

Graduate Courses for the fall 2009 (04/0809)

405-001 Formation of Pentateuch Thurs 4:15-6:45 Dr. Robert Di Vito (Bible)

In this course students will explore the composition, thematic development, and theologies of the first five books of the Bible--the Torah, or Pentateuch. Together these books comprise the most revered part of the Hebrew Bible, the foundational story of the Christian Old Testament. After reviewing the traditional documentary hypothesis and recent challenges to it, the course will proceed to a close reading and literary-critical analysis of the Pentateuch and its dominant theological themes.

Two goals inform the approach taken in class. These are: (1) to develop a habit of close and precise reading, such that one can grasp in its main lines the original message of the Pentateuch and the impact it had; and (2) to encourage class members to articulate in a contemporary idiom what the scriptures have to "say" to us today and what theological questions are raised for us by the text. To achieve these goals, throughout the course emphasis will be on developing basic exegetical skills and learning what is involved in a critical reading of the text. In addition, part of every class will be dedicated to an explicit consideration of the material's theological significance.

426-001 Johannine Literature TTR 1:00-2:15 Dr. Urban C. Von Wahlde (Bible) **SECTION CANCELLED**

REPLACEMENT:

420-001 Seminar: Parables and Wisdom Sayings of Jesus TTR 1:00-2:15

Dr. Wendy Cotter, csj (Bible)

This course examines a selection of parables and wisdom sayings from the Synoptic Tradition, against the backdrop of the socio-religio-political reality of the world of Jesus. Some of the main topics to be addressed will be: the character of a parable and its various types, and the function of the parable; the location of Jesus' parables in the synoptic gospels, and the methods of interpreting them, on their own and in the context provided by the evangelists. Thus, the course will probe the social situation presumed by the parables and sayings assigned to Jesus, while the signs of subsequent interpretational additions will help reveal how they were to assist the Synoptic evangelists in their presentation of Christ and the demands of discipleship.

Integrative Seminar

435-001: Scripture, Tradition and the Theologian Tuesdays 4:15-6:45

Dr. Robert DiVito & Dr. John McCarthy (Bible, TS, CT, CE)

This course is a scholarly conversation between the fields of Biblical Studies (NT/EC), Ethics, and Constructive Theology. The conversation is hermeneutical in character, that is, it is a conversation whose goal is a critical self-understanding of what each of us has already chosen to do, namely some aspect of theological study which must recognize the role of biblical texts. The conversation will be carried out by means of our corporate engagement with works which explicitly raise the issues of what

it means to understand texts and traditions, especially those influenced by the Bible. The initial part of the course will focus on selected contemporary issues in biblical interpretation, with special attention to the 'ethics of interpretation;' the second part of the course will focus on important historical moments and texts in the history of western biblical interpretation; and the third part of the course will take up selected contemporary authors and topics, including S. Fowl, A.K. Adams, & D. Tracy. The course as a whole will be guided by the project of 'thinking biblically,' an approach to biblical hermeneutics suggested by the work of Paul Ricoeur and Andre LaCocque, and one which is particularly well suited to an interdisciplinary course such as ours. Likewise the course will place special emphasis on the book of Genesis and instances of its interpretation in western thought. That in turn will lead to an engagement throughout the course with the project currently underway by the two instructors on the relationship of interpretation and ethics. At the heart of their project is a reflection on the ethics of interpreting Genesis 22, the Binding/Sacrifice of Isaac and the whole issue of religiously sanctioned violence.

460-001 Seminar: The History of Christian Theology: Ancient to Medieval.

Monday 4:15-6:45 Dr. Andrew Radde-Gallwitz (TS & CT)

This graduate-level survey course provides an introduction to major developments in Christian thought from its origins through the rise of university theology in the Middle Ages. Of principal interest are (1) the doctrinal formulations which developed in this period and still—at least officially—regulate Christian speech about God, Christ, and the Spirit, (2) seminal works, by such authors as Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, which remain foundational to Christian theology, and (3) definitions of Christian identity in late antiquity and the Middle Ages—including the related question of how being Christian related to other identity markers like profession, family, gender, and so forth. We will examine these themes and figures within their original historical context and ask about their ongoing relevance for Christian reflection today. Reading assignments will focus on primary source material in English translation, though secondary sources will guide our reading of the ancient and medieval literature. Students should consult with Dr. Radde-Gallwitz before the semester for the syllabus, as this includes reading assignments to be completed before the first class session.

The following books will be available for purchase and, where possible, placed on reserve:

1. *Origen: On First Principles*, trans. by G. W. Butterworth (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1973). ISBN: 0844626856.
2. *Eusebius: The History of the Church*, trans. by G. A. Williamson, rev. by Andrew Louth (Penguin). 0140445358.
3. Edward R. Hardy, ed. *Christology of the Later Fathers*. Library of Christian Classics. (Westminster). 0664241522.
4. Patricia Cox Miller, ed. *Women in Early Christianity: Translations from Greek Texts* (CUA Press). 0813214173.
5. *Augustine: Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford). 0192833723.
6. *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*, trans. Colm Luibheid (Classics of Western Spirituality). 0809128381.
7. *Catherine of Siena: The Dialogue*, trans. by Suzanne Noffke, O.P. (Classics of Western Spirituality). 0809122332.
8. Larry Hurtado, *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity* (Eerdmans). 0802831672.

9. Lewis Ayres, *Nicaea and its Legacy: An Approach to Fourth-Century Trinitarian Theology* (Oxford). ISBN: 0198755058.
10. John McGuckin, *Cyril of Alexandria and the Christological Controversy* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press). 0881412597.

477-001 Feminist Issues in Theology: Ethics Mon 7:00-9:30 Dr. Aana Vigen (CE)
SECTION CANCELLED

REPLACEMENT:

Theo 478: Issues in Medical Ethics Mon 7:00-9:30 Dr. Aana Vigen (CE)

This graduate seminar explores differing approaches to medical ethics along with a series of pressing topics in the realms of medicine, healthcare, and bioethics. Throughout, various religious and theo-ethical insights will be discussed with a view to articulating the appropriate and constructive role theology and theological ethics may play in the theorizing and doing of medical ethics. In sum, the course addresses a range of methods of moral inquiry, topics in medical ethics, and theo-ethical positions taken with respect to these topics. The aim throughout is a rich and respectful dialogue among varied perspectives in both Catholic and Protestant thought so that participants may discern the strengths and weaknesses inherent in any moral stance and/or method.

523-001 Seminar: The Figure of John the Baptist, Between History and Faith.
Wed. 10:25 – 1:25 Prof Edmondo Lupieri (Biblical Greek required) (Bible)

If there is any historical basis for the claim that some of the disciples of John the Baptist joined the group lead by Jesus of Nazareth, we must assume that there were points of contact between the teachings of the two Palestinian prophets, both executed in the first half of the First Century CE. But, if Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, did he have any need to be baptized by just a man? This seminar course will accompany the students in the cultural labyrinth of First Century Palestinian Judaism as well as through the literary reactions to an “unbalanced relationship” which became embarrassing for some early Christian theologians.

530-001 Seminar: Theological Anthropology Fri 10:25-1:25 Dr. Susan Ross (CT)

This seminar course will engage both classic and contemporary sources in their understandings of the human person. For the first part of the course, we will read selections from the patristic period, most likely including Irenaeus, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Hume, and Kant. Then we will turn to some modern and contemporary readings on the person, including Rahner, Charles Taylor, Judith Butler, and some recent texts in theological anthropology. Topics will include the person as *imago dei*, conceptions of sin and grace, sexuality, relationship, and the social context of personhood.

575-001 Religious Ethics & Social Theory Mon 10:25-1:25 Dr. Michael Schuck (CE)
Course Topic and Objectives

Students in this course probe the relationship between religious ethics and social theory in three steps. Students first explore the major forms of ancient and medieval social-ethical imagination (Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas) that shaped early modern social theory ((Hobbes, Smith,

Rousseau, Hegel). Students then familiarize themselves with the central claims of the 'foundational' modern social theorists Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman by reading excerpts from several of their key works. In the final step, students 'move ahead' of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim by investigating three contemporary projects linking religion, ethics, and social theory. The first project is Margaret Kamitsuka's 2007 work, *Feminist Theology and the Culture of Difference*. The second project is Philip Mellor's 2004 book, *Religion, Realism, and Social Theory*. The last work is Mark Juergensmeyer's 2005 collection of essays in *Religion in Global Civil Society*.

Each class session moves from an opening instructor lecture to a student-initiated discussion. Homework assignments are given for each class session and students are required to write a 20-25 page research paper.

Course Texts

In addition to a readings packet (to be purchased from the instructor) containing excerpts from several of the course authors, students should purchase the following books (available at Beck's).

Aristotle *The Politics*

Thomas Aquinas *St. Thomas Aquinas on Politics and Ethics* Paul Sigmund, trans. and ed. (W.W. Norton, 1987)

Mark Juergensmeyer, ed. *Religion in Global Civil Society* (Oxford University Press, 2005)

Ian McIntosh, ed. *Classical Sociological Theory: A Reader* (New York University Press, 1997)

Plato *The Republic*

600 Dissertation Supervision

Students who have filed the dissertation paperwork and are currently writing, should be enrolled in this course. You must be enrolled in some course every semester.

605 Master's Study

Students who have completed their Master's level course work and are preparing for the comprehensive exams should enroll in this course, unless they plan to take the exam while taking courses. You must be enrolled in some course every semester.

610 Doctoral Study

Students who have completed their doctoral level course work and are studying for the written and oral comprehensive exams should be enrolled in this course. You must be enrolled in some course every semester.