THEO 266: Church and Global Cultures  
*Inclusion and Belonging*  
Summer 2023  
Mon. and Wed., 2:00 PM – 5:20 PM  
Location: TBA  
Dr. Luca Badetti  
Email: lbadetti@luc.edu  
Office Hours: Thur., 5:30-6:30 PM by appointment

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to ways in which the Christian churches, and primarily the Roman Catholic Church, understand and enact their identity in relation to the secular world of culture, economics, and politics, both nationally and globally.

This course will explore themes of inclusion and belonging, with a focus on church engagement with disability culture. The course addresses the following:

- A theological analysis of the nature of the Church and its relationship to the world, with a particular focus on its approach towards the oppressed and marginalized.
- An interdisciplinary exploration of the concepts of multiculturalism, inclusion and belonging. This interdisciplinary contextualization can better inform our theological inquiry and ground it in social and cultural needs.
- An exploration of disability culture and the church’s engagement with it.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- Analyze and interpret contrasting Christian understandings of the notion of original sin.
- Demonstrate knowledge, with attention to historical development, of the central texts, beliefs, ethical understandings, and practices of at least one religious tradition.
- Critically reflect on different cultural realities and the Church’s engagement with them.
- Learn about and reflect on disability culture, the church’s engagement with it and the values of encounter and transformation.

**Course Material**

Assigned readings and other assigned material shall be posted and/or linked on the course’s Sakai page.

**Attendance Policy**

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student. Any lateness or leaving class early will impact the final course grade.

Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Absence due to sickness or injury needs to be corroborated by a doctor’s note. Students late to class twice will be credited with one absence in accordance with the JFRC’s Attendance policy. Three (3) absences will result in an automatic failure, “F”. Travel does not constitute reason to miss class.
Assessment Components

- Participation: 30%
- Self-assessment Quiz: 20%
- In-class presentations: 30%
- Final exam: 20%

This course does not include extra credit options.

Please find below more on the assessment components:

- Participation is demonstrated by good class attendance and active class participation.
- The self-assessment quiz is meant to help students self-assess their knowledge of the first part of the course as well as familiarity with how/where to locate information. The quiz focuses on models of the Church, Catholic social teaching, and multiculturalism-related themes.
- The final exam is the course’s final overall assessment.
- The in-class presentation is meant to focus on specific assigned reading content.

Further details on the quiz, the final exam, and the presentations will be shared with the class.

As part of the course, you are invited to keep a learning journal (not graded) in which you can process course material by asking yourself, each week, what are the main things you learned that week and what you’d like to learn more about.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100: A</td>
<td>74-76: C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93: A-</td>
<td>70-73: C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89: B+</td>
<td>67-69: D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86: B</td>
<td>60-66: D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83: B-</td>
<td>59 or lower: F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79: C+</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Academic Honesty

You are expected to respect copyright and intellectual property rights.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Remember to cite any sources that you use in your work. You can find info on citation styles here: [https://libguides.luc.edu/citing](https://libguides.luc.edu/citing)

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.
**Course Schedule**

**Session 1 (5/22): Models of the Church**

**Session 2 (5/24): Tenants of Catholic Social Teaching**

**Session 3 (5/29): Church engagement with the world**
- Reginald, A. (2017) The Catholic Church’s perspective of human dignity as the basis of dialogue with the secular world.

**Session 4 (5/31): Cultural Identity, Diversity and Multiculturalism**
- **Self-assessment quiz during class**

**Session 5 (6/5): Inclusion, Belonging and Reconciliation**
- Francis (7 April 2013) Homily of Pope Francis.

**Session 6 (6/7): An Introduction to Cultural Studies + Disability Culture(s)**

**Session 7 (6/12): Community and Self-Determination**

**Session 8 (6/14): Disability and the Church: Theological Reflection and Practice (part 1)**
- Swinton, J. (2020). Disability, vocation, and prophetic witness.

Session 9 (6/19): Disability and the Church: Theological Reflection and Practice (part 2) +
In-class presentations
  
  **In-class presentations** based on assigned chapter of: Yong, A. (2007). Theology and Down syndrome: reimagining disability in late modernity.

Session 10 (6/21): Future pathways
- **Final exam** during class

The course syllabus is subject to change and changes will be announced accordingly to the class.