

Biblical Creationism, (9)125
 Instructor: R. V. McCabe, Th.D.
 Course Outline

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary
 Fall Semester
 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of Biblical Creationism. Emphasis will be given to God's supernatural creation of the universe and all things therein in six successive days, the significance of the Fall to creationism, and the Noahic Flood and its extensive effects on the world.

OBJECTIVES:

In this course the student should

1. become acquainted with God's direct and recent creation of the universe;
2. God's supernatural and immediate creation of Adam and Eve;
3. the curse from the Fall and its effect on people and the physical world; and
4. the Noahic Flood and its universal and enduring effect on the world.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Quizzes:** At the beginning of each class, a quiz over an assigned number of pages from the syllabus may be administered—**60% (MDiv)/30% (ThM) of grade.**
2. **Critical Evaluation of Feinberg's "The Doctrine of Creation":** Each student will write a two page critique of John Feinberg's "The Doctrine of Creation," in *No One Like Him* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), pp. 537–624. This is due on **Monday, March 1—30% (MDiv)/20% (ThM).**
 - a. A critique, in its most basic form, is an examination of the content of a specific chapter, article, or book and an evaluation of the effectiveness of this material so that the reviewer's audience can make an objective assessment of the source's value (for details on this type of critique, a decent high school or college grammar book that includes a section on writing book reviews should be consulted). Items that this critique should include are these:
 - 1) an identification of the type and subject of this chapter;
 - 2) a description of the author's background in order to provide relevant information concerning the author's presuppositions undergirding his work (background information may be drawn from areas such as specific, *yet pertinent*, vocational information, memberships in societies, accessible lectures, articles, reviews, books [if drawn from internet, which should be checked, include internet addresses]);
 - 3) a condensation of the author's thesis into one or two sentences;
 - 4) an accurate presentation of the author's view with the most significant argument(s) to support his case;
 - 5) an objective evaluation of the author's conclusion(s) and the argumentation used to support this (such as inconsistencies in author's logic, logical inconsistencies with scientific data, prejudicial use of sources, etc.);
 - 6) an identification of the theological perspective of the author and a critical interaction with this perspective;
 - 7) a reflection of being conversant with any other germane literature dealing with the subject addressed in the article (yes, footnotes must be used); and

- 8) a brief, concluding assessment of the book and a statement about the audience to whom this chapter is applicable; the assessment should be either a commendation or denunciation of the book, or, as is true in most cases, an assessment somewhere between these two extremes; with this assessment, the most significant reason for the assessment should be explained.
- b. In order to reduce some of the ambiguity associated with a critique, I have provided six examples of this type of review, with three of them being related to creationism and the other three pertaining to intriguing theological subjects. Though the following six examples are book reviews, they provide paradigms for doing article and chapter critiques. While I do not necessarily agree with the substance of the following critiques, they, nevertheless, reflect the type of work that should be done.

DeYoung, Donald B. Review of *Christianity and the Age of the Earth*, by Davis A. Young. *Grace Theological Journal* 4 (Fall 1983): 297–301.

Gaffin, Richard B., Jr. Review of *A New Paradigm in Theology*, by Gordon J. Spykman. *Westminster Theological Journal* 56 (Fall 1994): 379–90.

Jones, Brian. Review of *Darwin's Black Box*, by Michael J. Behe. *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 5 (Fall 2000): 125–34.

Postiff, Matthew A. Review of *Coming to Grips with Genesis*, ed. by Terry Mortenson and Thane A. Urey. *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 14 (2009): 109–21.

Schreiner, Thomas R. Review of *Women in the Church: A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry*, by Stanley J. Grenz with Denise Muir Kjesbo. *Trinity Journal* 17 (Spring 1996): 115–24.

Southwell, Andrew. Review of *The History of the Christ*, by Adolf Schlatter. *Trinity Journal* 20 (Spring 1999): 91–95.

Whitcomb, John C., Jr., and Charles R. Smith. Review of *Without Form and Void*, by Arthur Custance. *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 8 (September 1971): 130–34.

3. **Critical Book Review:** Each ThM student will write a three-page critique of one of the following books (page limitation does not include bibliography). This is due on **Monday, April 12—20% (ThM)**.

Garner, Paul A. *The New Creationism*. Webster, NY: Evangelical Press, 2009.

Kulikovsky, Andrew S. *Creation, Fall, and Restoration: A Biblical Theology of Creation*. Ross-shire, Great Britain: Mentor, 2009.

Poythress, Vern S. *Redeeming Science: A God-Centered Approach*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2006.

Shaw, Benjamin. “The Genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 and their Significance for Chronology. Ph.D. dissertation, Bob Jones University, 2004.

4. **Reading requirement:** The reading assignment for this class is due on **Monday, May 3**. On this day, the student must turn in his reading on **the specified report that is stapled with this material**. If the student completes all the assigned reading by this date, he will receive a 98%. If the student does not complete the assignment by this day, he will have 1% subtracted from 98% for every 25 pages that he is short of the total pages due on this date. If the reading is not turned in on that day, the student receives a zero for this—**10%**.

In summary form, the following are the works that the student must read (for fuller citations, see p. 4; and record reading when completed on the reading report form on p. 5):

Feinberg, pp. 537–624.

McCabe, “Defense of Literal Days in the Creation Week,” pp. 97–123.

Mortenson (*Coming to Grips*), pp. 15–437.

Sarfati (*Refuting Compromise*), pp. 13–395.

Wise, Kurt P. “What Science Tells Us about the Age of the Creation,” pp. 4–15 .

5. **Short Paper:** Each ThM student will write a single-spaced, five-page paper on one these issues (page limitation does not included bibliography). This is due on **Monday, May 10—20% (ThM).**

The Significance of Day 7 in the Creation Debate

The Water Vapor Canopy Hypothesis

When Were the Plants in Genesis 2:5 Created

The Second Cainan: Genesis 11:12 Compared with Luke 3:35–36

CLASS ABSENCES:

The policy for absenteeism at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary is as follows. A student is allowed one week of unexcused absences and three weeks of excused absences. The maximum number of absences is four weeks for a class. Anyone who is absent from class beyond this will receive an “F” for that course, except by vote of the faculty in extenuating circumstances.

When a student has consumed his one week of permissible unexcused absences for a given course, his final grade will be penalized by 1% per hour of class that he has gone beyond this limit and extending until he has missed four full weeks of class. After this, he will receive an “F” for the course.

An excused absence is one where the student’s absence is beyond his control. In order to have his absence excused, the student must submit to the course instructor a **written explanation** for his absence. Based upon this the instructor will then determine whether or not the absence should be excused.

Three periods of tardiness will be counted as one unexcused absence.

REQUIRED READING:

1. Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.
2. McCabe, Robert V. “Biblical Creationism.” Unpublished syllabus, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, 2010.
3. McCabe, Robert V. “A Defense of Literal Days in the Creation Week,” *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 5 (Fall 2000): 97–123.
4. Mortenson, Terry and Thane H. Ury, editors. *Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008.
5. Sarfati, Jonathan. *Refuting Compromise*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2004.
6. Wise, Kurt P. “What Science Tells Us about the Age of the Creation.” *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 11 (Spring 2007): 4–15.

GRADING SYSTEM:

96–100	A	86–87	B-	76–77	D+
94–95	A-	84–85	C+	72–75	D
92–93	B+	80–83	C	70–71	D-
88–91	B	78–79	C-	69 & below	F

FULL CITATION OF REQUIRED READING FROM BOOKS AND ARTICLES

The total 931 pages of reading is due no later than **Monday, May 3**.

Feinberg, John S. "The Doctrine of Creation." In *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God*.

Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001, pp. 537–624—NB This chapter must be read & evaluated by **Monday, March 1**.

McCabe, Robert V. "A Defense of Literal Days in the Creation Week," *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* 5 (Fall 2000): 97–123.

Mortenson, Terry and Thane H. Ury, editors. *Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008.

Sarfati, Jonathan. *Refuting Compromise*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2004

Wise, Kurt P. "What Science Tells Us about the Age of the Creation." *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 11 (Spring 2007): 4–15.

