room: TBD

TA: TBD

### Catalog Description

This course explores the doctrine of the Trinity: its biblical foundations, historical development and controversy, and practical implications.

### Course Requirements

**Participation (15%):** Each student is required to attend course, answer questions when asked, and participate in class discussions. The following rubric explains how students will be evaluated:

A to A- (100-94)	B+ to B- (93-86)	C+ to C- (85-78)	D+ to D- (77-70)	F (69 – 0)
Provided many good ideas for class consideration; inspired others; clearly communicated desires, ideas, questions, and comments. Was respectful of others.	Participated in discussions; shared questions and comments. Was respectful of others.	Listened mainly; occasionally asked a question or offered a comment. Was respectful of others.	Seemed bored with discussions; rarely spoke up, and questions or comments were off topic. Was disrespectful of others. Or, dominated class time by not permitting others to ask their questions.	Failed to attend class—missed more than three lecture periods total.

**Reading Briefs (15%):** For each day we meet there are 2 Reading Briefs (**RB1-RB8**) due (morning-1; evening-1). Students are required to upload to Canvas a reading brief for the *bold RB1-RB8 readings on the Lecture Schedule (published on Canvas)*. The purpose of the brief is to summarize the thesis, outline, and argument, as well as to state one’s own analysis of it (in the form of questions, confirmations, objections, etc.). Briefs may include quotations from various points in the text (so long as page numbers are referenced). Briefs should be no less than 200 words and no more than 350 words. Reading briefs should be written in complete sentences and edited carefully, and uploaded to Canvas before that class day begins on Tuesday-Friday.

**Book Review (25%):** Students will write a ~6-8pgs double spaced (~2000 words) review of book on list: “Book Review.” Use no more than 2 pgs to summarize the contents of the book, identifying the author’s thesis and describing how the author articulates/develops that thesis

throughout the course of the book. In the second section of this paper (~4 pgs), provide a clear and comprehensive analysis of the book’s contents, carefully assessing the theological strengths and/or weaknesses of the author’s work in part and in whole. Finally, in the third section of this paper (~1-2 pg), discuss how an understanding of the subject matter treated in the book relates to and informs other facets of theology and life. **Due Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 11:59pm.**

**Research Paper (45%):** you must write a 12-14 page research paper written in a 12 point Times New Roman font, with 10 point Times New Roman footnotes, double-spaced, footnotes single-spaced. *You must use at least twelve sources, three of which should be journal articles.*

Paper structure: See “How to Write a Research Paper” (on Canvas)

Paper style: **Please use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Turabian’s Manual for Writers of Term Papers* for a style guide.** Please also note the following grading rubric:

A to A- (100-94)	B+ to B- (93-86)	C+ to C- (85-78)	D+ to D- (77-70)	F (69 – 0)
Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages primary sources; provides analysis, not simply rehearses information.	Follows assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; engages minimal primary sources and is more reliant upon secondary sources; has more repetition of information than analysis	Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; does not engage primary sources; relies upon secondary sources exclusively; has minimal analysis.	Fails to meet assignment rules re. format, length, and sources; relies upon secondary sources exclusively, and has no analysis.	Fails to submit paper or significantly fails to meet assignment rules.

***Note, failure to reach (1) the required minimum pages (12), (2) the required number of sources (12, with 3 journal articles) will result in the loss of one to two letter grades on your paper. Due three weeks after the last day of class, Due: Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 11:59pm.***

### Textbooks & Required Reading

Holy Bible (any version)

Westminster Confession of Faith (OPC/PCA version)

Basil the Great, *On the Holy Spirit*, trans. by Stephen Hildebrand (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2011).

Stephen R. Holmes, *The Quest for the Trinity: The Doctrine of God in Scripture, History, and Modernity* (IVP, 2012)

Gregory of Nazianzus, *On God and Christ: The Five Theological Orations and Two Letters to Cledonius* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2002)

Brandon D. Smith, ed., *The Trinity in the Canon: A Biblical, Theological, Historical, and Practical Proposal* (B&H Academic, 2023)

Petrus van Mastricht, *Theoretical-Practical Theology, Volume 2: Faith in the Triune God* (Reformation Heritage Books, 2019), chapters 24-27

Scott Swain, *The Trinity: An Introduction* (Crossway, 2020)

\*Supplementary PDF readings will be provided on Canvas.

### Book Review

In addition to the required reading listed above, students will choose one of the following books and write a critical book review:

Khaled Anatolios, *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine* (Baker Academic, 2011)

Fred Sanders, *The Triune God* (Zondervan Academic, 2016)

Katherine Sonderegger, *Systematic Theology: Volume 2, The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity: Processions and Persons* (Fortress, 2020)

Thomas Joseph White, *The Trinity: On the Nature and Mystery of the One God* (Catholic University of America Press, 2022)

### Expectations for the month of June – Reading & Writing

*Before class:* It is recommended that students read the Holmes and Swain books before our first class meeting on Jun 2, 2026. (full Lecture Schedule published on Canvas)

*During class week:* Other texts and PDFs as assigned during class week.

*After class week:* complete book review (one week after class) and research paper (three weeks after class – finishing end of first week of SIBL).

## Selected Bibliography

Augustine, *The Trinity*

Lewis Ayres, *Augustine and the Trinity*

Lewis Ayres, *Nicaea and Its Legacy*

Matthew W. Bates, *The Birth of the Trinity: Jesus, God, and Spirit in New Testament & Early Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament*

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Volume 2: God and Creation*

Carl R. Beckwith, *The Holy Trinity*

John Behr, *The Way to Nicaea, Formation of Christian Theology, Volume 1*

John Behr, *The Nicene Faith, Formation of Christian Theology, Volume 2*

Brandon D. Crowe and Carl R. Trueman, ed., *The Essential Trinity: New Testament Foundations and Practical Relevance*

Steven J. Duby, *Jesus and the God of Classical Theism: Biblical Christology in Light of the Doctrine of God* (Baker Academic, 2022)

Gilles Emery, *The Trinitarian Theology of St Thomas Aquinas*

Gilles Emery and Matthew Levering, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Trinity*

Russell L. Friedman, *Medieval Trinitarian Thought from Aquinas to Ockham*

Wesley Hill, *Paul and the Trinity: Persons, Relations, and the Pauline Letters*

R. B. Jamieson and Tyler R. Wittman, *Biblical Reasoning: Christological and Trinitarian Rules for Exegesis* (Baker Academic, 2022)

Chris Kugler, *Paul and the Image of God*

Richard A. Muller, *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 4: The Triunity of God*

Madison N. Piece, *Divine Discourse in the Epistle to the Hebrews: The Recontextualization of Spoken Quotations of Scripture*

Fred Sanders and Scott R. Swain, ed., *Retrieving Eternal Generation*

Matthias Joseph Scheeben, *Handbook of Catholic Dogmatics: Book Two*

A. Edward Sicienski, *The Filioque: History of a Doctrinal Controversy*

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: ST6100 Trinitarian Theology  
 Professor: Josh Malone

Campus: Jackson, MS  
 Date: Summer 2026

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong</li> <li>• Moderate</li> <li>• Minimal</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	STRONG	Reading, lectures, and class discussion show understanding. Book Review & Paper shows grasp of content and application.
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	STRONG	Lectures and reading will reflect biblical and theological analysis of trinitarian theology.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	STRONG	Lectures and reading will show how Reformed theology unfolds and emphasizes trinitarian theology.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	MODERATE	Continue to grow in the grace of Christ in light of fellowship with our triune God.
<b>Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	STRONG	Better understanding of trinitarian theology affects all doctrine and life downstream regarding worldview.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	MODERATE	Encourage a Reformed appropriation of ecumenical trinitarian dogma and applied to Reformed concerns.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	MINIMAL	Help cultivate a desire to preach and lead with a "big God" theology, integrating trinitarian discourse into ministry.