

SYT 187 Theological Anthropology

Fall Semester 2019

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Thursday, September 5, 2019
Thursday, December 5, 2019

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Thursdays 8:30-11:20
St Eugene de Mazenod Room

Instructors Name: Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.
Office: 2—06
Office Hours: Thursday before class or by appointment
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Course Description

The Christian understanding of evolution and of the human person; a study of the origin, the structure and the condition of the person in the world; the relationship of the person to God, to others and to the environment. Sin and the origin of evil. The role of grace and love. Hope and the final end of the person.

Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course will nurture a learning environment wherein the student will come to an understanding of the glory of creation, of humanity as the pinnacle of that creation, of Jesus Christ as the epitome of it, and of the role that sin has played and does play in the denigration of all that God has bestowed upon humanity. To examine the roles that grace (lived faith), hope, and love (expressed as freedom) play in the overcoming of sin and evil.
- b) **Cultural Context** - The course shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of our world, beginning with creation, the origins of humanity, sin, ecology, and freedom, as well as the way they relate to what science has unearthed, for example, what we have learned of our universe since the Big Bang.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, focusing on the personal response of one who is a disciple of Jesus

Christ, with the aim of giving public witness to the world. The importance of maintaining the unity between theology and spirituality will be seen in the need to give expression to the freedom bestowed by Christ that comes through the gift of faith. Only in the expression of faith as a lived reality can progress be made in loving as Christ has loved as well as remaining steadfast in the struggle against sin and evil.

- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The course shall foster and implement adult learning principles and techniques such as small group discussions. Each student will be asked to meet with the professor before reading break. The purpose of the final assignment is to encourage students to form their own synthesis of the various components that make up an authentic vision of a Christ-like humanity.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded on content (50%) and style (50%). For an "A" the written work must be clear, well organized and contain few if any grammatical and/or spelling errors. The difference between an A and an A- is usually attributable to the aforementioned deficiency. For a "B" the written work demonstrates a suitably clear presentation of the material and is adequately organized with a minimum number of grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of "C+" or less the writing is not very clear nor are the ideas expressed or organized very well and there are numerous grammatical and/or spelling errors.

As regards the synopses on *The Christian Vision of Humanity* and on *Jesus the Wisdom of God*, the aim of the assignment is to demonstrate a grasp of the thesis of the book through an exposition of the important points. You may want to summarize the chapters, or you may want to focus on those chapters you consider central to the thesis. Remember, you cannot summarize the content of the book, so you need to discern the most significant aspects. You are invited to give a critique of the book. As for the critique, the first thing I look for is a comment on some of the following: is the book readable; are the ideas expressed clearly; is the topic adequately addressed; does the book miss something that, in your opinion, should have been covered? The second thing I look for is evidence of your own appropriation of the book. How did the book influence your life or work? Did the book do anything to advance your faith understanding?

Textbooks

John R. Sachs, S.J. *The Christian Vision of Humanity: Basic Christian Anthropology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1991.

Denis Edwards. *Jesus the Wisdom of God*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 1995.

Recommended Reading

Caritas in veritate

Spe salvi

Mulieris dignitatem

Course Requirements

1. **For 10% of the final mark**—a 2-3 page summary on a 12pt. font (300 words per page) of the preface, introduction, and first 3 chapters (paragraphs 1-39) of *The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*.
Due Date: Thursday, September 12th, 8:30. No late papers accepted!
2. **20% of the final mark**—a 4-5 page synopsis on a 12pt. font (300 words per page) of John R. Sachs's book *The Christian Vision of Humanity: Basic Christian Anthropology*.
Due Date: Thursday, September 26th, 8:30. Late papers accepted up until October 3rd, but will be docked 20%.
3. **For 15% of the final mark**—a 2-3 page summary on a 12pt. font (300 words per page) of Pope Francis's *Laudato Sí*.
Due Date: Thursday, October 10th, 8:30. No late papers accepted!
4. **For 30% of the final mark**—a 5-6 page synopsis on a 12pt. font (300 words per page) of Denis Edwards's *Jesus the Wisdom of God*.
Due Date: Thursday, November 7th, 8:30. Late papers accepted up until November 21st, but will be docked 20%.
5. **For 25% of the final mark**—write a 3-4 page paper (300 words per page on a 12pt. font) of what you consider to be the essential components of a theological anthropology for our times.
Due Date: Thursday, December 5th 8:30. No late papers accepted.

Course Schedule

Introduction

II. Creation

III. The Origins of Humanity

IV. Original or Originating Sin

V. Ecology

VI. Grace (Faith) from and in Jesus Christ

VII. Infinite and Finite Freedom

VIII. Death and the Human Person

IX. Heaven and Hell

X. Hope

XI. Eschatology and Resurrection of the Body

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Please see Course Requirements

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

| Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th. | | | Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E. | | |
|--|-------|-------------|--|-------|-------------|
| Grade Meaning | Grade | Grade Point | Grade Meaning | Grade | Grade Point |
| Excellent | A+ | 4.0 | Excellent | A+ | 4.0 |
| | A | 4.0 | | A | 4.0 |
| | A- | 3.7 | | A- | 3.7 |
| Good | B+ | 3.3 | Good | B+ | 3.3 |
| | B | 3.0 | | B | 3.0 |
| | B- | 2.7 | | B- | 2.7 |

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|-----|----------|----|-----|
| Adequate | C+ | 2.3 | Adequate | C+ | 2.3 |
| | C | 2.0 | | C | 2.0 |
| | C- | 1.7 | | C- | 1.7 |
| Marginal | D+ | 1.3 | | | |
| | D | 1.0 | | | |
| Fail | F | 0.0 | Fail | D+ | 1.3 |
| | | | | D | 1.0 |
| | | | | F | 0.0 |

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu .