SYT 100—INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY

FALL SEMESTER 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Class Start Date: Monday, September 12, 2016
Final Class Date: Monday, December 5, 2016
Class Meeting Time: Mondays 8:30-11:20
Room: St Francis
Professor: Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.
Office Hours: Before class or by appointment
Office: 2—06
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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: To learn key theological terms, concepts, issues and methods. To develop a thoughtful, critical mind—essential to doing theology as “faith seeking understanding”—in the context of the Church over time. To practice and to expand the research and technical skills necessary to do acceptable oral and written theological reflection and work. To see the importance of the discipline of theology as a whole and in its specialized forms or branches (e.g. systematic, scriptural, historical, moral, spiritual, pastoral). To view theology in relationship to Scripture, Tradition, the teaching Magisterium of the Church, historical movements, ecumenism, ethics, cultural diversity and so on. To realize the way in which various sources are utilized by theology—Scripture, Church teachings, philosophy, as well as the human sciences and the arts. To become aware of key representative theologians and philosophers as well as different types and methods of theology. To understand the meaning of a personal synthesis (and to begin to work towards forming one) that assists in an ongoing, integrated approach to faith in Jesus Christ, the revelation of the triune God. The course uses adult learning techniques, such as assigned readings and group discussions.
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.

For 20% of the final mark write a 3-4 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, 149-160. Due date: September 19th at the end of class. No late papers accepted.


For October 17th read the first ten articles of Dei Verbum, as well as “Tradition” from Elucidations, 73-82. For 35% of the final mark write an 8-9 page synopsis (300 words per page on a 12 pt font) of Doing Theology by Jared Wicks S.J. New York: Paulist, 2009, 1-139. You may include your own critique of the book, but please restrict it to one (the last) page of your synopsis. The appendixes are interesting, but you are required to read only the first five chapters (1-139). Due date: October 17th at the end of class. Late papers will be accepted up until October 24th, but will be docked 20%.


For October 31st read Unitatis redintegratio (Decree on Ecumenism) and Ut unum sint (That All May Be One).

For November 14th read Nostra aetate (Declaration on the Relationship of the Church with Non-Christian Religions).

For November 21st and 45% of the final mark write a 9-10 page synopsis (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. Due date: November 21st at the end of class. Late papers will be accepted up until November 28th, but will be docked 20%.

For December 5th read “The Marian Principle” from *Elucidations*, 64-72.

**Textbooks:**


**Recommended Reading:**

*Dei Filius*
*Dei Verbum*
*Deus caritas est*
*Ut unum sint*
*Nostra aetate*
*Dignitatis humanae*
*Unitatis redintegratio*
*Orientalium ecclesiarum*

**General Academic Information:**

Extensions: see Course Assignments and Evaluation (above)
Plagiarism: see Student Handbook
Academic grievances and grade appeals: see Student Handbook
NTC grading system: see NTC Academic Calendar
Style Sheets: Chicago, Turabian, MLA, APA
Late Submission Policy: see Course Assignments and Evaluation (above)

**Course Schedule: Subject to Change; due to availability of guest lecturers.**

September 12—Learning Theology/ What is Theology? One hour discussion of the expectations and requirements of the course. One hour on who is God? What are your images of God? Is God definable? One hour on Jesus. Is it credible that Jesus is the incarnate Son of God, one with the God of Israel? What makes it credible for Peter and the 11 to believe and know that Jesus is the Holy One of God (John 6:69)?

September 19—The Recent Experience of the Church—2 hours on the situation in the Church prior to Vatican II and following Vatican II. Discussion of “The Place of Theology” from Balthasar’s *Explorations in Theology Vol.1: The Word Made Flesh* —1 hour

September 26—The Mechanics of Writing a Term Paper—2 hours
Theology and Scripture—1 hour. Have the students read “The Word, Scripture and Tradition” in *The Word Made Flesh*. 
October 3—Two hours on the relationship between theology and philosophy with Dr. Jason West and 1 hour on theology and spirituality, including a one hour discussion of “The Unity of Theology and Spirituality.”

October 17—Theology and Tradition. One hour on the first 10 paragraphs of Dei Verbum, with the emphasis on tradition and its transmission. One hour on “Tradition” from Elucidations and my notes on tradition. Discussion of Doing Theology—1 hour.


October 31—Ecumenism—3 hour presentation by Julien Hammond.

November 14—Interfaith Dialogue and World Religions—3 hour presentation by J. Hammond.

November 21—Theology and the Teaching Authority of the Church—2 hours. One hour on The Shape of Theology.

November 28—Luther and William of Ockham.

December 5—Discussion of “The Marian Principle” from Elucidations, along with the 20th Century Revival—Barth, de Lubac, and Rahner, as well as Masters of Illusion, A History of European Art: Lectures 5 (3 maestas), 6, 7, 13, 16, etc.