Undergraduate Courses – Core Theology
INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL LITERATURE THL 2490

MWF – 12:30 PM TO 1:20 PM : FR. JOSEPH WIMMER, O.S.A.

Attributes: Core Theology

This course will serve as an introduction to the books of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament as the Word of God in human words and in terms of current methods of study, especially the historical-critical approach, which includes the importance of archaeology, ancient Near Eastern history, authorship, comparison with extra-biblical literature and literary forms in order to ascertain the actual message of the biblical writers, and with due consideration of theological issues such as the nature of religious language, the question of inspiration and inerrancy, creation, liberation, and social justice, with a view towards understanding the Bible’s relevance for today’s world.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK THL 3450

TR – 4:00 TO 5:15 PM : DR. TIMOTHY BRUNK

Attributes: Core Theology, Medical Humanities Minor Elective

In its mission statement, Villanova University commits itself to “concern for the common good” and a “vigorous and respectful pursuit of truth and wisdom in every area of humanity.” The mission statement further emphasizes the importance of “service experiences” and “compassion for the suffering.” The Department of Theology and Religious Studies in turn commits itself to the pursuit of “a distinctively Augustinian way of knowing and loving God and neighbor that is holistic, integrative, and transformational.”

“Pastoral Care of the Sick” is a course being offered in response to these ideals. The course will begin with a treatment of the theological understanding of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, including reading of primary texts on pastoral care from the Roman Catholic Church. The course will continue with a pastoral-theological exploration of the entire range of care provided to the ill and dying. The course will conclude with an examination of the spirituality of caregivers, specifically Christian nurses and other Christian medical professionals. The course thus seeks not only to ground students in the Catholic pastoral / theological tradition of care for those who are ill but also seeks in a special way to prepare pre-med and nursing students at Villanova for the gifts and challenges that await them in their chosen careers.
All necessary schedule updates or changes will be reflected within the Master Schedule.

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<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TR – 8:30 AM TO 9:45 AM : Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attributes: Core Theology, Diversity 1, Latin American Studies, P&amp;J</strong></td>
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<td>This course will introduce students to Latin American Liberation Theology, one of the most profound contemporary theological movements in the Church. Liberation Theology emerged out of the concrete struggle in Peru to overcome poverty, oppression and repression. We will examine the biblical and ecclesial roots of liberation theology, its “unconventional” theological methodology, the powerful insights of Gustavo Gutierrez and some other of its theologians and religious leaders, its impact, the price paid for prophetic witness, the controversy that surrounds it, and its ongoing challenge to theology today, to the Church and its institutions, and to a global society plagued by growing inequality.</td>
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<td><strong>JUSTICE &amp; SUSTAINABILITY THL 4100</strong></td>
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<td><strong>W 6:10 PM TO 8:50 PM : Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A and Dr. William Lorenz</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Attributes: Core Theology, P &amp; J</strong></td>
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<td>During our course, Social Justice in Sustainability, we will employ the See, Discern, Act methodology in order to learn more about our own sustainability footprint, what our impact means for the planet and for current and future generations of people, why it’s so important to care, and how to take action to reduce it. This course presents the four principles of Catholic Social Teaching - human dignity, common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity - and applies them to the environment, centering on Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato Si, “On Care for our Common Home.” We will look at sustainability from the four most common personal pathways – Shelter &amp; Energy, Transportation, Food &amp; Water, and Consumer Purchases – and identify first steps towards a more sustainable future for all. By looking at sustainability through different lenses, we are better able to understand how sustainability is crucial to our survival as a species, but also to humanity and social justice.</td>
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<td><strong>INTRODUCTION TO BIOMEDICAL ETHICS THL 4480</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MW 1:30 PM TO 2:45 PM: Dr. Brett Wilmot</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Prerequisites: ETHICS 2050</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Attributes: Core Theology</strong></td>
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The purpose of this course is to develop tools for critical analysis of biomedical ethical issues within a Catholic Christian context. From the conception of life to the end of life, we are faced with new technologies and a stunning array of choices that affect ourselves and our loved ones. We will be considering a range of topics that affect patients, care providers, and the broader society in which Christians and non-Christians seek to live good lives with moral integrity. The vision of personal development and human flourishing from a Catholic perspective will be given special consideration in answering questions of medical ethics. Critical examination of competing moral traditions will be encouraged. 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. Critical analysis of emerging biomedical ethical challenges will be encouraged. How do we render Christian faith intelligible and relevant to transform our world with so many competing influences in a pluralistic society? By the end of the course students should have a foundation from which they can approach emerging bioethical questions.

CONTEMPLATE, CREATE. REPEAT THL 4990

M 6:10 PM TO 8:50 PM : DR. MARGARET MELL

Attributes: Core Theology

Restrictions: Junior Class only

Most of us have heard about contemplative (or, meditative) spiritual practices. However, creative spiritual practices are also becoming more common as people begin to experience the real presence of the Spirit in their everyday lives. Contemplation and creativity inspire (Latin root: inspirare, breathe in) every element of our lives. Both contemplative and creative practices bring our awareness and attention to Beauty that lies underneath the surface of all aspects of our everyday lives—including our academic studies.

Contemplative and creative practices enliven qualities of our being and doing that bring life and new energy into all our “usual” activities. They help develop, strengthen, and fine-tune multiple aspects of individual and group spirituality. Contemplation and creativity can become acts of prayer that help our attention and awareness to deepen, broaden, and become more integrated into everything that matters to us—including the world around us—as our life-paths continue to unfold, both during and after our study programs here, at Villanova.
All necessary schedule updates or changes will be reflected within the Master Schedule.

DO BLACK LIVES MATTER TO GD? THL 5000

T 6:10 PM TO 8:50 PM : PROFESSOR NAOMI WASHINGTON LEAPHEART

ATTRIBUTES: CORE THEOLOGY, AFRICANA STUDIES, DIVERSITY 1, P & J

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.

CONTEMPORARY US CATHOLICS THL 5003 (MAJOR COURSE)

MW 3:00 PM TO 4:15 PM : DR. MARY ELLEN O’DONNELL

ATTRIBUTES: CORE THEOLOGY

In 2020, the United States saw the nomination of its sixth Catholic Justice currently serving on the Supreme Court and its election of the second-ever Catholic president. Clearly Roman Catholics have established themselves politically and culturally in this country, but curiously, the nature of the respective Catholicism of Justice Amy Coney Barrett and President Joe Biden point to significant difference in the ideology of these co-religionists. While they might share demographic similarities, the personal divergence of these high-profile individuals draws attention to the wide variety within American Catholicism in the twenty-first century. It raises the question: who is an American Catholic today? Across a wide spectrum of race, ethnicity, sexual identity and orientation, theological understanding, religious upbringing and ideological position, Americans identify as Roman Catholic and find a home in its Church. Who are these diverse Catholics and, ultimately, what unites them in the claim to this tradition? This will be the focus of our course. While we could never achieve comprehensive coverage, we will consider a range of individuals and groups in an effort to grasp the diversity within the Church in the United States and with an eye toward the connections and commonalities that link its disparate members to the faith. We will pay particular attention to the experience of women and the role of gender in American Catholic experience.
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<th>HISPANICS &amp; THE US CATHOLIC CHURCH THL 5003 (MAJOR COURSE)</th>
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<td><strong>MWF 8:30 AM TO 9:20 AM : Sr. Ruth Bolarte</strong></td>
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<td>Attributes: Core Theology</td>
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<td>This course presents a historical and theological overview of Hispanic Catholic presence and ministry in the United States. It highlights the vital contributions of Hispanic/Latinos to American religious and social life, demonstrating in particular how their engagement with the U.S. cultural milieu is the most significant factor behind their ecclesial and societal impact. The course incorporates the role of ecclesial documents and Encuentros that provide direction for effective ministry among culturally diverse communities.</td>
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<th>SAINTS, WITCHES, MYSTICS THL 5003 (MAJOR COURSE)</th>
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<td><strong>TR 10:00 AM TO 11:15 AM : Dr. Rachel Smith</strong></td>
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<td>Attributes: Core Theology, Gender &amp; Women’s Studies</td>
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<td>Women have been understood in ambivalent ways throughout the Christian tradition. Identified with the body, and thus believed to be less able to ascend to the realm of immaterial ‘spirit,’ they were nevertheless also understood to be more porous than men, and thus susceptible to the influence of spiritual entities, both divine and demonic.</td>
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In this course, we will examine the profoundly different yet intimately linked representations of women in relation to the spiritual realm as witches, saints, demoniacs and visionary mystics in the Late Antique, Medieval, and Early Modern Christian communities. We will study both male representations of women and women’s own writings, asking what the differences between these writings are and reasons for such differences.

Beginning with a study of ancient philosophical assumptions undergirding medieval understandings of sex and gender, we will then turn to medieval religious texts by and about women, including texts by female visionaries revealing divine messages, stories of saints who become one with Christ, as well as saints described as demoniacs and others who are suspected by clerics of being possessed by evil spirits. Tracing the rise of the witch hunts in Western Europe in the early modern period, the course will track the changing fortunes of women through a long arc of Western history. We will then turn to the American context and study the Salem witch trials. Finally, we will turn to the American south and examine the ways that conjure traditions were blended with elements of Christianity and used by enslaved women and men as tools of resistance.
All necessary schedule updates or changes will be reflected within the Master Schedule.

**VATICAN II TO POPE FRANCIS THL 5003 (MAJOR COURSE)**

**MW 4:30 PM TO 5:45 PM : DR. MASSIMO FAGGIOLI**

This course examines the events and documents of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) in its historical background, its unfolding, and its legacy in contemporary Roman Catholicism. The first part of the course analyzes the history of Vatican II in its pre-history (theological movements in the early 20th century), announcement and preparation (1959-1962), and unfolding until its end December 1965. The second part of the course analyzes the most important final documents approved by Vatican II on the Church (Lumen Gentium and Gaudium et Spes), Scripture (Dei Verbum), liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium), religious liberty (Dignitatis Humanae), ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio), and inter-religious relations (Nostra Aetate). These documents will be read in the context of a more plural and global contemporary Catholicism in dialogue with non-Catholic Churches, non-Christian religions, and modern secular culture. The third part of the course focuses on the first sixty years of application/reception of Vatican II in terms of theological debate on the major issues and in light of the social and cultural changes from the “sixties” to today: sex and gender, race and class, Western and global. Special attention will be devoted to the relationship between the theology of Vatican II and the pontificate of pope Francis (2013-present) as the first pope from the “global south”.

**WOMEN DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH THL 5003 (MAJOR COURSE)**

**TR 11:30 AM TO 12:45 PM : DR. JENNIFER JACKSON**

**Attributes: Core Theology, Gender & Women’s Studies**

This course is an exploration of the role of women leaders in religion considered from historical, cultural, and theological perspectives. More specifically, we will focus on women in Catholic Christianity through an in-depth study of the four women “Doctors of the Church”: Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), and Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897). The title, officially given by the Catholic church to 36 men and women throughout Christian history, recognizes the exemplary contributions they have made to deeper understandings of sacred scripture and Christian life and teaching. This is a discussion-based course informed by short lectures and exercises attentive to diverse learning styles, interdisciplinary inquiry, and online resources.
### BLACK THEOLOGY & BLACK POWER THL 5004 (MAJOR COURSE)

**MW 4:30 PM TO 5:45 PM: DR. TIMMY LUCKY**

*Attributes: Core Theology, Africana Studies, Diversity 1, P & J*

What would Jesus say about the killings of Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Rekia Boyd or Aiyana Stanley-Jones? What would he preach/teach concerning the legacy of chattel slavery of the economic exploitation of the Black poor? How have people of faith and moral conscience? In this course, we will explore the implications of “Racist Ideas” embedded within American Law and Policies. We will juxtapose those ideas and practices against Theological ideas and practices to drive towards a call for justice and liberation commonly articulated in the “Black Lives Matter” movement. A fundamental question is one of Theodicy: If God is benevolent, just and powerful, how can/does He permit evil persist in the lives of Black people living in the United States of America?

As we study together, we will engage the Bible, religious scholarship and the texts of historical narratives, literature, visual art and films to explore key topics from a Theological perspective (to include: racism, antiracism and humanity). Ultimately, we will seek to be empowered to integrate a new understanding into our own moral practice, in order live up to the prophetic call to fair and equitable justice for all.

### LATINX THEOLOGY THL 5004

**MW 1:30 PM TO 2:45 PM: DR. HÉCTOR VARELA RIOS**

*Attributes: Core Theology*

‘Latinx’ encompasses a wide variety of ways of being and living that transcends time, identity, and geography. For one, latinx is not only tied to gender dynamics but also to the tragic history of U.S. colonialism/empire—what latinx means quickly becomes deeply contestable in their intersection. Adding ‘Theology’ complicates the questions further, since theology is also a contextualized concept due to its varying focuses, locations, and provisional nature. In fact, both terms have deep histories which tend to obscure their purpose and intended audience even more when combined as an academic area of study.

Latinx theologians, in the academy and otherwise, negotiate this complexity in distinct yet similarly productive ways. This course will explore some examples of Latinxs and allies doing theology latinamente in academic settings (that is, in institutions of higher education) and beyond (for instance, in the Church and in other cultural spheres). Some of these authors are more systematic, others more constructive, yet others interdisciplinary. The variety will reveal...
All necessary schedule updates or changes will be reflected within the Master Schedule.

the multiple ways of distilling theologies that 'Latinx' engages and reveals. No prior knowledge on the subject is needed. All course materials will be in English.

This in-person course is divided in three stages: theoretical/historical background (Weeks 1-3), theological concepts (Weeks 4-10), and applied theology (Weeks 11-16). As for instructional method, we will read closely or watch and discuss as a group one or two written pieces or other media each week, assessing Latinx sources, theories, and methods on foundational theological concepts (such as God, Jesus, and ethics) and specific Latinx concerns (such as the preferential option for the poor, lo cotidiano, immigration, and mestizaje). While increasing our familiarity with Latinx academic theologies and what the stakes are for Latinx lives in the U.S., we will also improve our scholarly skills through essays and shared activities (such as presentations) around course content.

All readings will be available online and/or on reserve through Falvey Library – none of the required texts need to be bought. Assessments are daily participation, weekly short essays, a presentation, a midterm, and a final exam.

RELIGION & INCARCERATION THL 5004 (MAJOR COURSE)

MW 3:00 PM TO 4:15 PM : DR. REBECCA MAKAS

ATTRIBUTES: CORE THEOLOGY, AFRICANA STUDIES, DIVERSITY 1, P & J

With 2.3 million Americans incarcerated, examining the intersection of religion and incarceration is a vital part of understanding religion in America. One of the most diverse populations in terms of race, sexuality, and socioeconomic status, the prison environment magnifies and illuminates foundational questions regarding power, privilege, and the practice of religion in America. For example, the question “what counts as religion?” is particularly consequential in prison, as it illustrates who is free to practice their religion and which religious rights are protected. Similarly, “How does race affect religion or religious freedom?” is highlighted by anxieties of prison officials regarding traditionally black forms of Islam. Addressing these and other questions in depth, this course explores the religious lives of men and women who are incarcerated and the theology and practices of prison ministry groups. Through reading memoirs and other primary source documents, we will analyze how prison affects one’s religious practice, understanding of religion, and desire for spiritual care, both while incarcerated and after release. In addition to reading texts by formerly incarcerated people, students will explore our two course foci through texts by spiritual leaders and examining the wide array of spiritual programming available in prison.

SPIRITUALITY & POP CULTURE THL 5004 (MAJOR COURSE)

ASYNCHRONOUS : DR. MARGARET MELL
All necessary schedule updates or changes will be reflected within the Master Schedule.

**Attributes: Core Theology, Distance Learning**

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to explore the role theology and religion play in creating and maintaining North American culture through popular cultural expressions such as music, television, film, art, sports, entertainment, or fashion. We will place theology and religion into dialogue with popular culture in an effort to understand the complex relationship between the two. The course takes up this dialogue against the wider background of the critical study of theology/religion and popular culture and by exploring the nature of God, self, transcendence, morality, practices, and spiritual quests as those are construed and configured within popular culture. The course asks to what extent contemporary expressions of Christian worship and spirituality might better engage popular culture and to what extent these expressions already reflect the values, patterns, and practices of popular culture. Thus, we will attempt to study theology, religion and popular culture not as polar opposites, but as complementary and/or competing sources from which people shape their senses of identity, belief, spirituality, privilege, diversity and inclusion, and meaning.

**Sports & Spirituality THL 5004 (Major Course)**

TR 1:00 to 2:15 PM: Dr. Edward Hastings

**Attributes: Core Theology**

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 focus 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.

**Theology & Film THL 5004 (Major Course)**

W 6:10 PM to 8:50 PM: Dr. Christopher Barnett

**Attributes: Core Theology**

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 (1942-). The overarching aim of this course will be to investigate Scorsese’s 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 Scorsese’s 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.

THEOLOGY, CAPITAL, JUSTICE THL 5004 (MAJOR COURSE)

TR 11:30 AM TO 12:45 PM: PROFESSOR GREGORY GRIMES

Attributes: Core Theology, Diversity 1, P & J

In the present course, we will explore what theology has to offer by way of a critique of capitalism, as manifested historically and in the present, with a focus on recognising, understanding, and undoing the structural injustices endemic to its logic and systems. Christianity’s ‘preferential option for the poor’ and vision of the ‘reign of God’, based upon Jesus of Nazareth’s life and ministry, as well as Catholicism’s holistic worldview, offer a fundamental reproach to the flawed anthropological assumptions of capitalism, as a political and economic system; while offering alternative ordering principles, orientation, and living witness to a truly just vision of society, marked by love of God, neighbour, and all creation. We will engage thinkers who offer fundamental insights as to the violence, exploitation, and systemic abuse of power, essential to capitalism; linking these insights to real-world examples of how this affects all people, but especially the oppressed and marginalised; while envisioning and experimenting with socially just models and understandings that can bring about authentic societal transformation.
All necessary schedule updates or changes will be reflected within the Master Schedule.

ISLAM: HISTORY & CULTURE THL 5005 (MAJOR COURSE)

TR 10:00 AM TO 11:15 AM : DR. SHAMS INATI

ATTRIBUTES: Core Theology, Arab & Islamic Studies, Africana Studies

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 Africana Studies, and concentration or minor in Arab/Islamic Studies.

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST THL 5005 (MAJOR COURSE)

MWF 11:30 AM TO 12:20 PM : DR. YASEMIN AKIS

ATTRIBUTES: Core Theology, Arab & Islamic Studies

Understanding the modern Middle East is almost impossible without first developing an appreciation for the importance of its diverse religious traditions, and the role that religion has played in the development of the region since antiquity. This course examines the many ways that religion has functioned in Middle Eastern societies, beginning with ancient, pre-Islamic practices, such as the Zoroastrian religion of the Persian Empire, the development of Judaism among the ancient Israelites, and the spread of Christianity in the eastern Roman Empire. Of special interest will be the rise of Islam in the seventh century, and the development of unique and localized Islamic traditions in the rapidly expanding Arab empires of the medieval period. The class will focus on such themes as the differences between Sunni and Shia Islam, the position of non-Muslim minorities in Islamic history. The class will conclude by looking closely at the many ways religion is practiced in the Middle East today, from the official secularism of states like Turkey, to the post-revolutionary religious politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

RELIGION IN RUSSIA THL 5005

MW 4:30 PM TO 5:45 PM : FR. JOSEPH LOYA, O.S.A.

ATTRIBUTES: Core Theology, Russian Area Studies, Diversity 3

“A nation can be best understood in the light of three main factors .... the geography of the land ... the history it has experienced ... the religion it has embraced.” (Nicolas Zernov)
Course Objectives:

To provide students with a solid grounding in the History, beliefs, spirituality, and life of religious believers - especially those of the Russian Orthodox Church - as they seek to live and prosper in a modern, complex and pluralistic world.

To be sensitized to the truth, “The History of the Russian Church cannot be separated from the History of Russia... Even the simplest delineation of the development of the Church inevitably includes a definite attitude toward Russia’s past.” (Alexander Schmemann)

To obtain a firm grasp of relations between the state and traditional religious bodies in Russia throughout the major periods of Russia’s History.

Be able to visit a Russian Orthodox church here or abroad without experiencing “culture shock,” i.e., students are to be made confident in knowing the religious worldview that a Russian Orthodox church represents.

**WISDOM OF SUFISM THL 5005 (MAJOR COURSE)**

MWF 10:30 AM TO 11:20 AM : DR. YASEMIN AKIS

Attributes: Core Theology, Arab & Islamic Studies, Diversity 3

Come, come, whoever you are, wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving, it doesn't matter.”

- Rumi

Sufism is a mystical belief and practice in which murids (committed one) seek to find the truth of divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God. This course offers an introduction to the Sufi thought and culture through the lives and teachings of Sufi thinkers such as Rumi, Yunus Emre, Hacı Bektas-i Veli, and Ibn Arabi. Sufi literature’s most influential works will be considered through sample materials and the lives of their writers. During the course we will examine the central concepts of Sufism such as tasawwuf, murid, dervish, pir and sama. The class considers the Sufism’s conceptualization about the development of the self in its philosophical roots.

**ISLAM: HISTORY, THOUGHT, CULTURE THL 5150**

TR 11:30 AM TO 12:45 PM : DR. SHAMS INATI

Attributes: Core Theology, Arab & Islamic Studies
History and development of Islam: beliefs, rituals, sects, and intellectual movements.

**BIBLE & SUSTAINABILITY THL 6000**

**MWF 12:30 PM TO 1:20 PM: FR. JOHN AUBAKAR**

**Attributes: Core Theology**

In the opening chapters of On Christian Teaching (I.1-5), Augustine argues that everything that exists can be divided into two groups: things to be used and things to be enjoyed. “To enjoy a thing,” he proposes, “is to rest with satisfaction in it for its own sake” (I.4). “With satisfaction” is a critical qualification. We desire and pursue many things that do not satisfy. To settle for what fails to satisfy is a form of despair. People struggling against despair desperately search for something to pacify their voracious appetites and end up fleeing from one idol to the next since none can save them. Hence our restless hearts. Augustine insists only one thing we can truly enjoy- one thing we are able to rest in with satisfaction. The true objects of enjoyment then are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Everything and everyone else is to be desired according to its usefulness for enjoying of God. However, many important questions about the use and enjoyment of a thing or person remain open. How are we to use the resources of the earth? Are we meant to dominate the earth or be stewards?

This course will focus on what the Bible teaches us on sustainability in relation to the created world especially the place and role of humans. Another part of this course will examine practical environment issues such as the human root of the ecological crisis, actors in global environmental governance, and environmental governance ideas.

**THEOLOGY & MILITARY SERVICE**

**MW 3:00 PM TO 4:15 PM: PROFESSOR KENNETH FLEISCHER**

**Attributes: Core Theology, P & J**

Focusing on the cultural setting of the individual who is considering or has already chosen military service, this course will initially explore, primarily from a theological perspective, the question of evil and suffering. This academic journey will begin with a survey of sacred texts, followed by both traditional and contemporary theological reflection. 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, a proactive approach to conflict resolution, which rejects the fatalistic inevitability of war and seeks to correct the perception of passivity typically cast upon nonviolence.
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THEOLOGY OF FRIENDSHIP THL 6000

TR 2:30 PM TO 3:45 PM : DR. JENNIFER JACKSON

Attributes: Core Theology

Themes in Theology of Friendship:
Social Friendship in Fratelli Tutti: Contexts, Challenges, and Possibilities
From popular culture to rigorous interdisciplinary scholarship, contemporary life and thought have been truly enriched by retrievals of ancient and medieval understandings of friendship, as well as by revisionings of friendship in our commitments to peace, justice and meaning in our world today. This course centers around an examination of contributions to the discourse of friendship throughout history, culminating in a sustained examination of Pope Francis’ reflections on social friendship in the encyclical, Fratelli Tutti. The course readings have been designed to pose two challenges for our reflection: to discern a theology of friendship that integrally engages with and/or reflects the themes of Catholic social teaching, and to critically engage with Fratelli Tutti through this lens. This is a discussion-based course informed by short lectures and exercises attentive to diverse learning styles, interdisciplinary inquiry, and online resources.

GOD AND THE LATINX EXPERIENCE THL 6000

T 6:10 PM TO 8:50 PM : DR. JOSE IRIZARRY

Attributes: Core Theology

An exploration into the diverse spiritual and religious sources shaping the faith of Latinx communities in the United States of America. These sources sustain both, deep historical roots in centuries of autochthonous religious traditions, and emerging faith expressions responsive to ever dynamic migratory movements. While participating in the life of institutionalized religious groups, Latinxs have generated a shared sphere of meaning that shapes the language and experience of their faith and that resists, at times implicitly, the dominant discourse or Western Christianity (decolonizing process). Borrowing from the scholarship of Latinx Theology, the course will address the centrality of community, “lo cotidiano,” accompaniment, popular culture, and place, in describing the salient features of Latinx religious experience. As an alternative form of thinking about God in the context of North American Christianity, we will analyze the Latinx religious experience from multiple lenses provided by literature, art, music, food, family customs, and popular rituals.