Class Dates, Times, and Location:
October 21-22, November 4-5, December 2-3
Fridays 5:00-9:00 PM; Saturdays 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Marian High School
1311 South Logan Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Course Description:
This course introduces students to the rich, sophisticated, and deeply Christocentric thought of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger), and will engage such themes as belief, tradition, creation, Trinity, Christology, liturgy, ecclesiology, and eschatology. Texts will include a selection of Ratzinger’s theological works drawn from multiple genres, including discursive texts, homilies, biblical interpretation, and papal encyclicals.

Course Objectives:
Students will:
- become acquainted with and appreciate the nuanced theological thought of Joseph Ratzinger
- become familiar with different possible theological styles, including biblical commentary, discursive theology, homilies, and encyclicals
- appreciate the nature of the Christian theological tradition as intellectually rigorous, dynamic, and living

Required Texts:


Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger), *In the Beginning: A Catholic Understanding of the Story of*
Course Requirements:

1. **Regular, punctual, and attentive course attendance and informed, active participation in class discussion (10%).** This class values the democratic quality of discussion of texts as a primary mode of instruction right alongside any lectures, so please prepare accordingly by reading the assigned text carefully and critically. Class participation, however, is not equivalent to coming into class with a settled position or interpretation. Don’t be intimidated if you feel confused (I promise you are not the only one), but try to identify the source of your confusion and frustration and we will all work together to come to a greater shared understanding, even if that sometimes will only look like deeper, better, and more complex questions. Any respectful and thoughtful comment is welcome, including a sincere and interested “I don’t understand.”

2. **Written pre-class reflection/reader responses (20%),** to be submitted on the “Blogs” tab on Sakai the Wednesday before each weekend class. Please write a substantial paragraph or two (about a page) in response to the assigned texts. In these paragraphs you might note points of particular significance or difficulty, identify important or problematic passages, note any clarifying or interpretive questions about the text itself or its relation to other texts we have treated, as well as attempt to identify and distill the primary argument of any given piece. Questions and comments can center on meaning (what is the author saying?) or on merit (what are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the author’s position?). You are welcome but not required to comment upon one another’s posts. These paragraphs will form the basis of our discussion.

To access Sakai, go to sakailogin.nd.edu and click “NetID Login.” Use your Notre Dame ID and password. There you will see our course number (THEO 64836) listed at the top. The “Forums” tab is over on the left hand side.

3. **Three Take-Home Essay Exams (3):** about 6 pages each, double-spaced, to be submitted electronically via the “Assignments” tab of Sakai within 10 days of the weekend meetings (20% each, for a total of 60% of the final grade). I will provide questions based upon the readings and lectures for that weekend.
**Provisional Daily Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[1]</td>
<td>5:00-6:45</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[6:45-7:00]</td>
<td>break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[2]</td>
<td>7:00-8:30</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[8:30-8:45]</td>
<td>break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:45-9:00</td>
<td>final summative comments, Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[1]</td>
<td>8:00-9:45</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[9:45-10:00]</td>
<td>break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[2]</td>
<td>10:00-11:45</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:45-1:00</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>1:00-2:45</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[2:45-3:00]</td>
<td>break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4]</td>
<td>3:00-4:30</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[4:30-4:45]</td>
<td>break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:45-5:00</td>
<td>final summative comments, Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Provisional Course Schedule (subject to light revision as needed)**

**Weekend #1:**  
*Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22*  
*Benedict as Public Theologian and Catechist*

- Introduction to the course and to one another, as well as to the life and thought of Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

**Benedict on the Challenge of Faith in the Modern World**  

**Benedict and the Creedal Confession of Faith**  
“The Ecclesiastical Form of Faith,” *Introduction to Christianity*, 82-100.

**Benedict’s Concept of Tradition**  
“Revelation and Tradition: An Attempt to Analyze the Concept of Tradition,” section one, *God’s Word: Scripture, Tradition, Office*, p. 41-67 (course reserves)

**Benedict on the Doctrine of God**  

**Benedict on the Trinity**  
“Belief in the Triune God,” *Introduction to Christianity*, 162-190.


**Benedict’s Christology**  

Benedict’s Pneumatology and Ecclesiology
“The Intrinsic Unity of the Last Statements in the Creed,” *Introduction to Christianity*, 331-337.


**Weekend #2:**
**Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5**
**Benedict as Biblical Theologian**

Benedict on the Nature of Biblical Interpretation

Benedict on Reading Genesis


Benedict and the Gospel Narratives


“Jesus Declares His Identity,” *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, 319-355
Weekend #3:
Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3
Benedict as Bishop of Rome: The Papal Encyclicals

*God is Love*/Deus Caritas Est (2005)

*Saved in Hope*/Spe Salvi (2007)

*Charity in Truth*/Caritas in Veritate (2009)