

Department of Theology and Religious Studies
Graduate Masters' Courses
Fall 2019

Foundation THL
THL 8000-001

Dr. Jessica Murdoch
Tuesday 2:00 – 4:20pm

This course considers the presuppositions and principle themes of Christian theology in the contemporary context. The course will take up the foundations of the theological enterprise and the foundations of systematic theology. Thus, the course will include an examination of the nature, tasks, and methods of theology. It will also explore the central themes of fundamental theology including the nature and possibility of revelation, the sources of Christian theology, the relationship between faith and reason, and the philosophical presuppositions of Christian faith.

Foundation BIB
THL 8001-001

Dr. Peter Spitaler
Tuesday 4:30 – 6:50pm

This course will be an examination of basic questions and research methods in biblical studies with special attention to the relationships between faith and culture.

Foundation HIS
THL 8002-001

Dr. Kerry San Chirico
Thursday 4:30 – 6:50pm

This course will address some key texts for the approach to Church history, historical theology, and the history of Christianity, more generally. As such, it will serve as an introduction to the history of the discipline and to its methods and practices.

Foundation SPI
THL 8003-001

Dr. Rachel J. Smith
Monday 4:30 – 6:50pm

What is spirituality? What does it mean to have a spirituality? How can one properly discuss and diagnose spirituality? This course will examine these questions as we explore the various methodologies of spirituality not only as an academic discipline but also as a “field of practice” with key foundational texts to guide our discussion.

Foundation ETH
THL 8004-001

Dr. Mark Graham
Tuesday 7:00 – 9:20pm

This course introduces students to important themes, thinkers, and issues within the discipline of Christian ethics. Part of our energy will be devoted to studying canonical sources, which have been mainstays in Christian ethical deliberation. Yet the discipline of Christian ethics is also remarkably broad and diverse, so another focus will be to show students the different kinds of moral deliberation along with the different kinds of communities out of which they have emerged. Finally, as ethics is concerned about evaluating behavior, another part of this course engages seminal contemporary issues that will also prove to be challenging to the Christian community in the future.

Gospel of Mark**THL 8170-001***Prerequisite: Foundation Bible [THL 8001]***Dr. Paul Danove****Wednesday 11:30 – 1:50pm**

This course introduces the exegetical methods used to study the Gospel of Mark and employs these methods to investigate the theological, christological, soteriological, and anthropological (discipleship) concerns of the Gospel.

The Future of Christology**THL 8200-001***Prerequisite: Foundation Systematics [THL 8000]***Dr. Ilia Delio, OSF****Wednesday 7:00 – 9:20 pm**

This course builds on the basic principles of Christology to better understand the significance of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. Beginning with Scripture we will study the layers of Christology that developed in the early Church and consolidated in the Middle Ages, from experience to ontology to cosmic Christology. We will then examine shifts in Christology in the modern period and the challenges to Christology brought about by science, technology and postmodernity in the twentieth century. Questions such as, how do we understand Jesus Christ today in the face of religious pluralism? What significance does the incarnation hold for us in an expanding, unfinished universe? How is artificial intelligence impacting the significance of Jesus Christ, as technology aims for a posthuman future? What is the relationship between Christ and extraterrestrial life? These and other questions on second axial consciousness, secularization and planetization will be discussed. Students will be asked to read and to think critically “outside the box” and to provide new reasons for the hope that lies within them.

Racism and the Catholic Church**THL 8390-001***Prerequisite: Foundation Ethics [THL 8004]***Dr. Kathleen Grimes****Thursday 7:00–9:20 pm**

Although the Catholic Church understands itself as the Body of Christ, the lived history of the church in the United States shows that the church has not been able to bring blacks and whites together as members of one body. But even as the church has participated in white supremacy, it has also been mobilized as an instrument of resistance to it. In addition to analyzing why and how the church surrendered to white supremacy, this course also looks to the example of African-American Catholics who have engaged in theology as a way to unmask, expose, and endure the evils of white supremacy. Uniquely capable of grasping the truth of the Gospel, black theology makes a vital theological contribution to the global church. Inspired by their example, this course seeks to empower you to supply solutions to the theological problem of white supremacy.

**Medieval Theology and the Question
of Christian Culture****THL 8420-001***Prerequisite: Foundation History [THL 8002]***Dr. Kevin Hughes****Thursday 11:30–1:50 pm**

“Two loves,” said Saint Augustine, “built two cities.” The “earthly city,” devoted to temporal goods, was embodied in the Roman Empire; the “heavenly city on pilgrimage” in this

life, in the Church. The Middle Ages, at least in theological terms, begins after Constantine, when Christianity transformed from a persecuted dissident sect to the imperial cult, when the “pilgrim city” of the Church and the “earthly city” of Rome were joined. From that point until at least the Reformation of the 16th century, every dimension of Christian faith and life was touched by this profound but troubled union. On the one hand, the medieval culture of “Christendom” generated the beauty of the Gothic cathedral, the spiritual and theological fecundity that gave us Anselm of Canterbury, Hildegard of Bingen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Dante Alighieri, and Catherine of Siena. At the same time, this same culture of “Christendom” went on Crusade in the East and in the south of France and burned Marguerite Porete as a heretic. This course will focus our attention on this meeting place of faith and culture. We will focus our attention on several iconic exemplars in medieval theology and spirituality, rooted deeply in the historical and cultural context haunted by the question of “Christendom.” Readings will also include classic and contemporary secondary sources that reflect critically on medieval Christianity and culture.

Early Modern Christianity
THL 8440-001

Dr. Brett Grainger
Tuesday 11:30 – 1:50 pm

Prerequisite: Foundation History [THL 8002]

This seminar offers a survey of the major thinkers, movements, themes, and controversies in the historical development of Western Christianity from the Age of Reformations to the dawn of the Enlightenment. Once described in terms of a Protestant “Reformation” of doctrine and practice and a Catholic “Counter-Reformation,” the early modern period is now appreciated by scholars as a period of radical innovation and development within both Catholic and Protestant branches of the church. In particular, the explosion of new forms of religious life (new orders in the case of Catholicism, new lay-driven devotional movements on the part of Protestants), spurred debates over issues ranging from the sacramental potential of matter, the interpretation of scripture, the call to evangelize or spread the gospel through overseas missions, and the proper ordering of church structure to conceptions of human and the divine nature, the relation between faith and reason, and the means of salvation. The course will terminate at the eve of the Revolutionary Age, assessing the complex interplay of Enlightenment rationality and enthusiastic “heart religion,” attending to the complex legacies engendered by both for post-revolutionary Christian life.

Conversion / Transformation
THL 8510-001

Dr. Christiane Lang Hearlson
Thursday 2:00 – 4:20 pm

Prerequisite: Foundation Spirituality [THL 8003]

In the New Testament, Jesus calls people to *metanoia*, which is translated “repentance” or “conversion,” and he tells Nicodemus that he must be “born again.” The Apostle Paul experiences a profound conversion on the road to Damascus, later writing, “Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds.” In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls for the “ecological conversion” of the world, while Protestant theologian Katherine Turpin urges deconversion from the religion of consumerism. Christian tradition has developed manifold theologies of conversion and transformation, as well as complex apparatuses and spiritual procedures for initiating and sustaining transformation. Today, theological explorations of conversion and transformation draw on the disciplines of psychology and sociology, while religious studies scholars describe varieties of conversion processes across cultures and religions.

This course will explore the theme of conversion and transformation in Christian spirituality, exploring three core questions: 1) How can we describe conversion or transformation as both a human experience and divine act? 2) What are the dimensions, processes, and contexts of conversion and transformation? 3) How shall we understand human responsibility for others' conversion and transformation? That is, what are the practical and ethical constraints on our efforts to instigate and support conversion, and what might it look like, practically speaking, to spark or support others' journeys of transformation, while respecting their freedom? The course will involve a practice component; individuals will choose a spiritual discipline for themselves to practice over the course of the semester.

Incarnational Pedagogies
THL 8710-001

Dr. Christiane Lang Hearlson
Thursday 9:00 – 11:20 am

This course will explore religious education as a multifaceted enterprise that forms body, mind, emotions, spirit, and community. Prompted by the theological theme of Incarnation, the course will present pedagogy as a teaching-learning relationship that seeks to address whole, embodied persons in community. Key concepts will include Multiple Intelligences Theory, experiential learning, situated and embodied cognition, transformative learning, Multiliteracies, and holistic pedagogy. The course will also address the challenges and opportunities of digital media and virtual reality.

Pastoral Counseling Skills
THL 8803-001

Fr. James Paradis, OSA
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:20 am

Seminar introducing the basics of effective and ethically responsible pastoral care and counseling skills.

Ministry Practicum 3
THL 8883-001

Dr. Joseph Calderone, OSA
individually arranged

Ministry practicum (10 hours/week) approved by instructor.