

Theological Studies

Faculty

Chairperson: Jeffrey S. Siker

Professors: Wilkie Au, Douglas Burton-Christie, Christopher Key Chapple, John A. Coleman, S.J. (Casassa Chair), John R. Connolly, James L. Fredericks, Michael P. Horan, Robert B. Lawton, S.J., Thomas P. Rausch, S.J. (Chilton Chair), Jeffrey S. Siker, Daniel L. Smith-Christopher

Associate Professors: Amir Hussain, John R. Popiden

Assistant Professors: Anna Harrison, Kristin Heyer, Michael Lee, S.J., Dorian Llywelyn, S.J., Charlotte C. Radler, David Sanchez, Steven J. Sauer, S.J., Tracy Sayuki Tiemeier

Objectives

The Department of Theological Studies is committed to the encouragement of learning within the intellectual and cultural heritage of the Catholic tradition, valuing imagination and intellect, seeking an integration of knowledge, and promoting ecumenical and inter-religious discourse. We seek to educate the whole person and to serve faith by an academic exploration of its possibilities, challenges, and ambiguities in dialogue with the contemporary world. We strive to promote justice by the structure of our curriculum and by encouraging students and faculty to engage their theological understanding in a broken world.

Theological Studies Student Learning Outcomes

By virtue of their Theological Studies courses, students should know:

- The nature of religion and religious experience
- The beliefs and practices of Christianity, with emphasis on the Catholic Tradition
- The central contours of the Bible, Church History, Systematic Theology, Theological Ethics, and Comparative Theology
- How culture, race, gender, class, and ethnicity impact theological reflection
- The social implications of religious beliefs and practices;

By virtue of their Theological Studies courses, students should be able to:

- Conduct critical research and write intelligently and persuasively on theological and religious issues
- Critically interpret theological or religious texts
- Articulate the significance of theological and religious values for church, society, and culture;

By virtue of their Theological Studies courses, students should value:

- The Catholic theological tradition
- The beliefs and practices of the religions of the world
- Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and cooperation
- The development of a spiritual life
- Living responsibly within a culturally diverse world
- Action in the promotion of justice and service of faith.

Major Requirements

The undergraduate major consists of 36 semester hours total (12 courses).

Lower Division Requirements (15 semester hours):

THST 100: Introduction to the Old Testament (3 semester hours)
 THST 110: Introduction to the New Testament (3 semester hours)
 (Normally, THST 100 and 110 are taken at the beginning of the program of study.)

Upper Division Requirements (30 semester hours):

Required Upper Division Courses (9 semester hours)

THST 320: History of Christianity I (3 semester hours)
 THST 321: History of Christianity II (3 semester hours)
 (Students are encouraged to take this sequence in their Sophomore or Junior year.)
 THST 496: Senior Integrating Seminar (3 semester hours) (for graduating seniors)

Distribution Requirements (18 semester hours, at least 12 of which must be 400-level)

Area A: Sacred Scriptures, Religious Sources, and Traditions—two courses (6 semester hours)
 Area B: Theology, Ethics, and Spirituality—three courses (9 semester hours)
 Area C: Faith, Culture, and Ministry—one course (3 semester hours)

One additional upper division THST course of the student's choice (3 semester hours)

An average grade of C (2.0) must be obtained in the courses included in the major.

We highly recommend that students wishing to pursue graduate study in Theology have a reading knowledge of two languages, either classical or modern.

We further recommend that additional philosophy courses be taken as early as possible. The specific courses are to be determined in conjunction with the student's Theological Studies advisor.

Theology Minor Requirements

18 semester hours with at least 12 semester hours from upper division courses, including six semester hours at the 400 level. The courses for the minor must be selected in conjunction with the Theological Studies advisor for minors.

Lay Ministry Minor Requirements

18 semester hours with at least 15 semester hours from upper division courses, including six semester hours at the 400 level. The courses for the minor must be selected under the direction of the faculty advisor for the Lay Ministry Minor. The student must select no more than two courses from each of areas A, B, and C (see above).

In addition, the student will be required to participate in 90 hours of active service in related fields of lay ministry. This will be under the direction of the faculty advisor and contracted through the Career Development office.

An average grade of C (2.0) must be obtained in the courses included in the minors.

Catholic Studies Minor

Students with particular interest in Catholic Studies are encouraged to consider the Catholic Studies Minor described in this Bulletin.

Theology Society

The Theology Society is a co-curricular student group open to all Theological Studies undergraduate majors and minors, as well as non-majors/minors who are interested in theological issues and topics. The group convenes monthly, typically sharing lunch and discussion, often with a guest speaker. The group also organizes various outings as opportunities for students to socialize with one another and with Theological Studies faculty. The Theology Society hosts annual visits from admissions representatives from graduate theological programs around the country for interested students. The Theology Society's members also

participate in an annual paper competition sponsored by the Department of Theological Studies, in which the winning paper is presented to faculty and students each Spring.

Core Curriculum in Theological Studies

One course from THST 100-199;

One course from THST 300-399 (Prerequisite: Junior standing).

Only courses in the 100 series and 300 series will fulfill the core curriculum requirements. All 400-level courses have a prerequisite of one 300-level course. The 400-level courses fulfill major or minor requirements. Except for those entering LMU as a transfer student, no student may take a 300-level course without successful prior completion of a 100-level course.

For students interested in the study of Catholicism in the core curriculum, the Theological Studies Department offers three courses, THST 120, 326, and 345, which are designed to study the Catholic tradition. For the non-majors who wish a core sequence in Catholic Theology, we recommend THST 120 and either 326 or 345.

Theological Studies Model Four-Year Plan

The normal course load is 15 semester hours (5 classes). By following the model below, a student will complete all lower division core requirements by the end of the sophomore year as well as most major prerequisites. Note that core areas are suggested to provide a distribution of various disciplines every semester. Please be flexible implementing these suggestions, given your own interests and course availability. In four years, this plan meets all common graduation requirements.

Freshman Year

<i>Fall Semester</i>		S.H.
THST	100 Intro. to the Old Testament.....	3
	or AMCS 100 Intro to American Cultures	3
	or AMCS 161 Young America, 1607-1900	(3)
ENGL	110 College Writing	3
	or HIST ___ University Core	3
	or PHIL 160 Phil. of Human Nature	(3)
	or MATH ___ University Core	3
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<i>Spring Semester</i>			S.H.	<i>Spring Semester</i>			S.H.	
	THST	110	Intro. to the New Testament	3	THST	___	THST 400-level	3
or	HIST	___	University Core	3	THST	___	THST 400-level	3
	PHIL	160	Phil. of Human Nature	(3)	THST	___	THST Upper Division.....	3
	___	___	Critical/Creative Arts Core	3	___	___	Upper Division Elective.....	3
	___	___	Literature Core.....	3	___	___	Elective.....	3
	___	___	Social Science Core	3				___
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Sophomore Year

<i>Fall Semester</i>			S.H.	<i>Fall Semester</i>			S.H.	
	THST	320	History of Christianity I	3	THST	___	THST 400-level	3
or	HIST	___	University Core	3	THST	___	THST 400-level	3
	PHIL	160	Phil. of Human Nature	(3)	___	___	Upper Division Elective.....	3
	___	___	Critical/Creative Arts Core	3	___	___	Upper Division Elective.....	3
	___	___	Social Science Core.....	3	___	___	Elective.....	3
	___	___	Elective.....	3				___
								15

<i>Spring Semester</i>			S.H.	<i>Spring Semester</i>			S.H.	
	THST	321	History of Christianity II	3	THST	496	Senior Integrating Seminar	3
	___	___	CMST/Crit Thinking Core.....	3	___	___	Upper Division Elective.....	3
	___	___	Science Core	3	___	___	Elective.....	3
	___	___	Elective.....	3	___	___	Elective.....	3
	___	___	Elective.....	3				___
								15

Students may take no more than **ten upper division** courses in any one department, except for Philosophy, in which the maximum is thirteen.

Junior Year

<i>Fall Semester</i>			S.H.	
	PHIL	___	Upper Division PHIL.....	3
	THST	___	THST 400-level	3
	THST	___	THST Upper Division.....	3
	___	___	Upper Division Elective.....	3
	___	___	Elective.....	3

				15

Lower Division

THST 100
Introduction to the Old Testament
3 Semester Hours

A general introduction to the literary, historical, and religious traditions of the Old Testament.

THST 109
Introduction to Scripture and Prayer
3 Semester Hours

For Jesuit Novices only.

THST 110**Introduction to the New Testament***3 Semester Hours*

An introduction to the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the New Testament.

THST 120**The Roots of Catholic Christianity***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the Biblical roots of Catholic Christianity based on a critical introduction to the New Testament.

THST 122**Theological Foundations of Catholicism***3 Semester Hours*

An introduction to the theological roots of the Roman Catholic Tradition, with attention to the historical and theological development of the Catholic tradition in its cultural contexts.

Required for the Catholic Studies Minor.

THST 125**Introduction to Global Christianity***3 Semester Hours*

An introduction to the history of Christianity as a global movement, incorporating historical, theological, and social issues in Christianity from both non-western and western perspectives.

THST 130**Exploring Christian Faith***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the ways in which Christians think about God, Christ, themselves, their scriptures, and religious experiences.

THST 149**Introduction to Christian Spirituality***3 Semester Hours*

For Jesuit Novices only.

THST 150**Belief and Unbelief***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of the various forms of unbelief, the meaning and significance of belief, and the relationship between belief and unbelief.

THST 160**Introduction to Christian Ethics***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of ethical issues in light of Christian scriptures, traditions, and experiences.

THST 170**Christian Faith and American Cultures***3 Semester Hours*

This course explores Christian faith in the diverse cultural context of the contemporary United States.

THST 175**Narratives of Christian Faith***3 Semester Hours*

A study of Christian faith as explored through narratives: a gospel, some saints' lives, and the work of contemporary storytellers.

THST 180**Religions of the World***3 Semester Hours*

An introduction to the history, literature, and thought patterns of the major religions of the world.

THST 198**Special Studies***1-3 Semester Hours***THST 199****Independent Studies***1-3 Semester Hours***THST 241****Liturgy Practicum***1 Semester Hour*

Course objectives are to understand the dynamics of worship and to engage in critical reflection on the experience of liturgical leadership. Students serve in a variety of worship settings. Permission of instructor is required. Recommended co-requisite THST 341—Liturgy and Culture.

This service learning course may be repeated for credit.

THST 298**Special Studies***1-3 Semester Hours***THST 299****Independent Studies***1-3 Semester Hours*

Area A: Sacred Scriptures, Religious Sources, and Traditions

THST 301 Ancient Futures

3 Semester Hours

This course explores the corpus of Wisdom and Apocalyptic literatures in the Bible and samples of other extant Wisdom and Apocalyptic writings, both ancient and modern.

THST 302 Prophecy and Social Justice

3 Semester Hours

An examination of the Hebrew prophets in the socioeconomic and historical context, with particular emphasis on issues of justice. Some considerations of more recent "prophet" figures are included for comparison.

THST 304 War and Peace in the Bible

3 Semester Hours

This course considers the development of Biblical and religious reflection on the issues of the Church, war, peace, and Christian nonviolence up to the present.

THST 305 The Four Gospels

3 Semester Hours

A social-historical, literary, and theological examination of the Gospels and early Christian and modern interpretations of Jesus.

THST 310 The Gospel of John

3 Semester Hours

An analysis of the interplay among the historical setting, literary development, and theological motifs of the Fourth Gospel.

THST 311 Pauline Epistles

3 Semester Hours

A study of the ministry and message of Paul presented in his letters, accounts in Acts, and deuterio-Pauline epistles.

THST 314 Jesus in Gospel and Film

3 Semester Hours

An exploration of various portraits of Jesus in the Gospels, the identity of the historical Jesus, and contemporary interpretations of Jesus in various films.

THST 320 History of Christianity I

3 Semester Hours

Selected themes treating major problem areas in the history of Christian life and thought from its origins to the end of the high Middle Ages.

THST 321 History of Christianity II

3 Semester Hours

Selected themes treating major problem areas in the history of Christian life and thought from the end of the high Middle Ages to the present.

THST 322 Greek Orthodox Tradition

3 Semester Hours

A review of the unbroken dogmatic tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church, her liturgy, and her place in the religious life of the United States.

Sponsored by the Basil P. Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies.

THST 323 Celtic Christianity

3 Semester Hours

An examination of the inculturation of Christianity into the Celtic worldview from the fifth to eleventh centuries, including Celtic monasticism, liturgy, literature, art, and spirituality.

THST 324 Women in Christian History

3 Semester Hours

An historical investigation of Christian theology of women: what theologians said about women, what women said about themselves, and what they accomplished.

THST 326 Catholicism: The American Experience

3 Semester Hours

A study of the diverse experiences in U.S. Catholicism, with emphasis on the theological implications of American Catholic responses to a pluralistic society.

THST 328 Age of Reformation

3 Semester Hours

The religious, political, and cultural upheaval of the protestant challenge to medieval Christendom and Catholic response.

Usually taught in Bonn, Germany.

THST 415**New Testament Theology***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of various historical, literary, theological, and ethical issues in the interpretation of the New Testament, especially the Gospels and the Pauline epistles.

THST 420**Early Christianity***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the development of Christian theology from the Apostolic Fathers through the period of the Cappadocians to the era of Jerome and Augustine.

THST 425**Medieval Theology***3 Semester Hours*

Selected topics on medieval theology, such as the development of a specifically Christian culture, the tensions between religion and empire and between popular and institutional forms of religious expression, and monastic and scholastic theological methods.

THST 427**Theology and History of Vatican II***3 Semester Hours*

This course explores Roman Catholic theology by reading the major Conciliar documents and analyzing the social and historical context, with emphasis on ecumenism, historical understanding, and the recovery of the biblical tradition.

Area B: Theology, Ethics, and Spirituality**THST 330****What Is Faith in Jesus Christ***3 Semester Hours*

An analysis of past and present meanings of Christian faith in its relation to the person of Jesus Christ, the Church, doctrine, and Christian life.

THST 345**The Catholic Church of Today and Tomorrow***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of the post-Vatican II Catholic Church. How has the Church's self-understanding changed in recent years, and what projections can be made for the future?

THST 350**Foundations of Christian Spirituality***3 Semester Hours*

An analysis of themes central to Christian spirituality including prayer, the nature of religious experience, asceticism, and the schools of spirituality. Essential to the analysis is an articulation of key doctrinal themes.

THST 352**Orthodox Christian Spirituality***3 Semester Hours*

The history of the monastic life of the desert fathers and the spiritual tradition of Eastern Christianity will be examined and made relevant to the present-day world.

THST 355**After Eden***3 Semester Hours*

An exploration of the human person in relation to God.

THST 359**Theology of Religious Life***3 Semester Hours*

For Jesuit Novices only.

THST 360**Moral Issues and Christian Responses***3 Semester Hours*

An exploration of the issues involved in a variety of moral problems and a survey of present and past Christian responses to them.

THST 361**Christian Ethics in the Marketplace***3 Semester Hours*

An analysis and discussion of business ethics case studies in the light of Christian economic teachings.

THST 363**Christian Marriage and Sexuality***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of the varieties of Christian views of marriage and the full range of moral issues concerning human sexuality today.

THST 367**Christian Voices on War and Peace***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of Christian attitudes toward war and peace that address U.S. policies during the twentieth century and beyond.

THST 368**Bioethics and Christian Morality***3 Semester Hours*

A theological and ethical study of bioethical topics, e.g., euthanasia, assisted reproductive technologies, and human cloning, that confront contemporary society.

THST 381**Contemporary Judaism and Its Historical Background***3 Semester Hours*

An understanding of Jewish beliefs and practices, their Biblical and historical roots, their theological and cultural motivations.

Sponsored by the Jewish Chautauqua Society.

THST 382**Religions of India***3 Semester Hours*

An exploration of the cultural/historical background and theological insight of Hinduism and Jainism. Sikhism, Christianity, and Islam in India are also discussed.

THST 383**Religions of the Near East***3 Semester Hours*

An overview of the history, theology, and interactions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, both in their Middle Eastern and global contexts.

THST 384**Religions of East Asia***3 Semester Hours*

The history and development of Confucianism, Taoism, Tibetan and Zen Buddhism, and Shinto, emphasizing primary textual sources. Islam and Christianity in East Asia will also be discussed.

THST 385**Buddhism***3 Semester Hours*

A survey of the history of Buddhism in India and Southeast Asia, China, Japan, Tibet, and North America. Discussion of Buddhism's contributions to social ethics, ecological concern, and dialogue with Christianity.

THST 386**Islam***3 Semester Hours*

This course will introduce students to the religion of Islam. Key topics will be Muhammad and the Qur'an, Islamic religious practices, the Sunni-Shi'i split, Sufism, Islam in North America, and Christian-Muslim dialogue.

THST 430**Christology***3 Semester Hours*

An investigation of the Christology of the New Testament, the early councils, and contemporary issues in Christology.

THST 431**Rahner***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the life, context, and theology of Karl Rahner.

THST 450**Topics in Christian Spirituality***3 Semester Hours*

A survey of key persons and movements in the history of Western Christian spirituality.

THST 455**Theology of Liberation***3 Semester Hours*

A study of recent Latin American theology as a Christian response to current political, social, and economic injustice in Latin American countries.

THST 465**Moral Theology Today***3 Semester Hours*

A study of the developments and critical issues within Roman Catholic moral theology since 1940.

THST 470**Topics in Theological Ethics***3 Semester Hours*

An exploration of the history and methods of theological ethics with analysis of contemporary moral issues.

THST 480**Topics in Comparative Theology***3 Semester Hours*

Multiple religious perspectives will be utilized in this course to explore one or more topics of theological concern, such as violence and nonviolence, myth and symbol, modes of spirituality, images of God, and/or multicultural religious presence in Los Angeles.

THST 495**Seminar: Major Christian Thinker***3 Semester Hours*

An examination of the theological work of one major thinker, studying the work both as an integrated theological statement and as a part of continuing theological dialogue.

Area C: Faith, Culture, and Ministry

THST 307

Interpreting Jesus

3 Semester Hours

This course takes a close look at the conversation between the Jesus of the Gospels and contemporary embodiments of his Ministry. Community-based learning component required.

THST 331

Salvation and Liberation

3 Semester Hours

An examination of the theme of liberation in Scripture, church history, and the recent theologies, as well as its impact on our own lives.

THST 341

Liturgy and Culture

3 Semester Hours

A study of Christian worship examining the historical development of worship in its interaction with various cultures from ancient to modern.

THST 346

The Latino Experience in the U.S. Church

3 Semester Hours

A review of the Latino presence in the Catholic Church with emphasis on the historical experience, Latino popular religion, and current trends and issues in Hispanic ministry and theology.

THST 348

African American Religious Experience

3 Semester Hours

A survey of African American religious experience from the time of slavery to the present, emphasizing the role of faith in African American society and the role of the church in the struggle for equality.

THST 373

Catholic Social Teaching and Action

3 Semester Hours

This course examines Catholic social teaching thematically, focusing on such principles as human dignity, solidarity, the common good, and the option for the poor; contemporary activist groups are also studied as part of the living tradition of Catholic social teaching.

This course requires a weekly community service placement where the student will perform at least 20 hours of service during the semester.

THST 375

Service, Justice, and Ministry

3 Semester Hours

This course engages students in active reflection on Christian theology and practice. The course analyzes selected sources from the Christian theological tradition concerning the relationship among three phenomena: service, justice, and ministry. Weekly field placement in off-campus service activity is required for this course.

THST 435

Eucharistic Theology

3 Semester Hours

An in-depth study of the theology of the Eucharist from an ecumenical perspective, highlighting the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

THST 451

Ignatian Spirituality

3 Semester Hours

A study of the spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola based on a close reading of his Spiritual Exercises and contemporary writings on Ignatian themes.

THST 497

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

3 Semester Hours

The course examines the theory and practice of ministry to youth and young adults, emphasizing faith development, community building, justice and service education, advocacy, and guidance of youth and young adults.

Special Courses

THST 398

Special Studies

1-3 Semester Hours

THST 399

Independent Studies

1-3 Semester Hours

THST 496

Senior Integration Seminar

3 Semester Hours

The course stresses the integration of the various dimensions and methods of Theological Studies.

Prerequisites: Senior standing and Theological Studies majors and minors only.

THST 498

Special Studies

1-3 Semester Hours

THST 499

Independent Studies

1-3 Semester Hours
