

Anthropology

Syllabus (413 Systematic Theology III: Anthropology—3 credits)

I. Course Description

A study of the doctrine of man, including creation, the original state of man, the covenant of works, the fall, sin and its punishment.

II. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- A. Define the key terms used in the discussion of anthropology.
- B. Understand the biblical paradigm of the states of man.
- C. Support creationism against evolution.
- D. Show how man's superiority over animate creation.
- E. Explain the Reformed perspective of man's creation in the image of God and how the fall impacted that image.
- F. Interact with alternative viewpoints on the constituent elements of man.
- G. Explicate the doctrine of the covenant of works in the context of covenant theology.
- H. Define sin from the biblical terms used for it.
- I. Describe the origin of sin as delineated in Genesis 3:1-6 from a Reformed perspective.
- J. Expound the immediate consequences of the fall and of sin in the context of the Lord's visit to the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:7-19).
- K. Know the basic historical and theological development of the doctrine of original sin.
- L. Explain theologically the impact of sin in terms of actual sin, degrees of sin, the dominion of sin, the unpardonable sin, and the punishment of sin.
- M. Defend Reformed anthropology in its major doctrines against the attacks of alternate views that minimize man's exalted creation and the radical nature of the fall.
- N. Preach on various aspects of anthropology.

III. Course Texts

A. Required Readings

Bavinck, Herman. *Reformed Dogmatics. Volume 2: God and Creation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004, pp. 406-507, 563-619; *Volume 3: Sin and Salvation in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006, pp. 25-190.

Beeke, James W. "The Theory of Evolution." In *Bible Doctrine for Teens and Young Adults, Book 1*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987, pp. 166-94.

Ham, Ken, Jonathan Sarfati, & Carl Wieland; Don Batten, ed. *The Answers Book: Updated and Expanded*. Green Forest, Ark.: Masters Books, 1990 (skim).

Hoekema, Anthony. *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Murray, John. *The Imputation of Adam's Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.

B. Recommended Reading

Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991, pp. 126-64 and 181-301.

Berkouwer, G. C. *Man: The Image of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962.

_____. *The Providence of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.

_____. *Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

Boston, Thomas. "The Covenant of Works from the Sacred Records." In *The Complete Works of Thomas Bston*. Wheaton, Ill.: 1980, vol. 11, pp. 178-339.

Brakel, Wilhelmus à. *The Christian's Reasonable Service*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 1999, vol. 1, pp. 265-425.

Hughes, Philip E. *The True Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Kersten, G. H. *Reformed Dogmatics*. Grand Rapids: Netherlands Reformed Book and Publishing, 1994, vol. 1, pp. 153-230.

Luther, Martin. *The Bondage of the Will*. London: James Clarke, 1957.

Machen, J. Gresham. *The Christian View of Man*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1990.

Roberts, Linleigh J. *Let Us Make Man*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1988.

Sarfati, Jonathan. *Refuting Evolution*. Green Forest, Ark.: Masters Books, 2000.

Verduin, Leonard. *Somewhat Less than God: The Biblical View of Man*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.

IV. Course Requirements for M. Div. students

A. An 80-minute mid-term exam based on lectures and required reading (25% of grade).

B. An 80-minute final, noncumulative exam based on lectures and required reading (25% of grade).

C. Fulfil one of the following options:

1. Two sermons written out in full (approximately 10 pages each) on some aspect of anthropology (each sermon: 25% of grade).

2. A 5-page review of a Reformed book on anthropology not listed in the required reading (15%) and a 15 page academic paper on anthropology (35%). The paper should demonstrate a working knowledge of the lecture material, required readings, and supplemental readings.

3. A 20-25 page academic paper on anthropology (50%). The paper should demonstrate a working knowledge of the lecture material, required readings, and supplemental readings.

V. Course Requirements (Th.M. students)

A. An 80-minute mid-term exam based on lectures and required reading (20% of grade).

B. An 80-minute final, noncumulative exam based on lectures and required reading (20% of grade).

C. A 10-page review of a Reformed book on anthropology not listed in the required reading (15%)

D. Fulfil one of the following options:

1. Three sermons written out in full (approximately 10 pages each) on some aspect of anthropology (each sermon: 15% of grade).

2. A 30-35 page academic paper on anthropology (45%). The paper should demonstrate a working knowledge of the lecture material, required readings, and supplemental readings.

anthropology—syllabus [Beeke]