Theology of Revelation
THEO 60181

Pasquerilla Center 105       June 18 – July 6, 2018
Matthew Genung, SSD        M–F, 12:20 – 3:00 p.m.

God Speaks to us through the Word in Scripture and Tradition. This course intends (1) to provide a deeper knowledge of the Word as He conveys Himself through these two "Streams" of Revelation and (2) to give students the skills necessary to lead others (and themselves) in the ongoing task of theology -- of, that is, faith seeking understanding. In particular, we will study (1) the relation of natural knowledge and divine revelation; (2) the "streams" of revelation that are Scripture and Tradition; (3) the relation between these two and the means of interpreting them; and (4) the salient content of this revelation as it is communicated in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the first several centuries of the Catholic Tradition.

The objective of this course is that students:

(1) understand what is meant by “revelation”; (2) learn to engage in the discipline of theology—“faith seeking understanding”—by plumbing the depths of revelation as it is contained in both Scripture and Tradition; (3) articulate the basic narrative of sacred history as unfolded in Scripture and the early life of the Church; (4) acquire the habits of close reading and critical engagement of Sacred Scripture.
Course Requirements

Students are expected to come to class with Bible (preferably a Catholic Study Bible, see bibliography below), having prepared the assigned readings and other assignments.

Assignments should be submitted by email to mgenung@nd.edu before class on due date, and student should be prepared to discuss during class.

A. Short Assignments: 30% [Various due dates, see below]
B. Interpretation paper: 30% [Due 7/3, see below]
C. Final Exam: 30%
D. Participation: 10%

A. Short Assignments

1. Bible dictionary entry report [Due 6/21]

As you read the assigned biblical texts, identify a theological or technical term you think is important for understanding the biblical text and look it up in a Bible dictionary such as The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary. Briefly explain (in one page or less) how your understanding of a biblical passage has changed. Examples – covenant, genealogy, curse, name, old age, sacrifice, Ishmaelites.

2. Concordance search [Due 6/22]

Find a Bible Concordance (perhaps Strong’s Concordance of the Bible) and list all the verses in the book of Exodus where the term ‘covenant’ is found. How might this tool help you study the Bible? What other terms would you research?

3. Reading reflection [Due 6/25]

Explain in one page or less some ways that the McGinnis article helped you deepen your understanding of the assigned biblical texts. What question(s) was cleared up; what new questions arose?

4. Probing questions [Due 6/26, 6/29]

Submit an exegetical question arising from your reading of one passage of a biblical text selected from among those assigned for the day, with a very brief explanation about why that particular question might be important for understanding the pericope. Keep to ½ page in length. Be prepared to discuss your question in class.

5. Technical commentary report [Due 6/27]

In your reading of Mark, choose a pericope from which a probing question arises and research the pericope in the technical commentaries (to be selected from list). In one page or less, explain how this resource sheds light on your question. Which commentary did you use? Why?
B. Interpretation paper - 30% [Due 7/3]

The Bible is the word of God in words of men, written many centuries removed from today’s reader, with distances exacerbated by cultural and linguistic barriers. The spiritual sense of Sacred Scripture does not prescind from its literal sense. To critically engage the Bible means to read actively, that is to seek to grasp meaning in the sacred text which will enable the person to encounter the Lord and to conform his or her life to the revealed meaning.

The interpretation paper for this course is an exercise in critically engaging a particular biblical text whose literal meaning is not grasped by the student in order to come to a significant measure of understanding of the question and to communicate it. The paper should explain the nature of the student’s question and attempt to communicate a reasoned response. The question driving the research is meant to be an exegetical question arising from the student’s own reading of the text. From among the Old Testament and New Testament texts assigned for this class you are asked to address your exegetical question, and to compose a work of interpretation that carefully follows the teaching of Dei Verbum, especially § 12.

The paper is to be 1500 words in length, excluding footnotes and bibliography. In producing your essay, consult at least two translations of Scripture and at least two technical commentaries. Please use The Chicago Manual of Style for citation and bibliography (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.proxy.library.nd.edu/tools_citationguide.html).

The paper is to be submitted by email by the end of day, July 3rd.

Interpretation Paper Grading Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis and its argumentation</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization and readability</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources and Citations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar, Usage, Spelling</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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C. Final Exam — A comprehensive exam of short answers and multiple choice questions accounts for 30% of your final grade.

D. Participation — 10% of your final grade will be determined by your readiness to engage in discussion during our class meetings.
Course Calendar

Students are expected to prepare for each class by studying the bulleted readings and completing assignments.

I. THEOLOGY OF REVELATION

Monday, June 18: Course Introduction; examination of the question, What is Revelation?
- Second Vatican Council, Dei verbum, par. 1-6;
- Benedict XVI, Deus caritas est, par. 1;
- O’Collins, “General and Special Revelation”.

Tuesday, June 19: Sources of Revelation
- Council of Trent, Decree Concerning the Canonical Scriptures;
- First Vatican Council, On Revelation;
- Second Vatican Council, Dei verbum, par. 7-10;
- Ratzinger, “The Question of the Concept of Tradition: A Provisional Response”.

Wednesday, June 20: Inspiration, Canon and Interpretation
- Dei verbum, par. 11-26;
- Benedict XVI, Verbum domini, par. 52-56;
- O’Collins, “Revelation, the Bible, and Inspiration” and “The Truth, Canon, and Interpretation of the Bible”.

II. OLD TESTAMENT

Thursday, June 21: The Pentateuch I – Beginnings
- Book of Genesis;
- Blenkinsopp, “In the Beginning”.
- Bible dictionary entry report due.

Friday, June 22: The Pentateuch II – Covenant, Disobedience, and Liturgy
- Exodus 1 – Leviticus 10; Numbers 1-14; 20-21; 25; Deut 1-11; 28; 30; 34;
- Levenson, “Sinai and the Covenant Formula”.
- Concordance search due.

Monday, June 25: From Conquest to Exile; Monarchy in Israel
- Josh 1-8; 23-24; Judg 1-2; 1 Sam 1-3; 7-13; 15-17; 24-28; 2 Sam 1:1-2:7; 5-7; 11-12; 1 Kgs 1-12; 17-19; 2 Kgs 17-25; 2 Chr 36;
- McGinnis, “Swimming with the Divine Tide”.
- Reading reflection due.

Tuesday, June 26: Judgment – Conversion – Restoration
- Isa 1:1-2:5; 5-7; 14:3-23; 40-41; 51-56; 61; Jer 30-33; Zeph 3; Mal 3.
- Hebrews 8-9;
- Vanhoye, “The Promise of a New Covenant”.
- Probing question due.
III. NEW TESTAMENT

Wednesday, June 27: Gospels I – The Identity of Jesus and Discipleship
- Gospel of Mark;
- Stock, “Formation of the Disciples”.
- **Technical Commentary report due.**

Thursday, June 28: Gospels II – OT Fulfillment, Christology, the Law
- Gospel of Matthew;
- Benedict XVI, “The Sermon on the Mount”.

Friday, June 29: Gospels III – The Glory of God
- Gospel of John;
- Bauckham, “Glory”.
- **Probing Question due.**

Monday, July 02: Paul I – Resurrection from the Dead
- Luke 24; Acts 1; 1 Corinthians;
- Benedict XVI, “Jesus’ Resurrection from the Dead”.

Tuesday, July 03: Paul II – Gospel – Mystery – Church
- Colossians & Ephesians
- **Interpretation assignment due by end of day, emailed to mgenung@nd.edu.**

Wednesday, July 04: NO CLASS – INDEPENDENCE DAY

IV. EARLY CHURCH

Thursday, July 05: The Way to Nicaea
- Tanner, *The Councils of the Church*;

Friday, July 06: Final Exam
**With the exception of a Catholic Study Bible, each title is available as an electronic resource on the Sakai class page.**


Council of Trent. Decree Concerning the Canonical Scriptures. April 8, 1546.


**Or similar Catholic Study Bible.**

