

CODE: THO 4109	TITLE: Sin and the Question of Evil (prerequisite: THO 3166)
CREDITS: 3 cr.	
SESSION: Winter 2013	PROFESSOR: Kenneth Melchin

DESCRIPTION	An introduction to diverse approaches to understanding the ethical and theological implications of evil in the world. Philosophical and theological efforts to reconcile evil with God's goodness. Contemporary approaches to suffering, evil, and social sin. Insights into the implications of structural sin for ethical life. The mystery of human finitude, suffering and death. Understanding the cross and resurrection in relation to the challenge of evil. Evil and the encounter with God as Love.
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -to introduce historical, philosophical, and theological resources for understanding sin and evil; -to introduce contemporary approaches to a theological-ethical understanding of evil ; -to help students appreciate the way that ideas about social sin can challenge and shape their own ethical and faith lives; -to help students think through the relationship between evil and a God of love in their own lives.
WORKLOAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -required readings and class participation -in-class exam, mid- Feb. -research paper (max. 10 pages), due Mar. 30 -Final exam, take-home
EVALUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in-class exam 20% -research paper 40% -final exam 40%
REQUIRED TEXTS	<p>Michael L. Peterson, ed., <i>The Problem of Evil: Selected Readings</i> (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992).</p> <p>Cynthia Crysdale, <i>Embracing Travail: Retrieving the Cross Today</i> (N.Y. Continuum, 1999).</p>
RECOMMENDED TEXTS	