COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study of the nature and attributes of God as manifested in His works of creation, providence, and redemption.

A. RATIONALE. The fundamental framework of any world view is its concept of God (or lack thereof). This is certainly true of the Biblical world view. The doctrine of God taught in the Bible is the framework within which all other facts fit and which gives meaning to every aspect of life. It is, in a word, the starting point for all other academic and practical pursuits. Thus it is inevitable that such a course must appear in the curriculum of a theological seminary and be part of the requirements for all degree programs in Bible doctrine.

B. OBJECTIVES. Upon completion of this course the student should --

1. Understand the Bible's teaching about the nature and works of God, and be able to explain this teaching on different levels and in varying formats (e.g., children's lessons, adult sermons, periodical articles).
2. Be able to explain the difference between the Biblical doctrine of God and the concepts of God found in non-Biblical systems of belief.
3. Have an increased personal awareness of the presence of God in every aspect of life and the world.
4. Be able to interpret and adjust all other aspects of belief and practice (e.g., ethics) so that they are consistent with the Biblical concept of God.

C. GENERAL INFORMATION.

1. Class Sessions. This course meets from 3:20 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, August 26 through December 16, 2014. Each day the student should bring to class (a) a Bible (NASB or ESV preferred but not required); (b) the course outline, available online; and (c) the main textbook, if possible. Do not eat meals in the classroom.

2. Absence Policy. The student is expected to attend all sessions. If an absence is anticipated, the student is requested to have the missed session recorded and to listen to the recording. Missing more than five hours of actual class time makes the student liable for penalty; substantially more than this may lead to exclusion from the course. Please consult the teacher if you have questions about this.

3. Grade Determination. Completed readings ---- 20%
   Book Review ---- 20%
   Final paper ---- 30%
   Examination ---- 30%.

4. Deadline for Written Assignments. The assignments are required to be submitted on or before the date due. A one-week extension MAY be granted with an approved reason.

5. Textbooks.

a. The main textbook for this course is the one-volume condensed version of Jack Cottrell's three volumes on God. This condensed version is entitled God Most High: What the Bible Says About God. This book is to be read in its entirety.
b. In addition to the main text, read two essays by Jack Cottrell:


6. The professor reserves the right to change any part of this course plan if deemed necessary.

7. How to contact the professor: (a) Mailing address: Cincinnati Bible Seminary, 2700 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45204; (b) Phone numbers: CBS – 513-244-8166; home – 812-637-9628. (c) E-mail: CBS – jack.cottrell@ccuniversity.edu.

D. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS. Each student must prepare two written assignments.


SUGGESTED CONTENTS FOR BOOK REVIEWS. A book review should be about 1,750 to 2,000 words long, and should contain the following sections. (Put word count on title page.)

a. DESCRIPTION. First, what is the writer's overall purpose? What does he hope to accomplish with the book? What main point is he trying to make? Summarize in a general way the content and progress of his thought.

b. EVALUATION. Second, how well does the writer accomplish his purpose? Does he cover the subject adequately? Does he leave any loose ends, any questions unanswered? Does he treat all viewpoints fairly and take account of all the options? Are there logical or theological weaknesses or errors in the author's presentation? Are his conclusions really supported by the evidence presented? Are his presuppositions legitimate? Is his thinking biblical? Such questions as these must be answered only in terms of the author's intended purpose. (To answer such questions, you must read the book critically.)

b. APPLICATION. Third, what is the value or usefulness of the book? Who would profit most from reading it? How can you use the author's ideas in your own ministry?

2. Each student will write a final paper, using one of the following formats:

a. Write an essay on the subject “God, Life, and Ministry: What I Learned in This Course and How I Plan to Use It.” Length: about 2,500 words. Put the word count on the title page.

b. Write a formal term paper, using proper form and style, on this subject: an explanation and evaluation of openness theology, focusing especially on the issue of divine foreknowledge and human free will. Length: about 3,500 words. Put the word count on the title page.
E. SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS.

Aug. 26 -- Opening day. Come to class. Be working on reading assignments if possible.

Sept. 2 -- Come to class.

Sept. 9 -- Read *God Most High*, pp. 9-135. Submit a note affirming the completed reading.


Sept. 23 -- Come to class.

Sept. 30 -- Read *God Most High*, pp. 139-265. Submit a note etc.

Oct. 7 -- Come to class.

Oct. 14 -- Read the Cottrell essay, “The Classical Arminian View of Election,” in *Perspectives on Election*, pp. 70-149. Submit a note etc. A take-home final exam will be distributed on this day.

Oct. 21 -- Completed exam to be submitted at the beginning of class.

Oct. 28 -- Come to class.

Nov. 4 -- Read *God Most High*, pp. 269-431. Submit a note etc.

Nov. 11 -- Come to class.

Nov. 18 -- Submit the book report on either Erickson or Ware.

Nov. 25 -- Come to class.

Dec. 2 -- Come to class.

Dec. 9 -- Submit your final paper.

Dec. 16 -- Come to class. Graded final papers will be distributed.