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| CODE: | THO 2189W | TITLE: | Introduction to Theology |
| CREDITS: | 3 cr. | | |
| TERM: | Winter 2015 | PROFESSOR: | Brian A. Butcher |

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| DESCRIPTION | Starting from the premise that theology is “faith seeking understanding” this course introduces the basic questions, sources and methods characteristic of the discipline. What is signified by the term “God” (<i>theos</i>) and how may it be studied (<i>logos</i>)? What is the role of Scripture and Tradition in this process? How do various contexts—personal, social, cultural, ecclesial—shape the manner in which the theological study is undertaken? Learning to think theologically students will develop skills to apply theology to life. |
| OBJECTIVES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce the basic questions of theology and their development within the history of the discipline • To understand the interaction of the disciplines of philosophy and religious studies with that of theology • To gain an appreciation of the fields of study, vocabulary, themes, and sources of theological discourse • To become familiar with the methods, approaches, and tools of theological research, as well as current theological trends • To reflect on the application of theology to contemporary life |
| WORKLOAD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Reflection Paper (500 words) • Written Mid-Term Exam • Analysis of Primary Source (2500-3000 words) • Critical Analysis of Field Trip (1250-1500 words) • Oral Presentation of Field Trip • Oral Final Exam |
| EVALUATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% - Class Participation • 5% - Reflection Paper • 20% - Written Mid-Term Exam • 20% - Analysis of Primary Source • 10% Critical Analysis of Field Trip • 5% - Oral Presentation of Field Trip • 30% - Oral Final Exam |
| REQUIRED TEXTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aidan Nichols, <i>The Shape of Catholic Theology: An Introduction to Its Sources, Principles, and History</i> (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1991) • Neil Ormerod, <i>Introducing Contemporary Theologies</i> (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997) |
| RECOMMENDED TEXT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diogenes Allen, <i>Philosophy for Understanding Theology</i> (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985) |