

SYT 100i Introduction to Theology

Fall Semester 2020

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Online & Zoom, Mondays, 10:30-11:20AM

Instructors Name: Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.
Office: 2—06
Office Hours: By appointment
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780-476-2338 (Franciscan Friary)
Email: dave.norman@newman.edu
Zoom: Mondays at 10:30-11:20 am Mountain Time

Course Description

The nature of theology. The relationship between theology and the following: revelation (Scripture and Tradition); spirituality and liturgy, philosophy and the human sciences. Faith and reason. The high points of theology throughout the history of the Church. The importance of theology for the Church. Theology and the teaching office of the Church. Theology and Church before and after Vatican II. Writing skills in theology.

Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course will cover key theological terms, concepts, issues, and methods. The course will foster the development of a thoughtful, critical mind—essential to doing theology as “faith seeking understanding”—in the context of the Church and world. The course will foster the practice of the research and technical skills necessary to do acceptable oral and written theological reflection and work. The course will demonstrate the importance of the discipline of theology as well as its specialized forms or branches (e.g. systematic, scriptural, historical, etc.).
- b) **Cultural Context** - The course will promote an evangelical discernment of the ‘signs of the times’ to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world, by viewing theology as follows: in relationship to Scripture, Tradition, the teaching Magisterium of the Church, historical movements, ecumenism, interfaith relations, etc.

- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity through the integration of theology with spirituality so that the student may come to see discipleship in Jesus Christ as a dimension of public witness.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program will foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world by bringing to the fore key representative theologians and philosophers, as well as different types and methods of theology. The course will emphasize the importance of a personal synthesis and aid in the forming of one so that the student may develop an integrated approach to faith in Jesus Christ, the revelation of the triune God. The course will implement adult learning practices, such as assigned readings and discussion forum sessions.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded on content (60%) and style (40%). 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 a stylistic 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 clear nor are the ideas expressed or organized very well and there are numerous grammatical and/or spelling errors.

In regard to the synopsis of *The Shape of Catholic Theology*, 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? Did it facilitate growth in your spiritual life?

Textbooks

Aidan Nichols, O.P. *The Shape of Catholic Theology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1991.

John O’Malley, *What Happened at Vatican II*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press, 2008, pages 1-92.

Recommended Reading

Dei Filius

Dei Verbum

Lumen Fidei

Dignitatis humanae

Unitatis redintegratio

Orientalium ecclesiarum

Deus Caritas est

Course Requirements

For Monday, September 14th read John O'Malley's *What Happened at Vatican II*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008, pages 1-92. For 2% of the final mark respond to the following Discussion Forum questions: What was the main issue facing the Church in the late 19th century and early 20th century? According to O'Malley, what signposts marked the pre-Vatican II Church? Your response must be no less than 150 words. **You must engage with at least one other student's submission.**

For Monday, September 21st before 9:00 MDT and for 5% of the final mark write a 2 page summary (300 words per page on a 12 pt. font) of Hans Urs von Balthasar's "The Place of Theology," in *Explorations in Theology: Vol. 1: The Word Made Flesh*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1989, pages 149-160. Read my notes "What is Theology?" **No late submissions accepted.**

For Monday, September 28th read the first 10 articles of *Dei Verbum*. Read my notes "The Word of God and Scripture (and Tradition)." The Discussion Forum question: What is the relationship between the first 10 articles of *Dei Verbum* and "The Word of God and Scripture (and Tradition)?"

For Monday, October 5th read my notes "The Unity of Theology and Spirituality." The Discussion Forum question: Why is it necessary to maintain the unity of theology and spirituality and what happens when they are split?

For Monday, October 12th read my notes "Tradition" and my notes "Theology and the Teaching Authority of the Church." The Discussion Forum question: What is the relationship between Tradition and the Teaching Authority of the Church?

For Monday, October 19th before 9:00 MDT and for 40% of the final mark write a synopsis of 8-9 pages (300 words per page on a 12 pt. font) of *The Shape of Theology* by Aidan Nichols. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical, 1991. Please keep your own critique of the book, if you have one, to the end of your synopsis and limit it to one page. **No late submissions accepted.**

For Monday, October 26th read my notes "Irenaeus," my notes "Gregory of Nyssa," and my notes "Bonaventure's Life and Work" and "The Soul's Journey into God." The Discussion Forum question: What do the theologies of Irenaeus, Gregory of Nyssa, and Bonaventure have in common and how do they differ?

For Tuesday, November 2nd read Larry Siedentop's *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism*. London: Penguin Books, 2014, 288-320. For 5% of the final mark write a response of 1-2 pages to the following question: what role did Ockham play in the establishment of individual rights? Read my notes "Luther." The Discussion Forum question: Why did Luther seek a gracious God rather than a God of grace? **Due date: before 9:00 MDT, November 2nd. No late submissions accepted.**

Monday, November 9 to Friday, November 13th Reading Break.

For Monday, November 16th read my notes on "Henri de Lubac" and "Edith Stein." The Discussion Forum question: What do the theologies of de Lubac and Stein have in common?

For Monday, November 23rd read my notes “Barth and Rahner.” The Discussion Forum question: What differences do you see in the theologies of Barth and Rahner?

For Monday, November 30th before 9:00 MST and for 5% of the final mark write a summary of 2 pages of the main points of *Unitatis Redintegratio* (The Decree on Ecumenism). **No late submissions accepted.** The Discussion Forum question: Why must Christians respect other religions and the faith expressed therein? This question is based on *Nostra Aetate* (The Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions).

For Monday, December 7th before 9:00 MDT and for 29% of the final mark write an essay of 6-7 pages on what you consider to be the essential elements of a theology for our times. **No late submissions accepted.**

Participation in the discussion forum is worth 16% of the final mark. **Note: Submissions to the discussion forum must be made before Sunday at 23:59, except for September 21, October 19, November 30, and December 7, when there is no Discussion Forum. A minimum of 6 submissions of at least 150 words per submission (not per question) must be made to qualify for participation status in the Discussion Forum. Students must respond to at least one other response. No late submissions will be accepted. Those students who participate fully (submission plus one or more responses to another submission) will receive a grade of 86% or 13.8 of 16.**

Every Monday at 10:30 Mountain Time we will gather for a zoom meeting. It will provide students an opportunity to discuss the material of the previous week and to ask questions of the Professor pertaining to the topic at hand, as well as to related topics in systematic theology.

Course Schedule

September 14—O’Malley’s *What Happened at Vatican II*, pages 1-92.

September 21—“What is Theology?” “The Place of Theology” from Balthasar’s *Explorations in Theology Vol.1: The Word Made Flesh*.

September 28—*Dei Verbum* articles 1-10. “The Word of God and Scripture (and Tradition).”

October 5—“The Unity of Theology and Spirituality.”

October 12—“Tradition” and “Theology and the Teaching Authority of the Church.”

October 19— Aidan Nichols’s *The Shape of Theology*.

October 26— Irenaeus, Gregory of Nyssa, and Bonaventure.

November 2—William of Ockham (from Larry Siedentop’s *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism*, Penguin Books, 2014, 288-320) and Luther.

November 9—Reading Break.

November 16—Henri de Lubac and Edith Stein.

November 23—Karl Barth and Karl Rahner.

November 30—*Unitatis redintegratio* (Decree on Ecumenism) and *Nostra aetate* (Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions).

December 7—A Theology for our Times.

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

See Course Requirements.

Extensions will be granted for sickness or another extraordinary reason.

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			Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point

Excellent	A+ A A-	4.0 4.0 3.7	Excellent	A+ A A-	4.0 4.0 3.7
Good	B+ B B-	3.3 3.0 2.7	Good	B+ B B-	3.3 3.0 2.7
Adequate	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	Adequate	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7
Marginal	D+ D	1.3 1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+ D F	1.3 1.0 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 Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography