GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS, ONLINE COURSES
Birmingham Theological Seminary
In Partnership with Third Millennium Ministries

If you already have experience in taking courses with Birmingham Theological Seminary / Third Millennium, you may skip this and go to the summarized instructions for your lesson (See "Instructions for Lesson 1," "Instructions for Lesson 2," etc. However, if you do not have much experience, we recommend that you use these general Instructions below as a guide for the first few lessons that you study, until you become familiar with the process.

These instructions are based on the course Building Your Theology, but they apply to all courses. Just keep in mind that the titles and divisions will be different for each course.

BASIC NAVIGATION

Each course is divided into lessons. The main lessons are based on the video presentations, and the final lesson is based on required additional reading. Each lesson has a main menu,...

...and each item of the main menu opens to another list of items.
When you open a document or activity, you can go back to the main page of the course by clicking on the title of the course in the margin, and you can return to the main page of the site by clicking on "Home." You can also see your grades under "Administration."

LESSONS, SECTIONS, AND PARTS

Before we begin, you should understand the way the lectures are divided. The videos of each lesson include several main sections, and each section is divided into shorter parts for easier viewing. You will watch all the parts of a section, fill out the corresponding study guide for the section, then you may take an optional quiz on the section. Each lesson will explain how it is divided into sections and parts.

For example, the first lesson of the course Building Your Theology is divided the following way:

Lesson 1: "What is Theology?"

Section 1: "Definitions"
Part 1
Part 2
Part 3
Part 4

Section 2: "Goals"
Part 5
Part 6
Part 7
Part 8
Section 3: "Topics"
Part 9

Note: For the course "He Gave Us Prophets," each lesson only has one section.

LECTURES, STUDY GUIDES, AND QUIZZES

☐ 1. Section 1

a. Choose the format in which you wish to study the lecture. Click either "Study lesson in video," "Study lesson in audio," or "Study lesson in text."

b. Watch (or listen to, or read) all of the parts of the first section. In the case of section one of lesson one of Building Your Theology, you would watch parts 1-4.

The "Instructions" for each particular lesson will indicate which parts you should watch for each section.

In the computer version of the course, you can either click on the corresponding part in the outline, or click on the button below the video screen.

c. Notice that there are also discussion forums for some parts of the lectures. If one of the topics stirs your interest, you may want to watch that forum.

d. You should use the corresponding "Study Guide" to take notes as you watch the video. To do this, click on "Resources" and open the study guide for the corresponding section (In this case, for Lesson one, Section one, it is Study Guide 1.1). If you are doing this on a computer, copy the study guide, create a new document, and paste the text in it. If you are not using a computer, you can use the study guide to write notes in a notebook.
BUILDING YOUR THEOLOGY

NOTES

STUDY GUIDE 1.1
Lesson 1: What is theology?
Section 1: Definitions
(Video Paths 1-4)

OUTLINE FOR TAKING NOTES

Introduction (0:24)

I. Definitions (1:34)
   A. Typical Definitions (1:55)
      1. Thomas Aquinas (3:06)
      2. Charles Hodge (6:01)
      3. William Ames (6:48)
      4. John Frame (10:25)
   B. Tendencies (11:11)
      1. Academic Orientation (11:33)
      2. Life Orientation (13:09)
   C. Evaluations (15:11)
      1. Academic Orientation (15:55)
      2. Life Orientation (18:57)

REVIEW QUESTIONS TO PREPARE FOR THE QUIZ

1. What does domain 1 communicate about Christian theology?
On a computer, you may wish to simply toggle back and forth between your word processor and the video screen, in order to write notes in the study guide.

On the other hand, you may wish to re-size the windows of your word processor and your Internet browser with the video screen ready to watch, and organize the two windows so that each occupies part of the screen at the same time.

For example, you might put the video on the right portion of the screen and the study guide on the left portion of the screen, then adjust the margins as shown below.
Each student will find his own preferred way to work with the two elements at the same time, and the way he does it will depend on the software that he is using.

e. As you watch the lecture, pause the video to fill out notes in the outline of the study guide. (The same applies if you are listening or reading.)

f. Watch the video parts two or three times, reviewing and re-writing your notes.

g. When you have finished watching the videos and writing notes, answer the review questions of the study guide for section 1.

h. Answer the application questions of the study guide for section 1.

i. While it is not required, and while the grade will not count toward your final grade, we recommend that you take the online quiz on section 1 of lesson 1 (Quiz 1.1). You will find this quiz by clicking on "Evaluations."

NOTE: Before taking each quiz, make sure you have reviewed your notes of the study guide and are prepared. The quiz will be timed, and when the time is up, it closes automatically. The quizzes can be taken only one time.

When you are ready, click on the name of the quiz, then on the button to attempt the quiz. Notice the clock at the top left, indicating how much time you have left.

Use the scroll bar on the right to find the next questions below.
j. When you finish, click on "Next" at the bottom.

This takes you to another page, where you can check to see if you have answered all the questions. If one is unanswered, click on the corresponding number and go back to answer it.
When you have finished, click on "Submit all and finish."

Now you can review your results and see the correct answers.
After looking over your results, click on "Finish review," then "Back to the course."

☐ 2. Section 2

Repeat the same process for section 2 of the lesson (unless there is only one section, such as in the course "He Gave Us Prophets"). Copy and save Study Guide 1.2, watch (listen to, or read) all parts of the section, repeat them to take notes and answer the questions, repeat them a third time for a final review, then we recommend that you take Quiz 1.2.

☐ 3. Other Sections

Repeat the same process for other sections of the lesson. (Some lessons may have only two sections, and others may have four, but most lessons have three.) Copy and save the corresponding study guide, watch (listen to, or read) all parts of the section, repeat them to take notes and answer the questions, repeat them a third time for a final review, then we recommend that you take the corresponding optional quiz.
FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE LESSON

☐ The Accumulative Test

After finishing all other assignments for the lesson, take the accumulative test for the lesson.

Before taking the test, review all the materials of the lesson. The accumulative test randomly selects from a list of questions from the whole lesson, including some questions that may not have been on the practice quizzes. You may take the test as many times as you want, and the official grade will be your highest grade. However, you must wait five days between attempts, and the questions will change each time you take the test.

Note: For the course "He Gave Us Prophets," the accumulative tests cover two lessons (There are four tests, one on Lessons 1 and 2, another on Lessons 3 and 4, another on Lessons 5 and 6, and another on Lessons 7 and 8).

REQUIRED ADDITIONAL READING

☐ Follow the instructions for each reading assignment. You can find the PDF documents of the reading selections in the "Readings" section. Answer the review questions in the "Study Guides" provided for each assignment, which will help you find the most important information in the readings and prepare for the test.

☐ Take the test on the reading.