

Graduate Level Theology Course Descriptions Spring 2006

Updated:

THEO 67009. MTS Colloquium

0.0 Credits, Randall Zachman
4:30-6:00 W,
CRN: 25256, MTS

Description: Required for all M.A. & M.T.S. students

THEO 60003. Elementary Biblical Hebrew II

3.0 Credits, Steve Schweitzer
8:30-9:20 MWF,
CRN: 23376 , BS

Description: This course is part two of a year-long introduction to biblical Hebrew. It is designed to continue providing the student with the skills necessary to read pointed Hebrew texts, with primary attention to the *Biblica Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS). There are 4 main objectives: 1) correct pronunciation of biblical Hebrew, 2) accurate translations into good English style, 3) facility with standard reference grammars and lexicons, and 4) mastery of Hebrew grammar. In addition to the ability to read pointed text, some translation from English into standard biblical Hebrew will be required.

THEO 60009. Coptic

3.0 Credits, Gregory Sterling
8-9:15 TH,
CRN: 25247

Description: This is an intensive introduction to Sahidic Coptic. Coptic is the latest form of the Egyptian language. Sahidic was the most influential dialect in the early period of the language's evolution. There are a number of texts preserved in Coptic that are of critical importance for students of the New Testament and the Early Church. We will work through the basic morphology and syntax of the language during the first three quarters of the course. The last section of the course is reserved for reading texts in Coptic. We will read some selections from texts that address the monastic life and some from the Nag Hammadi library. The course does not require any background in Egyptian, although students should have some experience with ancient languages.

THEO 60102. New Testament Introduction

3.0 Credits, Mary Rose D'Angelo
11:45-1:00 MW,
CRN: 25248

Description: This course provides an overview and critical study of the New Testament

in its historical, literary and theological context. The focus will be on reading and gaining an informed understanding of the New Testament text, and tools for further work. Special attention will be paid to the christologies of the writing and the role of the spirit in earliest Christianity; issues of contemporary theology will also be addressed, as will development of the canon. Extra-canonical texts (Qumran texts, extra-canonical gospels) will help in locating it the rich religious and cultural world of the later Hellenistic era and the early Roman empire. The course is designed to prepare students both for doctoral work in biblical studies and other areas of theological study, and for intelligent use of the Biblical text in pastoral or educational settings.

Requirements: MTS: one short (5 pages-1500 words) and one longer exegetical paper; M. Div. three short papers, one of which must be a homily preparation.

THEO 60110. Dead Sea Scrolls

3.0 Credits, James VanderKam
2-3:15 TH,
CRN: 25249

Description: The course will provide an overview of the Dead Sea Scrolls, including discovery, content, historical setting, and relation with the community at Qumran. There will be analysis of key texts in translation and consideration of their importance for study of the Bible and Early Judaism. There will be a midterm exam, a paper, and a final exam.

THEO 60113. Gospel of John

3.0 Credits, Jerome Neyrey
3-4:15 MW,
CRN: 25250

Description: This course invites students to join a process in which we will read each chapter of John in sequence. By "read" we mean: 1. attending to the typical literary forms in which events are cast (miracle story, trial, call narrative, encomium), 2. learning the themes and buzz words favored in the gospel ("my hour," "true," "remain," "love"), 3. appreciating the symbolic and representative nature of the dramatis personae, 4. becoming aware of the awesome hostility that emerges as the Jesus group separates from the synagogue, 5. noting how the acclamation of Jesus develops over time and is influenced by the historical events experienced by the Jesus group. All of this is typical biblical criticism, to which we will add materials from the world of sociology and cultural anthropology because we want to understand Jesus and John as the Mediterranean peasants they were.

THEO 60817. Myth and Story

3.0 Credits, John Dunne
2-3:15 TH,
CRN: 25252

Description:**THEO 60806. Ecclesiology**

3.0 Credits, Richard McBrien

9:30-10:45 T H,

CRN: 20575, ST

Description: An examination of the nature and mission of the Church, with special emphasis on the Second Vatican Council – its theological and doctrinal antecedents and post-conciliar developments. (Spring)

THEO 63802. From Power to Communion

3.0 Credits, Robert Pelton

10:30-11:45 MW

CRN: 23264, ST

Description: The premise of this course is that the churches of America are learning from each other, and that all Christians are called to ministry in one form or another. This is leading to a greater appreciation of the role of the laity. The historical context for this course is the Second Vatican Council 1962-65. The key theological issues of Vatican II will be studied carefully in relation to the current challenges to the Church. This will be experienced particularly through what is called the theology of communion. This theology will be studied through the lenses of a series of inter-American meetings: Medellin 1968; Puebla 1979; and Santo Domingo 1992. A special focus will be placed upon the Special Synod for America (Rome 1997), and the Fifth Conference of the Latin American Bishops to take place in Aparecida, Brazil in 2007. In consultation with the course instructor, students will choose a specific theme to develop a research project. They will work on this project using resources at Notre Dame. During the Spring Break the students will have a "hands on" experiential learning experience in Cuba. In the final weeks of the course, we will reflect further on our experiences and complete the research projects for a public presentation at the Center for Social Concerns.

THEO 60824. Educating in Faith: Catechesis in Catholic Schools

3.0 Credits, Janice Poorman

12:30-1:45 TH,

CRN: 23472, ST

Description: This course is designed to assist current or prospective teachers of religion/theology at the junior-high and high school levels in the catechesis of young adults in Catholic schools. The course is open to Theology Department students at the undergraduate and graduate levels (including those enrolled only for the Summer Session), to M.Ed. students serving in the Alliance for Catholic Education, and to Notre Dame undergraduates with minors in Education, Schooling, and Society. Within class sessions designed to be highly dialogical, interactive, and prayerful, participants will explore both theological and practical/pedagogical dimensions of the process of catechesis. Required readings are drawn from The Catechism of the Catholic Church,

from publications of the United States Catholic Conference (notably the General Directory for Catechesis, the National Catechetical Directory for Catholics in the United States, and the Guide for Catechists) and from the works of several theologians and educational theorists who have contributed significant responses to the two central questions addressed in this course: "What is Catechesis?" and "How Do We Engage in Catechesis in the Context of Catholic Schools?". During this course, participants will explore all of the central tasks that constitute the holistic process of catechesis as delineated in the general and national Catholic catechetical directories and other catechetical documents and as adapted for use in Catholic schools: communicating knowledge of the mystery of God's self-revelation; fostering maturity of faith and moral development; sharing and celebrating faith by forming Christian communities of prayerful people; promoting Christian service and social justice; and witnessing to faith through pedagogy and by the example of authentic spiritual lives.

THEO 60403. Christian Initiation

3.0 Credits, Michael Joncas
9:35-12:35 F,
CRN: 22926, LS

Description: This course will trace the historical development of the liturgies and theological interpretations of Christian Initiation in East and West from the New Testament through contemporary ecumenical conversations. In light of this historical and theological investigation, contemporary forms of Christian Initiation will be considered with an eye toward pastoral appropriations and implications.

THEO 60405. Liturgical Prayer

3.0 Credits, Nathan Mitchell
3:30-4:45 TH,
CRN: 26166

Description: Liturgical Prayer is not only public and communal, it is also ritualized, symbolic, and "polyphonic" (i.e., it speaks several "languages" simultaneously). This course explores Christian liturgical prayer in a postmodern context by focusing largely (though not exclusively) on two principal components: RITUAL (ritual's roots, its roles and risks, its function in "rehearsing" the Reign of God, its realm or "world"); and LANGUAGE (how liturgy uses "the book of the body;" how ritual speech employs the logic of metaphor; how the liturgical assembly is constituted through the media of ministry, participation, and sacrament). Special attention will also be paid to the relation between Christian liturgical prayer and Jesus' own approaches to public cult and personal prayer, insofar as we can reconstruct these from scriptural sources.

THEO 60210. The Formation of Christian Empire

3.0 Credits, Robin Darling Young
12:30-1:45 TH,
CRN: 25251

Description: It is a historical exploration of the development of empire and the religious polity in antiquity and late antiquity, beginning with the idea of the Davidic monarchy in the Jewish tradition and divine kingship in Graeco-Roman tradition, but concentrating upon the Christian adoption and combination of these ideas and their adaptation in the Roman empire and successor states in Europe to the Carolingian period. It investigates primary theological, political and philosophical sources as well as classical and recent secondary treatments of the matter.

THEO 60220. Missionary Encounters

3.0 Credits, Paul Kollman

3-4:15 MW,

CRN: 25239

Description: Vatican II's *Ad Gentes* stated "The Church on earth is by its very nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, it has its origin in the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit" (AG 2). This declaration has both descriptive and prescriptive force, for it represents both an historical observation and a theological charge.

This course will study the missionary activity of the church, historically and theologically. After a brief look at mission and evangelization in the New Testament and the early church, we will then explore important moments of missionary contact in the Americas, Africa, and Asia in the modern (post-Columbian) period. Particular attention will be given to the operative theologies and practices of mission at work in such encounters, as well as to the practical effects of missionary activity. The course will conclude with a look at contemporary missionary practice and theory.

Students will be expected to write three 6-8 page papers synthesizing the course readings, and there will also be a final exam. Graduate students who take this course (as a directed readings) will also be expected to do one additional written assignment, likely a book report. They will also have the option of a research paper in lieu of two of the shorter papers.

THEO 60601. Foundations of Moral Theology

3.0 Credits, Paulinus Odozor

3:30-4:45 TH,

CRN: 21386, MT

Description: The aim of this course is to introduce the student to the study of the basic elements of Christian moral experience and understanding as well as to the criteria of Christian moral judgment and action. The texts, which have been chosen of this course, cover areas related to nature and history of moral theology, the sources of Christian moral knowledge, moral agency, and the resources and methods for moral decision-making. The course concludes with a study of the moral teaching of Pope John Paul II in Veritatis Splendor.

THEO 60614. Catholic Social Teaching

3.0 Credits, Margaret Pfeil

8:00-9:15 TH,

CRN: 24388, MT

Description: The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the tradition of Catholic social teaching with a view to developing skills for critical reading and appropriation of these documents. We will examine papal, conciliar, and episcopal texts from *Rerum novarum* (1891) up to the present time, identifying operative principles, tracing central theological, ethical, and ecclesial concerns, and locating each document in its proper historical context.

THEO 60808. Mystery of God

3.0 Credits, Cyril O'Regan

11:45-1:00 M W,

CRN: 23770, ST

Description: The general aim of the course is introduce to the student to the Catholic tradition of reflection on the triune God who always remains mysterious even in, or precisely in, his revelation in history and in our lives. The pedagogic aim is familiarity with the tradition that is the Church's common possession. The hope I entertain, however, is that this tradition might be truly appropriated, its meaning and meaningfulness embodied, and its truth witnessed. The course necessarily will have a historical bent. It will commence with the patristic period, and move from there to the contemporary period of reflection on the triune God through the medieval period. My interest, however, is not ultimately that of a chronological sketch. In the patristic section of the course, my major concern is with the formation of Trinitarian doctrine, with how and why Christians eventually made their conviction of God's triune an article of faith. Undoubtedly, one will find in the formation of doctrine a good amount of intellectual sorting out, but I will try to draw attention to the more holistic environment in which intellectual reflection was one thread in a complex tapestry that included liturgy, biblical interpretation, and the ethical practices of the community. In the section entitled 'the classical tradition,' I want to explore the tradition of reflection on the Trinity from a number of different points of view. I want to indicate that the Nicene creed did not bring an end to theological reflection, but promoted it, as the Trinitarian doctrine had to meet new and complex challenges both from within and without the church. The examples of Augustine and Bonaventure are crucial here. Equally I want to underscore that the theological tradition did not simply regard the doctrine of the Trinity as something that engages the mind, the most challenging kind of intellectual puzzle. I do this by emphasizing how in the East as well as the West the triune God is the goal as well as origin of the mystical life. The section on contemporary Trinitarian thought features the work of Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar. Both of these theologians are conscious of the marginalization of the Trinity in modern piety and theological reflection, and strive to reverse the fortunes of Trinitarian thought and reflection. They argue for a holistic understanding of the Trinity that reflects the fact that doctrine itself represents an interpretation of God's activity in history and in human life. A contemporary issue in Trinitarian thought that will receive

particular attention is the issue of whether the triune God suffers, and if so in what way. This remains, as we will see, an open question.

Required Texts:

Augustine, De Trinitate

Walter Kasper, The God of Jesus Christ

Karl Rahner, The Trinity

William Rusch, The Trinitarian Controversy

Course Packet

Texts Recommended:

Edmund Hill, Mystery of the Trinity

Elizabeth Johnson, She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse

J.N. Kelly, Early Christian Doctrines

Catherine LaCugna, God For Us

John O'Donnell, The Mystery of the Triune God

THEO 60821. Modern Theology

3.0 Credits, Matt Ashley

8-9:15 MW,

CRN: 26164

Description: Nineteenth century Christian theologians were challenged both to defend the legitimacy of Christian faith and theology in an increasingly secularized intellectual culture and to develop an authentic response to the dark underside of scientific, technological and economic “progress” that became more and more apparent as the century progressed. In many ways their successes and their failures still set the agenda for theologians today. This course offers a survey of their responses. The guiding theme will be the attempt to grapple theologically with the modern “discovery” of history, which brought with it a sense of the historical particularity of all traditions (including religious traditions) and raised the problem of how properly to locate and to evaluate the continuities and discontinuities that separates any age from its past. The primary figures we will cover are Immanuel Kant, G.W.F. Hegel, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Johann Adam Möhler, David Friedrich Strauss, Friedrich Nietzsche, Adolf von Harnack, and Maurice Blondel; but we will also attend to other theologians (or anti-theologians), such as Ludwig Feuerbach, Karl Marx, and Alfred Loisy. Course Requirements: three exegetical papers, and an in-class final.

THEO 60823. Feminist-Multicultural Theologies

3.0 Credits, Catherine Hilbert

11-12:15 TH,

CRN: 25242

Description: An exploration of how the voices of women have helped to reshape theological discourse and to bring to light new dimensions of the Christian tradition.

Using the writings of feminist, womanist, Latina, mujerista, Asian, and Third World theologians, the course will focus on the significance of gender and social location in understanding the nature and sources of theology, theological anthropology, Christology/soteriology, the mystery of God, and women's spirituality.

THEO 60833. Islam & Muslim Christian Dialogue

3.0 Credits, Gabriel Reynolds

3:30-4:45 TH,

CRN: 26165

Description: In our course we will consider Christianity's encounter with Islam, from the Islamic conquests of the 7th century to the internet age. The first section of the course is historical. We will examine how various historical contexts have affected the Christian understanding of Muslims, their scripture and their prophet. The second section of the course is systematic. How are Christians today to respond to Islam, in light of world events and recent Church teaching? In addressing this question we will analyze primary sources that express a range of responses, from relativism to dialogue to evangelism.

THEO 60849. Christian Spirituality

3.0 Credits, Lawrence Cunningham

1:30-2:45 MW,

CRN: 25253

Description: This course will fall into three parts: (1) A consideration of the nature of Christian spirituality and the ways in which the subject can be studied; (2) a consideration of some classical texts on prayer (Origen, Cassian, Augustine, Teresa of Avila, and Thomas Merton); (3) A study of some fundamental themes in Christian spirituality. Course requirements include regular brief reflection papers on the reading; Two examinations; a research paper of roughly 12-15 pages. There will be a reading packet and three required books in the course.

THEO 60838. Orders and Ministry

3.0 Credits, David Fagerberg

11-12:15 TH,

CRN: 24389, LS

Description: This course begins by putting ministry in an ecclesiological context leading to *Lumen Gentium*. It then examines the forms of that ministry in the Church: ordained priesthood, the lay apostolate, and lay ecclesial ministry. A theology of ordained and baptized priesthood is considered first, the apostolate of the baptized priesthood is treated second, and recent developments in the United States concerning lay ecclesial ministers is studied third. Students will read the relevant official documents coming out of Vatican II. By a format of seminar discussion, they should gain a vocabulary and principles for articulating their own ministerial identity.

THEO 64602. Catholic Social Teaching (online)

3.0 Credits, Maura Ryan

CRN: 25255

Description:

THEO 64603. Theology of the Body (FW/SB)

3.0 Credits, Adrian Reimers

CRN: 26167

Description:

THEO 65932. Images & Models of Ministry II

2.0 Credits, Michael Connors

9:30-11:00 M,

CRN: 22411

Description: Through supervision and seminars, students continue to form their identities as ministers, sharpen skills for theological reflection upon pastoral praxis, and deepen theological understanding of ministry. The case study method is introduced, and each student prepares one case study. The semester ends with evaluations by both students and supervisors.

THEO 65934. Articulating Faith II

2.0 Credits, Jan Poorman

CRN: 22882

Description: Field Education is an integral component of education for ecclesial ministry. Through field education, students pursue the integration of theological competence with pastoral skill in a developing identity as a public minister. The goal of the second year of field education is facility in articulating the Christian faith, particularly as understood in Roman Catholic tradition, and in fostering the development of faith with others.

The goal is approached through a threefold constellation of learning contexts: field work in a ministry placement, supervision of that work, and a field education seminar. The primary learning dynamic for the seminar is dialogical and includes conversation about assigned texts and critical incidents as reported by participants using the prescribed case study method for this course.

THEO 60947. Liturgical Celebration/Ministry II

X Credits, John Melloh

9:30-12:00 M,

CRN: 21975

Description: Theory and practice of ministerial roles at baptism, marriage, anointing of

the sick and funerals. Designed especially for M.Div. students, the course will explore the underlying "official" theology of each of the rites, expressed in the praenotanda, prayers and rubrics as well as the "ritual" theology uncovered in the actual celebration of the rites. Additionally, Rite II for reconciliation will be examined, but not celebrated. [There is no additional "lab session" for this course.] Students will prepare a) a brief paper on one theological aspect of the rite (to be divided in class) and b) a brief report on the "ritual theology" of the celebrated event. Required readings will include "The Rites" as well as articles in a course packet.

THEO 60950. Preaching III

2.0 Credits, John Melloh
9:30-12:00 W,
CRN: 20701

Description: A continuation of Preaching II, with emphasis on the theological and social dimensions of preaching. The main work of the course will be preparation, delivery and review of homilies. Assigned readings to be discussed in class. In addition to preaching and reading assignments, each student will prepare a short paper on a theology of preaching.

THEO 60951. Reconciliation Ministry

1.0 Credits, Peter Jarret
CRN: 21445

Description: Reconciliation Ministry is designed to: (1) introduce ministry students to the history and theology of the sacrament of reconciliation; (2) provide an initial "confessional experience" (practicum) from which students can benefit from guidance, supervision, and constructive criticism; (3) assist students in understanding the importance of penance/reconciliation in the life and ministry of the Church.

THEO 63001. Synthesis Seminar

2.0 Credits, Michael Connors
2:00-4:45 H,
CRN: 20577

Description: The Synthesis Seminar is both a point of arrival and a point of departure -- arrival, in that it seeks to integrate the course of formal studies with one's theology of ministry, and departure in that it is provisional, leaving one with questions for the journey. Each student chooses a topic that will serve as a focus for synthesis. Synthesis should illustrate both theological and ministerial preparedness. In developing the topic, attention is to be paid to at least three theological areas (Scripture, systematics, history, ethics, liturgy and practical theology...). Oral presentation and major paper.

THEO 40828. Comparative Religious Ethics: Buddhist and Christian

3.0 Credits, David Clairmont
CRN:

Description: Is religion necessary to live a moral life? If so, are all religions basically the same when it comes to the moral norms contained in them? If not, how do we account for the differences among religious values, norms and principles? How do religions justify their distinctive moral claims in the face of alternative proposals? Can we study the ethical thought of a religious tradition that is different from our own in a responsible manner and, if so, how should we proceed? This course will take up these and other related questions through an examination of ancient and contemporary Christian and Buddhist texts in dialogue with recent theoretical options for the comparative study of ethics. We will begin with an assessment of the importance and distinctive quality of religious voices in moral debate and then look at some of the ways that contemporary scholars have approached the investigation and assessment of similarities and differences in moral world views. The course will end with a comparative consideration of certain Buddhist and Christian options in environmental ethics.

*Graduate students take this course as a directed readings course *