<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spirituality and Healing Arts</td>
<td>Dr. Margaret Mell</td>
<td></td>
<td>online only</td>
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<tr>
<td>THL 1500-101</td>
<td>Nursing students only</td>
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<td>Discovery of practical spirituality through engaging select contemplative practices; deepening of individual spirituality and the discovery of the presence of God in practicing healing arts; exploration of connections with self, and patient, care; particular attention given to Christian contemplative traditions.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Augustine: Then and Now</th>
<th>Fr. Allan Fitzgerald, OSA</th>
<th>TR</th>
<th>2:30 – 3:45 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THL 2750-001</td>
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<td>This course will develop a conversation with Augustine on selected issues of the 21st century, seeking to have present and past understandings of a Christian’s place in the world challenge and hopefully cast new light on one another. Augustine was a change-agent in his own time; over the centuries people who have lived in times of significant change have often turned to him, asking what they can learn from his experience. Many of the movements of church renewal have taken their inspiration from Augustine.</td>
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<td>That means that this course is not just about increasing the quantity of information about our time or about Augustine’s time. It seeks rather to use available information to learn to look beyond-the-obvious and to identify the perspectives that allow for and stimulate new questions and/or creative responses. An interactive environment will be an important dimension of this course.</td>
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<td>Specific areas of conversation that will be discussed will include [1] faith and culture: opposition or cooperation?; [2] women and marriage: social bellweather?; [3] science and religion/faith [see, e.g., <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fVX7ZwiaLc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fVX7ZwiaLc</a> for one example of how Augustine and Stephen Hawking might have talked to one another]; [4] morality, sin and forgiveness: aren’t all to be saved?; [5] violence/coercion vs. tolerance/respect; [6] humility and justice: virtues or not? At least one additional question/issue will be drawn from student consensus.</td>
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<td>There will be one writing assignment; it will begin with some present-day experience and will ask for Augustine’s input, thus making connections between “now” and “then.” Readings will be drawn from an array of articles about present-day experience and from Augustine’s sermons and letters – all of which will be made available electronically. Student responses to or reflections on course materials are to be posted to Blackboard so that I can have regular interaction with each student.</td>
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<tr>
<th>THM: Catholics as Cultural and Political Insiders</th>
<th>Dr. Massimo Faggioli</th>
<th>TR</th>
<th>1:00 – 2:15 pm</th>
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<td>THL 2900-001</td>
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<td>This course will examine the growth of the Catholic Church in the history of the United States. After a brief introduction on the diversity of French- and Spanish-speaking roots in American Catholicism, the course will focus on the history of this community from the minority, immigrant Church of the 18th and 19th century to the Catholic Church in the USA as the single, largest Church in the country today. The theological, social, and political views of Catholics will be the primary focus. The students will develop an understanding of the different ethnic experiences and the</td>
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development of the role of Catholicism in the changing social landscape of United States, with a particular emphasis on the social and political engagement of Catholics in the USA in the period between the Civil War, the 20th century, and today.

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**Sacraments**

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<tr>
<th>Dr. Timothy Brunk</th>
<th>THL 3400-001</th>
<th>MWF 9:30 – 10:20 am</th>
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This course is a treatment of the sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. We will draw attention to the history of their understanding and practice, as well as to contemporary issues and questions about sacraments. Though this course will address all seven sacraments (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, matrimony, holy orders), we will investigate baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation in greater detail.

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**HON: Presence and Absence of God**

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<tr>
<th>Dr. Anthony Godzieba</th>
<th>THL 3550-001</th>
<th>TR 1:00 – 2:15 pm</th>
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This course examines the Christian belief in God and its connection with everyday human experience and our contemporary context. Topics include the history of belief in God within Western culture, the relationship between faith and rationality, major issues in atheism and theism, important critiques of belief in God and the responses to those critiques, and the doctrine of God as Trinity.

At first glance the content of this course seems simple: we examine the Christian claims about God and about the presence of God to human persons and to the world. At a deeper level, though, the issues are more complex. The usual meanings of the three important elements of the previous sentence—God, human persons, and the world—have been radically questioned over the last half-century or so. How should one describe or define God, really? Can God be described or defined at all? Is there one true definition of “being human”, and should there be only one definition? What constitutes “our world” and whose experience counts when we describe it? Is faith in the presence of God a liberating human response or rather an old-fashioned relic with no place in contemporary Western culture? Even the most steadfast believer needs to realize that these questions are being asked today by believers and non-believers alike, and that the answers do indeed influence one’s image of God.

During the course we’ll thread our way through the complexity by exploring some of the major aspects of the Christian tradition of thinking and speaking about God. We will also look at more recent radical approaches to the God-question. What we want to show is that a critical/questioning approach to belief in God is not only possible but necessary for human beings. And we want to see that, even in the commodified, technologized, and media-saturated context of today, it is still possible to be religious, to have and understand “religious” experience, and to make a case for the redeeming, liberating, and humanizing presence of God.

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**Liberation Theology**

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<tr>
<th>Fr. Arthur Purcaro, OSA</th>
<th>THL 3740-001</th>
<th>TR 10:00 – 11:15 am</th>
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This course is designed for students in the Service Learning Community. Fr. Art is an Augustinian who served with the poorest of the poor in Peru for 30 years. He brings a wealth of experience and love for the poor to this course. Liberation Theology calls us to see how the poor are marginalized by society, describes how to work among them in order to advocate on their behalf, and most importantly to use what we have in order for the poor to find their power so they can advocate
for themselves. Liberation Theology proposes that Christ desires to free our fellow human beings from the social structures that keep them impoverished. St Augustine stated: You give bread to a hungry person; but it would be better were no one hungry, and you could give it to no one. (Tractate 1 John 8,8) This course will examine the role of Charity and the pursuit of Justice, as well as how we think about and work with and for the poor.

**THM: Angels and Demons**

Fr. Francis Caponi, OSA

THL 3790-001

MWF 10:30 – 11:20 am

“Until the onset of the modern era, the real existence of angels and demons was naively taken for granted. Angels were regarded neither as a symbolic expression of the human psyche nor as a literary device but simply and unabashedly as personal subjects, autonomous centers of existence capable of acting and routinely intervening in human history. A whole set of social practices (rituals, popular legends) conferred a sort of cultural self-evidence on this belief” (Bonino). In our own era, things are not so straightforward. True, angels are invoked in the liturgy and explored in theology. In the pages of Scripture they rise up, fierce and fearsome, the sound of their wings beating “like the voice of God Almighty speaking” (Ezekiel 10:5). Demons, too, are found in revelation, where they are rebuked, silenced, and exorcized by Jesus Christ and his disciples. Yet, angels and demons are also perennial subjects of magnificent art, stirring literature, and popular entertainment, in all of which they are often unrecognizable as scions of Biblical stock. Angels have been sentimentalized and domesticated into forms suitable for nursery wallpaper. Demons have been transfigured into brooding Byronic heroes and humorous, likeable rogues. Thus, from a Catholic perspective there is much excavation to be done.

This course will follow the historical development of Christian thought on angels and demons: their places in creation, their roles in salvation history, and their unique natures as purely spiritual intellects. How has Christian belief been shaped by non-Christian traditions?

What are we to make of the customary honoring of some angels as saints (e.g., St. Michael), and of the speculation by some theologians that even demons might taste the Lord’s mercy and be saved? And can Catholic theology give an adequate response to the famous challenge of Rudolf Bultmann: “We cannot use electric lights and radios and, in the event of illness, avail ourselves of modern medical and clinical means and at the same time believe in the spirit and wonder world of the New Testament. And if we suppose that we can do so ourselves, we must be clear that we can represent this as the attitude of Christian faith only by making the Christian proclamation unintelligible and impossible for our contemporaries”?

**Required Text:** Serge-Thomas Bonino, O.P., *Angels and Demons: A Catholic Introduction*

**THM: Technology and the Human Person**

Dr. Ilia Delio, OSF

THL 3790-100

Wednesday 6:10 – 8:50 pm

We live in an information age where technology and human life have become seamlessly interactive. How did we arrive at a level of technological dependence? Where are we going with our technologies? This course aims to explore the impact of information technology on human personhood and community. We will first look at the meaning of human personhood from the perspectives of Scripture, spirituality, philosophy and culture and then examine personhood and community in light of social media, robotics and new trends in artificial intelligence. Our discussions will be oriented to the questions: What is the human person? What do we hope for as persons and as community? Can technology help us create a more unified world?

**Christian Environmental Ethics**

Dr. Mark Graham
This is a course in Christian environmental ethics. Part of the course is spent addressing foundational philosophical and theological issues in environmental ethics. Substantial segments are devoted to agriculture, environmental toxins, and the moral standing of animals. Weekly discussions focus on practical, contemporary environmental issues such as hunting, nuclear power, global warming, fast food, genetic engineering of animals, pollution, automobile use, and the preservation of coral reefs, to mention but a few.

Course requirements: regular attendance; regular class participation; mid-term and final exams; unannounced in-class quizzes; and one in-class presentation.

THL 4490

This course is designed to give an introduction to biomedical ethics. From the process of birth to death we are faced with new technologies and a stunning array of possible choices. How do we respond as Catholic members of the body of Christ, physicians, nurses and health care providers? By examining major frameworks of ethical analysis the student will gain confidence in critically analyzing current issues of bioethics which include informed consent, reproductive technologies, stem cell research, abortion, organ donation, definition of death, physician assisted suicide and end of life decisions. Students will become familiar with theories, terminology, and resources which are used in examining bioethical questions. Critical analysis of emerging biomedical ethical challenges will be encouraged. Many clinical examples found in the daily practice of medicine will be discussed in class.

Augustinian Spirituality

What is spirituality? What does it mean to have a spirituality in our day? This course will examine these questions using Augustine of Hippo as our guide. Augustine’s “restless heart” will be the image we will use to unpack a rich spiritual tradition that bears his name and which offers a timeless relevance and great meaning in the face of today’s challenges.

The Contemplative Tradition

Feelings of loneliness, isolation, depression, anxiety, fear, among other afflictive thoughts that prevent our discovery of what already lies within each of us: inner peace and the indwelling presence of God. The Christian contemplative tradition is concerned with developing those interior skills (contemplation or meditation) that bring to silence the inner noise and confusion in our heads and lead us to the discovery of interior calm, clarity, and Love.

Christianity has a sophisticated tradition of cultivating interior stillness and peace that leads to the silent depths of the heart. This interior stillness facilitates the deepening of personal identity and ultimately the overcoming of the sense of alienation from God and others. The course is both (1) theoretical and (2) practical.

(1) On the theoretical level there will be an interdisciplinary sampling of texts. We will read ancient Christian authors (4th-14th centuries) who talk about the search for God by first dealing with the sources of anxiety within--what we will come to call the world of “mind-tripping.” But in order to
highlight the contemporary relevance of this ancient wisdom, we shall also look at contemporary authors on such topics as depression, eating disorders, relationship junkies, the process of addiction. The purpose of the reading, writing, lecture and discussion is to cultivate and value an integrated sense of what is involved in that deep spiritual flourishing of what St. Paul might term our life “hidden with Christ is God (Col 3: 3).”

(2) There is also a practical component. The first 13-15 minutes of each class meeting will be devoted to contemplative practice itself, so that the student not only gains a theoretical understanding of the ancient Christian practice of contemplation / meditation, but also knows how to practice it in daily life. Moreover, each student is expected to devote at least 10 minutes each day outside of class to the practice of contemplation.

Sports and Spirituality
THL 4990-001
Dr. Edward Hastings
TR 8:30 – 9:45 am

Fr. Thomas Keating states, “Everything in the universe is meant to be a reminder of God’s presence.” This course would like to take Fr. Keating at his word and attempt to look to the world of sports as a locus for discovering the presence of God in our midst. Sports are a significant aspect of the American culture, extremely popular and always revelatory. This course will explore and evaluate the various aspects of the sports experience (participants, coaches, fans, officials) as vehicles to help us connect more deeply with God.

Do Black Lives Matter to God?
A Theological Exploration of Race & Resistance
THL 5000-001
Dr. Naomi Leapheart
MW 4:30 – 5:45 pm

Has God sanctioned #BlackLivesMatter? Would Jesus protest the killings of Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Rekia Boyd, or Aiyana Stanley-Jones? How should people of Christian faith respond to Black protest? In this course, we will attempt to construct a Divine argument for resistance to racialized violence and oppression. To do this, we will engage the biblical text and the texts of historical narrative, literature, poetry, music, visual art, and film to explore key theological topics, including sin, suffering, and salvation. As we center the perspectives of Black, womanist, mujerista, queer, and Native theologians, scholars, organizers, artists, and activists, we will seek to discover a theological framework for the contemporary Movement for Black Lives. Ultimately, we will seek to be empowered by this framework, integrating it with our own faith and practice in order to live into the prophetic call to do justice.

THM: The Holocaust
THL 5000-002
Rabbi Alan Iser
MW 3:00 – 4:15 pm

This course starts with the historical background leading up to the Holocaust and the ideology of its perpetrators. We will then examine the basic events of the Holocaust and contemporaneous Jewish reactions. We will also look at post-War theological reactions to the Holocaust in Judaism and Christianity and the contemporary impact of the Holocaust in the United States and the world. Students will read memoirs and primary source materials as well as view documentaries.
History and development, beliefs and rituals, sects and intellectual movements: Pre-Islamic Arabia, emergence of Islam, Muhammad as prophet and statesman, territorial expansion, religio-political factions, intellectual development, rituals and beliefs, sharia and its sources, legal schools, religious sects, philosophical trends, mystical orders, art, reasons for the decline, Islam today. Films and visits to mosques. This course fulfills requirement for diversity, Africana Studies, and concentration or minor in Arab/Islamic Studies.

HON: Theology and Film
THL 5410-001

Since its inception, cinema has been used as a means of both raising and answering questions long central to the Western intellectual tradition: Who or what is God? What are the origins and ends of life? Does life possess inherent worth, or is it just a chaotic play of forces? Why do we suffer and how should we respond to it? What is belief? What does it mean to pursue justice and love in an obviously imperfect world? How does or might faith impact this pursuit? In raising these sorts of issues, film has emerged as a distinctive interlocutor with religion in general and with Christian theology in particular.

In recent decades, few filmmakers have addressed theological questions as much as Martin Scorsese, Terrence Malick, and Joel and Ethan Coen (typically referred to as the Coen Brothers). The overarching aim of this course will be to investigate their films, paying particular attention to the role that theology plays in them. This task will be carried out in three main ways. First, there will be a general orientation to the nature of cinema and to its historical development, which, perhaps surprisingly, first emerged from Christian catechesis. Second, a number of films themselves will be viewed and a range of critical methods employed to tease out their philosophical and theological significance. And, finally, direct scholarly attention will be paid to the issues raised, with related readings in theological subjects such as natural theology, theodicy (“the problem of evil”), and spirituality. Throughout, students will be encouraged to engage film in both oral and written form.

Religion, Art and Science
THL 5450-001

This course will examine religion, art, and science as aspects of persons and cultures. The philosopher John Macmurray has argued that there are different dimensions of the personal life, which would therefore also apply to society and culture. These dimensions are science – as the mechanical or mathematical aspect of the personal; art – as the emotional or organic aspect, and religion - as the truly rational or relational aspect of the personal.

Therefore, in this course we will look at those three dimensions of life and culture from the perspective of various thinkers – Macmurray from the philosophical side, Rene Girard and Gil Bailie from the anthropology side, Hans urs Von Balthasar from the theological side, or Stanley Jaki from the scientific side to name a few examples.

In short, we will study religion, art, and science as aspects of persons and cultures. We will explore theology and ritual as they relate to societies, cultures or persons; and we will examine the artistic, scientific and personal aspects of religion in the contemporary situation.
This course aims to transcend romantic and New Age notions of Native American spirituality and move toward an understanding of American Indian religiosity as tied together with a strong sense of place and a long history of oppression. To do so, we will employ an interdisciplinary approach, reading historical, ethnographic, legal, and literary texts about Native American experiences of contact, conquest, genocide, and struggles for religious freedom and land rights. We will think about different kinds of relationships between Christians and Native Americans in the US and ask how Native American experiences and accounts can help us to better understand (and also to criticize) western religiosity, history, ecology, and politics.

**Church Architecture and Worship**

**THL 5999-001**  
*Fine Arts requirement*

Dr. Bernard P. Prusak  
MW 1:30 – 2:45 pm

The earliest Christians celebrated the Lord’s Supper or breaking of bread in homes. During the fourth century, in the West, they began to build churches in the Roman style called basilica. In Rome, some basilicas were erected over the site of the house in which the community had earlier assembled. Later centuries saw the rise of Romanesque and then Gothic architecture. After the Reformation, Baroque architecture emerged. The nineteenth century gave rise to the Gothic revival, exemplified by the Villanova University church. In exploring church architecture, art, and music, this course will reflect on the theology and the historical and cultural contexts that shaped the liturgical celebration of each age. The ever changing contexts will lead to asking how contemporary Christian worship should be embodied in architecture, art, and music.

**THM: LGBTQ Issues in Religions**

**THL 5999-100**

Dr. Stefanie Knauss  
Monday 6:10 – 8:50 pm

Homosexuality, bisexuality, trans* and queer identities and practices which represent a particular challenge to many religious traditions. Heterosexuality provides the normative basis not just for ethics of sexuality and family, but represents the matrix in which beliefs are formulated, taught and practiced. And yet, LGBTQ persons are a part of religious communities, and contribute through their presence to the development of traditions that become more inclusive of diversity. Thus, LGBTQ issues provoke a range of responses in religious traditions, from conservative and prohibitive to welcoming and innovative.

In this class, we will focus on attitudes towards LGBTQ identities and practices in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We will analyze traditional teachings in response to LGBTQ issues, as well as innovative theological developments. We will also investigate the ways in which LGBTQ persons negotiate what is often considered as a contradiction: their sexual and religious identities. In doing so, we will explore sacred texts, theological discussions, sociological studies and cultural products relating to these three religious traditions in their global diversity. Our goal is to better understand and evaluate the variety of attitudes towards LGBTQ issues and the relevance of religious traditions for personal and communal living.

**THM: Theology within Military Service**

**THL 6000-001**

Prof. Kenneth Fleischer  
MW 8:00 – 9:15 am

Focusing on the cultural setting of the individual who is considering or has already chosen military service, this course will explore, primarily from a theological perspective, questions of evil and
suffering in addition to the challenges of diversity. Each academic journey will begin with a survey of sacred texts, followed by both traditional and contemporary theological reflection. In particular, the inquiry will examine the topic of military service in both Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament. From this theological foundation, the course will examine the particular ethical implications of just war, focusing primarily on its traditional theological expression (Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas). Recognizing the evolving mission of today’s military forces, our academic journey culminates in an examination of peacebuilding within the context of military service and Christian ethics.

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<tr>
<td>Spirituality of Youth</td>
<td>Dr. Christiane Lang Hearlson</td>
<td>TR 11:30 – 12:45 pm</td>
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<td>THL 6000-002</td>
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This course will explore the spiritual and religious lives of children and young people, with a focus on Christian/Catholic contexts. In the history of the Christian traditions, children and youth have been stereotyped as angels to be idealized, vulnerable victims to be protected, uncontrollable monsters who need discipline, or not-yet-human beings who require formation. Only recently have theologians begun to examine the complexity and depth of children’s spiritual lives and to consider what children and youth might contribute to how we think about God and religious life. This course draws on several sources: 1) scriptural depictions of Jesus’ interactions with children and young people, 2) theological explorations of Jesus’ childhood for our understanding of God, 3) contemporary theories of children’s and adolescents’ development and spirituality, and 4) contemporary research and writing on children’s and youth ministry. This course is designed to help students reflect on their own spiritual formation while preparing them to understand, walk alongside, learn from, celebrate, and minister to children and young people.

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<tr>
<th>Understanding Your Religious Neighbor</th>
<th>Dr. Adam Hearlson</th>
<th>MW 1:30 – 2:45 pm</th>
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<td>THL 6000-003</td>
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As our country becomes more religiously diverse and remains among the most religiously devout, the need for a more robust understanding of our religious neighbors has become imperative. Independent of our line of work, understanding our religious neighbors is becoming a prerequisite for work and civil life in this country. This class will engage in semester long appreciative inquiry into the faith lives of others. To this end, we will visit places of worship, speak with religious leaders from a variety of religious traditions, read widely across traditions, and seek postures of empathy as we seek to understand and appreciate religious difference in our midst.

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<tr>
<th>Advanced Seminar</th>
<th>Dr. Timothy Hanchin</th>
<th>Tuesday 6:10 – 8:50 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>THL 6500-100</td>
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<td>Open to Theology Majors and Minors only</td>
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Special topic in theology that includes a research paper that critically integrates the student’s study of the discipline of theology.