Spring 2027 Graduate Courses

Intermediate Hebrew
THEO 407-001/3xx
Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld
MWF 10:25–11:15am (TBC)

For students who have at least one semester in Hebrew, this course will read and interpret the Hebrew Bible, analyzing biblical Hebrew grammar, vocabulary, and syntax. We will read a selection from different parts of the Hebrew Bible based on the interests of the students.

Prophetic Literature
THEO 418-001/314-001
Dr. Tom Wetzel
Tues 4:15–6:45 pm

In contrast to the Christian organization of the Bible, the Jewish tradition acknowledges a much larger part of the Hebrew Bible as prophetic texts. This tradition rests on a broader understanding of the nature of prophetic writing, one that also acknowledges that the biblical texts argue among themselves about the terminology and identification of authentic prophets and prophetic work. We will begin this semester by working back through the layers of the biblical tradition to uncover a definition of prophecy that transcends and frequently contradicts contemporary views of prophecy and centers the prophetic word in the call for divine mercy. Working from this foundation, we will read a variety of biblical examples of prophecy to understand what it might mean today to view the prophetic tradition as first and foremost one of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Seminar in the History of Theology: Christian Thought Reformation–Modern
THEO 460-001/318-001
Dr. Colby Dickinson
Thurs 4:15–6:45pm

This course is a historical-theological survey of major Christian thinkers and theologies throughout Reformation, modern and contemporary periods. The aim of the course is to enable students to become conversant with particular trajectories of Christian thought during these eras. This course will be focused on a diversity of spiritual authors who engaged with tensions between faith and reason, predestination and free will, the existence of God and how faith challenges ecclesial structures. We will pay attention to major theological issues and themes as they have presented themselves within particular historical contexts and as they appear in the primary texts we will be studying. The course will be taught in a seminar format, allowing students to contribute insights each class on the readings.

Course texts

John of the Cross, *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2010, ISBN 978-1557257789

Blaise Pascal, *Pensées and Other Writings*, trans. Honor Levi, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995, ISBN 978-0199540365

François Fénelon, *The Complete Fénelon*, ed. and trans. Robert J. Edmonson and Hal M. Helms, Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2008, ISBN 978-1557256072

Simone Weil, *Gravity and Grace*, trans. Arthur Wills, Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1997, ISBN 978-0803298002

Padre Pio, *Secrets of a Soul: Padre Pio's Letters to His Spiritual Directors*, ed. Gianluigi Pasquale, trans. Elvira G. DiFabio, Boston, MA: Pauline Books & Media, 2003.

Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, New York: New Directions, 2006, ISBN 978-0811217248

Mother Teresa, *Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta"*, ed. Brian Kolodiejchuk, New York: Image Doubleday, 2007, ISBN 978-0307589231

Seminar in Christian Ethics: Evil, Sin, & Suffering
THEO 480-001/393-01W
Dr. Tisha Rajendra
Tu–Th 1:00–2:15 pm

[No description received.]

Early Christian Letters: Paul
THEO 517-001
Dr. Brian Yong Lee
Wed 4:15-6:45 pm

This seminar examines Paul's letters within their ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts, engaging major debates in contemporary Pauline scholarship concerning the relationships between Pauline Christianity and Judaism and between Pauline soteriology and Greco-Roman philosophy. Particular attention is given to Paul's relationship to ancient philosophy and Jewish apocalyptic thought, his understanding of virtue, justice, and moral transformation, and the formation of early Christian communities. Students will explore the socio-economic and cultural realities of early Christian communities, the theological, ethical, and political dimensions of Paul's thought, and their implications for contemporary biblical interpretation, systematic theology, and theological ethics. This course is designed for doctoral students in all three tracks of the Theology PhD as well as MA and MDIV students.

Seminar: Theological Anthropology
THEO 530-001
Dr. Miguel Díaz

Tues 7:00-9:30 pm

What does it mean to be human? What do Christianity and other religious traditions contribute to this conversation? Theological Anthropology explores understandings of the human person considering Scripture, theological traditions, and contemporary thought. Students will engage key theological themes, including the experience and language of grace, human dignity, freedom, fundamental human rights, embodiment, relationality, and the human person's relationship with God, others, and all of creation. As is the case with the study of any theological doctrine, students will explore these themes from distinct historical contexts and human experiences, engaging various philosophical and other theoretical interlocutors. The course will underscore Christian and liberative theological constructions that address oppression, human othering, and marginalization related to gender, sexuality, race, culture, physical ability and socio-economic contexts.

Directed Readings and Research: Decolonial Ethics and Theology
THEO 590-001
Dr. Hille Haker
Wed 7:00-9:30 pm

In this course, we will explore the implications of decolonial studies for Christian Theology and Ethics. The work in this course will be in part historical, in part methodological, and in part explorative, asking the following questions, among others: Western Christianity spread with the Roman Empire, missioning and converting native people in Europe and Africa. In early modernity, Western empires colonized the Americas, legitimized in the intertwining of politics and religion. The documents of early modernity and modernity are reminders of the violence inflicted upon people and peoples in the name of God, but also of the solidarity with the suffering, the establishment of global education networks especially by Jesuits – , and the resistance and perseverance of oppressed people and peoples, often motivated by the liberationist and liberating narrative of Christianity.

From a theological and ethical perspective, the assessment of the recent literature of decolonial theology and ethics as well as the concept of coloniality are important to develop a critical and constructive stance within Christian Theology and Ethics. In the course, we will therefore ask hard questions: What is the Christian historical contribution – and critique – of colonialism? How does the concept of dominion shape Christian theological concepts, and how has it changed over the centuries? How is it related to the rise of modern capitalism? In what way does coloniality – as habitus or disposition – pervade Christian morality and ethics? What role does the theological concepts of nature and creation play? Is decolonial Christian theology and decolonial Christian Ethics an indispensable approach for the 21st century?

Exemplary Literature:

Encyclicals of the Catholic Church (selection)

Drexler-Dreis, Joseph. 2019. *Decolonial Love: Salvation in Colonial Modernity*. New York: Fordham University Press.; Jennings, Willie James. 2010. *The Christian Imagination: Theology*

and the Origins of Race: Yale University Press.; Lugones, Maria, Miñoso, Yuderkys Espinosa, Maldonado-Torres, Nelson. 2022. *Decolonial Feminism in Abya Yala Caribbean, Meso, and South American Contributions and Challenges*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. ; Mbembe, Achille. 2019. *Necropolitics*, Edited by S. Corcoran. Durham: Duke University Press.; Mignolo, Walter, Walsh, Catherine E. 2018. *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis*. Durham: Duke University Press; Rieger, Joerg. 2007. *Christ and Empire: From Paul to Postcolonial Times*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press; Vitoria, Francisco de. 1991. *Political Writings*, Edited by A. Pagden, Lawrance, Jeremy. Cambridge, Uk, NY: Cambridge University Press.

***

Literature for the Course (to be edited and/or complemented)

Allen, Amy and Eduardo Mendieta. 2021. Decolonizing Ethics: The Critical Theory of Enrique Dussel. University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

Coulthard, Glen Sean. 2014. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.

Dagenais, John. 2000. "Decolonizing the Middle Ages: Introduction." *The Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 30(3):431-48. doi: 10.1215/10829636-30-3-431.

Drexler-Dreis, Joseph. 2019. *Decolonial Love: Salvation in Colonial Modernity*. New York: Fordham University Press.

Francis. 2023. "Apostolic Exhortation “Laudate Deum” of the Holy Father Francis to All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis." Vol. 9781639662265. Rome: Vatican.

Francis, Pope. 2015. *Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” on the Care for Our Common Home*. Vatican.

Habel, Norman. 2022. *De-Colonising the Biblical Narrative, Volume 1: Genesis 1-11*. Brompton, SA Australia: ATF Press.

Harrison, Peter. 1999. "Having Dominion: Genesis and the Mastery of Nature. Revised Version of Peter Harrison (1999). Subduing the Earth: Genesis 1, Early Modern Science, and the Exploitation of Nature. The Journal of Religion 79: 86-109.". *The Journal of Religion* 79:86-109 (manuscript).

Isasi Diaz, Ada Maria, Mendieta, Eduardo, ed. 2011. *Decolonizing Epistemologies:Latina/O Theology and Philosophy: Latina/O Theology and Philosophy*. US.

Jennings, Willie James. 2010. *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*: Yale University Press.

Lampert-Weissig, Lisa. 2010. *Medieval Literature and Postcolonial Studies*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Lugones, Maria, Miñoso, Yuderkys Espinosa, Maldonado-Torres, Nelson. 2022. ″Decolonial Feminism in Abya Yala Caribbean, Meso, and South American Contributions and Challenges." Blue Ridge Summit: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Retrieved. (https://public.ebookcentral.proquest.com/choice/PublicFullRecord.aspx?p=7081364).

Maldonado-Torres, Nelson. 2011. "Enrique Dussel's Liberation Thought in the Decolonial Turn." *Transmodernity: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World* 1(1).
Mbembe, Achille. 2019. *Necropolitics*, Edited by S. Corcoran. Durham: Duke University Press.
Mignolo, Walter, Walsh, Catherine E. 2018. *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis*. Durham: Duke University Press.
Miller, Robert J. 2010. *Discovering Indigenous Lands: The Doctrine of Discovery in the English Colonies*. Oxford: OUP Oxford.
Mills, Charles W. 2017. *Black Rights/White Wrongs: The Critique of Racial Liberalism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
Rieger, Joerg. 2007. *Christ and Empire: From Paul to Postcolonial Times*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
Vitoria, Francisco de. 1991. *Political Writings*, Edited by A. Pagden, Lawrance, Jeremy. Cambridge, Uk, NY: Cambridge University Press.
Yeo, K.K., Green, Gene L., Brueggemann, Walter. 2020. *Theologies of Land: Contested Land, Spatial Justice, and Identity*: Wipf and Stock Publishers.