

SEMESTER: SPRING 2023
COURSE TITLE: THST- H Bible/OT: Theo, Hist, Interp- 1000
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: 01
TIMES/DAYS: 06:00 - 07:40 PM/TR
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Peters
CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry
FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

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

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- The basic content of required Old Testament readings
- The historical circumstances of the communities addressed by Old Testament writers
- Major Old Testament theological themes
- Major Old Testament literary techniques
- The diversity of scholarly interpretations of the Old Testament
- The diversity of religious beliefs and practices in the Old Testament and its receiving communities
- Skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, academic research, and engaging in respectful dialogue

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Christine Hayes, *Introduction to the Bible*.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Readings, quizzes, essays, and a final.

SEMESTER: SPRING 2023

COURSE TITLE: The Meaning of God: Biblical Reflections

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1011.1 and THST 1011.2

TIMES/DAYS: M,W,F 8:00-9:05 (2) and 12:15-1:25 (1)

INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Dr. Scott Geminn, Ph.D

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Drawing on prominent biblical themes (creation, covenant, human sin, redemption, exile and return, prophetic witness, the Spirit/Wisdom of God, the mystery of a crucified messiah, etc.), this course traces the twists and turns of the biblical narratives as the basis for theological reflection on human existence in relation to the divine.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through successfully completing the course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- Who the God of the scriptures reveals God to be, how God relates to human beings and what God desires for us and for the world as communicated through these stories.
- The prominent themes found in the biblical narratives, though ancient, are still relevant to human life and experience today and enable us to connect to/reflect on the divine and transcendent.
- Themes such as neighborly love and social justice, concern for creation, and an ethic of living that is reliant upon divine graciousness.
- What it means to be human and created in God's image and what that looks like in praxis according to the biblical narrative.
- Important concepts and characters in the biblical narratives and their meaning for us today.
- Develop skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, and dialogue in response to readings, assignments, and exams.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Willingness to learn.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Will be available on Brightspace

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

TBD

SEMESTER: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1030-03 and THST 1030-04

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 1:45-3:25 pm and 3:40-5:20 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. William J. Shaules

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course is an introduction to the Roman Catholic theological tradition. The survey takes students back to the "roots" of Roman Catholic Tradition found in the New Testament, into the Patristic era and continuing into the Catholic response to the Reformation, the promulgation of the Vatican II documents and ending with present Catholic concerns for social justice. Students will study selected parts of biblical literature along with elements of its interpretive literature, art, music, and spirituality, all as expressions of faith within the Roman Catholic experience.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following through outside research and critical engagement of the materials presented:

1. The question of ultimate meaning within human existence as linked to human expressions of the Divine
2. Symbols used to express the Divine governed by particular ideologies which reveal culturally and historically embedded factors within the development of Catholic religious expressions
3. Various interpretive methodologies governed by disciplines both within and outside of Catholic Theology
4. Different expressions of the Divine seen through different religious perspectives within the biblical text brought into conversation with the Roman Catholic Tradition
5. Major themes embedded in the Hebrew and Christians scriptures that serve to articulate Roman Catholic Faith.
6. The meaning of "interpretive traditioning" for the Roman Catholic experience.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None

REQUIRED TEXTS

Eire, Carlos, *The Life of St. Teresa of Avila: A Biography*, ISBN 978-0-691-17492-9.

Cunningham, Lawrence, *Introduction to Catholicism* ISBN 978-0-511-50140-1.

Stanglin, Keith. *The Letter and Spirit of Biblical Interpretation: From the Early Church to Modern Practice*, ISBN 979-1-4934-1430-7.

NRSV or NAB Bible and readings posted to Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance of all class sessions
2. Participation in class discussions
3. Completion of shorter assignments on assigned dates
4. Research project
5. Completion of a final exam

SEMESTER: Fall 2023

COURSE TITLE: Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1030.01/02 CATH 1030.01/02

TIMES/DAYS: MWF 8:00 – 9:10 am & 9.25 – 10:35 am

INSTRUCTOR: Fr Mark Aloysius SJ, DPhil

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

The goal of this course is to explore the beliefs (creed), ethical life (code), and practices (cult) of Catholicism. To do this, we begin by investigating the fundamental disposition of hospitality and attentiveness to the inbreaking of the divine into human life. Having considered these fundamental dispositions in theological inquiry, we will then investigate how the mystery of the Triune God sheds meaning upon human existence and how human existence illuminates our understanding of the Triune God. In doing so, various aspects of theological studies will be explored through themes such as revelation, faith, salvation, church, sacraments, creation, ethics, and prayer. As such, this course considers the Catholic theological tradition from a thematic rather than a historical point of view. Greater emphasis is placed on questions which have contemporary relevance. To stimulate these conversations, we will draw primarily on contemporary theological work and compliment this with a close reading of Scriptures and church documents. Various other expressions of faith in the arts and film will also be drawn on. In addition to this informative study of Catholicism, we will also investigate the role of prayer in theological work. This formative aspect of the course will include gaining some familiarity with different practices of Christian prayer, including the meditative and contemplative practices of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- (1) demonstrate through their research paper and discussion posts how a critical study of Catholic theology sheds light on the contemporary human condition
- (2) demonstrate through their reflections and oral presentations knowledge of the central themes in contemporary theology
- (3) show that they have the ability to interpret texts and other cultural phenomena (such as rituals, myths, architecture, songs, films) that have religious presuppositions or implications; and
- (4) through class participation, oral presentations, and written assignments have improved their verbal and written skills

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God*. Bloomsbury, 2011.
2. Kearney, Richard. *Anatheism: Returning to God After God*. Columbia, 2010.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

20%	10 reading quizzes
20%	4 critical/reflection papers of 2 pages each
15%	1 research paper of 5 pages
10%	Final presentation of research paper
25%	Final exam
10%	Class participation

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
Spring 2024
Eastern Orthodox Tradition

THST 1031 01

MDGK 1998 01 ST

Tuesday/Thursday 6:00-7:40 PM Classroom: University Hall 2002

4 Semester Hours

Instructor: Fr. Michael K. Courey, D.Min.

Phone: 310-749-2810 Email: michael.courey@lmu.edu

Office Location: UH 3731 (Enter at 3700: Huffington Ecumenical Institute)

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 5:00-6:00 PM

University Core fulfilled: Foundations: Theological Inquiry

Course Description: This course introduces students to the primary theological teachings of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The student will explore theology through written sources and the living tradition of Orthodox communities. The readings cover the history, religious identity, tradition, human sexuality, and the meaning of community from the Eastern Orthodox perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes: Over the course of the semester, students will have the following opportunities for intellectual growth: 1) to gain and express their knowledge of the history, theology, and challenges of Eastern Orthodox Christianity; 2) to enhance their listening and communication skills through attentive participation in class discussions on aspects presented in a lecture format with an emphasis on a systematic theological approach to the field; 3) to be exposed to the writings of contemporary Orthodox Christian theologians; 4) to experience and reflect on an Eastern Orthodox worship service and various media presentations.

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts:

Thomas Arentzen, *Orthodox Tradition and Human Sexuality* (Fordham University Press, 2022)

Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church* (Penguin Books, 2015)

Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2019)

Coursework/Expectations: 4-CREDIT HOUR POLICY

At LMU, **one credit hour** is defined as a minimum of 3 hours of work by an average student per week for a 15-week semester. That means that a 4-unit class must average a minimum of 12 hours of work a week and a **minimum total of 180 hours of work for the semester (inclusive of class contact time)**. Typically, this will mean one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work each week for each unit of a course. This course meets for three hours per week and **expects a minimum of 12 hours per week on class-related assignments**.

SEMESTER: SPRING 2023

COURSE TITLE: In Search of a Way: Christian Theology and Practice

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1050-01, -02

TIMES/DAYS: MW 145-235 pm; MW 340-520 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Owens-Jofré, PhD

CORE AREA: FTHI Theological Reasoning

FLAGGED: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course is an introduction to Christian belief and practice through analysis and reflection upon various expressions of Christian theological views. The aim of this course is to explore not just the what, but also the *why* of Christian faith and how Christian spirituality forms and informs Christian practice. This course explores how the compassion-based spiritual practices of Jesus informed how he practiced ancient Israelite religion and how these practices and his teachings gave shape to various theological beliefs about the nature of God, creation, the human person, the Holy Spirit, and salvation. Additionally, this course aims to help students develop an awareness of how their own spiritualities have been influenced by Christianity.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of Christian traditions, including Catholic Christianity, at a basic college level.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of theory and method in Christian theology.
3. Critically reflect on multiple interpretations of theological categories, e.g. creation, sin, Christology, atonement, etc.
4. Apply knowledge from the course to articulate their own spiritual and/or theological beliefs and assumptions.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

none

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Frank Rogers, *Compassion in Practice: The Way of Jesus*
- Daniel Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, 3rd ed.
- Thomas P. Rausch, *Systematic Theology: A Roman Catholic Approach*
- Ada María Isasi-Díaz, *Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the 21st Century*
- Articles posted on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

The course employs Ignatian pedagogy and includes regular reading assignments, a video essay about a campus event, one written essay, two exams, and an oral presentation.

COURSE TITLE: In Search of a Way
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1050.04
TIMES/DAYS: MWF 10:50-12:00
INSTRUCTOR: Nirinjan Khalsa-Baker
CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce students to the meaning and significance of spiritual practices in everyday life. Students will learn about the richness and complexity of religious traditions as well as the diverse voices that constitute these traditions. The focus of the course is on “lived religion”—the embodied, eclectic, and often improvisational character of spiritual experiences and journeys, both collective and individual. Students will attend to and learn to interpret ways in which identity and meaning can be construed, whether in explicitly religious terms or, more implicitly, arising from human experiences. Through a study of Sikh and Ignatian spiritual texts, students will consider the diversity of human experiences within specific populations facing contemporary social issues such as racism, sexism, immigration, etc. Special attention will be given to the dynamics of power and privilege that leads to suffering and marginalization. The pedagogical approach is experiential, designed to offer engagement and opportunities for reflection on one’s own experiences and contexts that shape our perspectives of self and God. This will also include examining our experiences, roles and responsibilities in the contemporary world. The course will take up such ultimate questions as: who am I as an individual and within a community, and what is my place and role in the larger scheme of things? What is of ultimate value? What makes for a meaningful life? How can we implement these beliefs into meaningful action?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify and analyze foundational theological questions.
2. Interpret religious sources critically and creatively.
3. Connect ultimate questions to faith and practice.
4. Appreciate the intrinsic value of theological inquiry and its relation to meaningful action.
5. Ability to use intellectual inquiry as a means for fostering empathy and understanding across diverse religious approaches, contexts, and encounters.

PREREQUISITES: Pre-requisites required

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Valarie Kaur, *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*
Anthony de Mello, *The Way to Love*

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS Be prepared to engage with the course work both inside and outside of the classroom and critical inquiry through weekly lectures, small and large-group discussions, reflection journals, engaged practices, two quizzes, and a final paper.

SEMESTER: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: IN SEARCH OF A WAY: SPIRITUALITY, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1050. CRN 71085

TIMES/DAYS: MW 11:50 AM-1:30 PM. St. Robert's Hall 235

INSTRUCTOR: Leah Buturain Schneider (Dr. B.)

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This class is an inquiry into how individuals become conscious of the choices they make to be present to their lives' meaning. How does one become curious about the workings of grace in the circumstances of one's life? The primary source material focuses on what it means to be "on a journey" "in search of a way" for encountering God/Source Energy within, in others, and in creation. What does a relationship of exchange as seeker with the Beloved look and feel like in the Judeo-Christian expressions? Students will also read Islamic poetry and Buddhist meditations to experience diverse imaginative expressions of spiritual longing for wisdom, community, and communion.

By composing a theology of struggle, interviewing familial elders, exercising gratitude, students accrue a sense of their life's meaning, value, and purpose. Identifying one's internal GPS supports welcoming change and challenges with curiosity. Students will build a mindfulness practice to engage with being present and experiencing presence. Awareness of resistance and receptivity helps ground our inquiry into interior life and contemplative activism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Learning the art of 'walking a path' to understand what it means to bring awareness and understanding to the process of practice.
- Experiencing the power of exercising gratitude to reframe and transform perspective.
- Identifying their family's intergenerational linkages to learn about attitudes toward cultural values, religious and secular rituals, and spiritual practices.
- Learning how to listen to nature's wisdom by adopting a tree as earth mentor.
- Incorporating somatic knowledge to ground ourselves in incarnational presence.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* by Joan Chittister (ISBN-13: 978-0802829740)
2. *The Little Book of Gratitude: Create a Life of Happiness and Well-Being by Giving Thanks* by Robert Emmons (ISBN-13: 978-1856753654)
3. *Deep River* by Shusaku Endo. (ISBN-13:978-0811213202)

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATION

Wisdom Lineage and Intergenerational Linkages Project: interviewing two familial elders and writing a paper that bears witness to their stories while integrating class content.

MVP: Meaning, Value, and Purpose: A series of exercises that result in a paper of one's MVP foregrounding inclusivity, spirituality, and love. Two take-home open book reading assessments.

Group Projects: Leading discussion on the novel, water, and trees.

Gratitude Journal Entries posted weekly.

SEMESTER: SPRING 2023
COURSE TITLE: In Search of A Way
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: 1050-07
TIMES/DAYS: M/W 7:55pm-9:35pm
INSTRUCTOR: Rachel Fox
CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry
FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course will explore the topic of Christian Spirituality from a theological, historical, and practical context. We will specifically look at Christian Spirituality as a path of formation for the human spirit, the human conduct, and therefore ultimately the human identity. In our examination of the path of Christian spirituality, we will consider some of the classical Christian spiritual teachers as well as some modern voices. We will look at this spirituality in broad over arching themes along with focusing on a few particular figures and their spiritual journeys.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Student will be able to identify key elements and practices of Christian spirituality both historical and modern.
2. Student will be able to understand the impact which the beliefs and practices of Christian spirituality have on identity and the formation of a new identity in Christ as seen in Scripture and in Christian spiritual teachings.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *Christian Spirituality: An Introduction*. Alister E. McGrath. Oxford, UK ; Malden, Mass. : Blackwell Publishers, (professor uses the e-book version)
2. *The Spiritual Way: Classic Traditions and Contemporary Practice*. Philip Sheldrake. Liturgical Press Academic. Collegeville Minnesota. (professor uses the e-book version)

Recommended Text:

Light From Light: An Anthology of Christian Mysticism. 2nd ed. editors, Louis Dupre and James A. Wiseman, O.S.B. Paulist Press. 2001. ISBN:0-8091-4013-6.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

This is a 4 unit course: the expectation is that one will spend 12 hours a week on this class. Since we spend 3.5 hours a week in class time, the expectation is that you will spend on average 8.5 hours per week on work outside of class.

COURSE TITLE: God & Good: Introduction to Christian Ethics

COURSE NUMBER: THST 1060 01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: 1:45 – 3:25 PM TR

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Nicholas R. Brown

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

What is Christian Ethics? What resources underpin and inform its moral vision? What makes this vision similar and distinctive from other ethical traditions? Is it possible to reconcile this vision with a secular, modern and pluralistic society? And what kind of practical moral guidance does it provide in addressing contemporary moral debates? These are the fundamental questions we will explore to enhance our understanding of Christian Ethics and to examine its application in a 21st century society. In doing so we will consult a variety of sources including biblical texts and the writings of various Christian ethicists and theologians to help us flesh out a Christian normative framework which we will then use to critically evaluate issues of war/violence, economics and bioscience.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Acquire a basic fluency in Christian Ethics including some of its primary sources, methods of moral analysis as well as some of the strategies it employs in ethical reflection.

Practically apply Christian ethical reflection to concrete cases of contemporary moral debate.

Develop critical reading and thinking skills.

Develop the ability to craft persuasive oral and written argumentation which articulates one's own ethical perspectives in respectful conversation with others.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None

REQUIRED TEXTS

Wells, Samuel and Ben Quash. *Introducing Christian Ethics*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Wells, Samuel. *Introducing Christian Ethics: An Introductory Reader*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Two Exams

Fourteen one-page analysis papers

In Class Quizzes

Class Participation

SEMESTER: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: God and the Good: An Introduction to Christian Ethics

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1060.2

TIMES/DAYS: Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:55-11:35 am

INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Rothchild, Ph.D.

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course introduces central thinkers, methods, themes, and concepts of Christian Ethics. Students will critically analyze the moral arguments in relation to fundamental questions about theological anthropology (e.g., freedom, agency, responsibility, sin), basic goods and values (e.g., teleology, deontology, virtue theory), theological frameworks (e.g., liberation, feminist, natural law, revisionist) and wider cultural, political, and legal contexts and developments. The course addresses theoretical and practical dimensions of ethics as well as current case studies in the areas of violence and criminal justice, digital technology, anti-blackness, comparative religious ethics, and sexual ethics. Students will consider and comparatively evaluate contested moral arguments pertaining to these case studies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify and analyze foundational theological questions (SLO #1);
- Interpret religious texts critically and creatively (SLO # 2);
- Connect ultimate questions to Christian faith and practice (SLO # 3);
- Assess diverse religious approaches and contexts (SLO # 4);
- Appreciate the intrinsic value of theological inquiry and its relation to meaningful action (SLO #5);
- Appreciate the contributions of theological ethics to contemporary moral debates (SLO # 6).

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Lloyd, Vincent and Andrew Prevot, eds. *Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics*. Orbis, 2017.
- Mathewes, Charles. *Understanding Religious Ethics*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Ott, Kate, *Christian Ethics for a Digital Society*. Roman and Littlefield, 2018.
- Peterson-Iver, Karen. *Reenvisioning Sexual Ethics: A Feminist Christian Account*. Georgetown University Press, 2022.
- Other readings will be made available on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

- Reading summaries
- Exams
- Group Presentation
- Final Research Paper

Spring 2024

Course Title: THST 1080-03 and 04 Comparative Theology: Hinduism, Jainism, and Christianity

Time and Days: Section 03 Tuesday and Thursday 11:50 a.m. to 01:30 p.m.
Section 04 Tuesday and Thursday 01:45 p.m. to 03:25 p.m.

Instructor: Abhishek Jain, Ph.D.

Course Description:

This course takes a comparative approach to theological inquiry, examining fundamental religious questions in relation to two or three religious traditions (one of them being Christianity). The course emphasizes comparative analysis of primary religious sources and focuses on how diverse religious approaches to questions of ultimate concern might be mutually illuminative. The course also includes interactive encounters with practitioners of the religion under consideration.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course you will be able to:

1. identify and analyze foundational theological questions;
2. identify and examine major beliefs and practices in Hinduism, Jainism, and Christianity;
3. interpret Hindu, Jain, and Christian sources critically and creatively;
4. connect ultimate questions to Hindu, Jain, and Christian faith and practice;
5. compare Hindu, Jain, and Christian approaches to ultimate questions about self and the world;
6. assess Hindu, Jain, and Christian approaches and contexts;
7. appreciate the intrinsic value of theological inquiry and its relationship to meaningful action;
8. integrate a comparative perspective into one's worldview;
9. value religious diversity.

Prerequisites/Recommended Background:

There is no requirement for any recommended background to participate in this course, but students from Theological Studies, Environmental Studies, Psychology, Biology, Modern Languages and Literature, Marketing, History, and Film Studies majors are highly encouraged to take this course.

Required Texts:

Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger 2015. *Everyday Hinduism*.

Paul Dundas 2002. *The Jains*

Jack Miles 2020. *Religion As We Know It: An Origin Story*

Course Work / Expectation:

One unit is defined by LMU as a minimum of 3 hours of work by an average student per week for a 15-week semester. Because being a college student is the equivalent of a full-time job, this 4-unit course should average a minimum of 12 hours of work a week and a total of 180 hours of work for the semester (inclusive of class contact time). This means that your time spent outside of the classroom including reading, studying, writing, discussing with friends, and visiting field sites will average 9 hours of work per week.

SEMESTER: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: Comparative Theology

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: 1080.02

TIMES/DAYS: MWF 12:15-1:25

INSTRUCTOR: Tiemeier

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS: This course takes a comparative approach to theological inquiry, examining fundamental religious questions in relation to Hinduism and Christianity. The course attends to the major beliefs and practices of Hinduism and Christianity in their historical development and in their contemporary forms. Students will also be able to compare religious and spiritual traditions of their choice through their own research project.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Compare Hindu and Christian theological questions, texts, practices, and traditions.

Engage with theological questions and traditions comparative, critically, and creatively.

Appreciate the pursuit of ultimate questions as the basis for meaningful action.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS

Moon, Fábio, and Gabriel Bá. *Daytripper*. New York: Vertigo, 2011

V, Ram, and Filipe Andrade. *The Many Deaths of Laila Starr*. Los Angeles: BOOM! Studios, 2022.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Course Engagement (40%)

Three Essay Assessments (30%)

Proposal and Bibliography (10%)

Audio/Visual Presentation (20%)

SEMESTER: SPRING 2024
COURSE TITLE: Comparative Theology
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1080.5
TIMES/DAYS: T/H 8am – 9:40am
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Chris de Silva
CORE AREA:
FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course takes a comparative approach to theological inquiry, examining Islamic, Jewish and Christian thought and practice as they are embedded in wider systems of power. The course first attends to the role of White Christian privilege in the study of comparative theology. We then turn to the major beliefs and practices of Islamic, Jewish and Christian traditions as they developed and continue to develop in concrete historical, cultural, and political contexts. We then engage in comparative analysis of theological questions in light of their personal and social impact. We will focus on how diverse religious approaches to questions of ultimate concern with gender, sexuality, justice and peace in particular, might be mutually illuminative. The course also includes interactive encounters with practitioners of the religions under consideration.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- SL01: Examine Islamic, Jewish and Christian traditions as they are embedded in wider systems of power.
- SL02: Compare Islamic, Jewish and Christian theological questions, texts, practices and traditions
- SL03: Assess theological questions and traditions critically and creatively in light of their historical, cultural and socio-political contexts.
- SL04: Appreciate the pursuit of ultimate questions as the basis for meaningful action and social justice.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

No prerequisites required.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All readings are posted on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

See syllabus.

SEMESTER: SPRING 2024

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to the Qur'an

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1081 01

TIMES/DAYS: TR 11:50-13:30am

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Saqib Hussain

CORE AREA: Theological inquiry

FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course is an introduction to the Qur'an. It starts with an historical background to the Qur'an, its canonical layout, the typical structure of its chapters (= surahs), and an introduction to the Islamic exegetical tradition. We then look at the Qur'an's intertextual engagement with various biblical traditions. We will consider the textual transmission of the Qur'an, and its significance in Muslim practice. We end by examining several qur'anic theological and legal issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students will: 1) demonstrate knowledge of the basic structure of the Qur'an, its historical background, and its interpretive traditions; 2) demonstrate an understanding of the Qur'an's theology, legal content, narrative content, and genres; 3) demonstrate that they can engage both empathetically and critically with conflicting religious claims; 4) through class participation and written assignments improve their verbal and written skills.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None

REQUIRED TEXTS

M. A. S. Abdel Haleem, trans., *The Qur'an* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

- Weekly readings
- Weekly quizzes
- Written midterm essays
- Written final exam

SEMESTER: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: Honors Theological Inquiry

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: HNRS 1200 01

TIMES/DAYS: TR 9:55-11:35

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Saqib Hussain

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course takes a comparative approach to theological inquiry, examining fundamental religious questions in relation to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course emphasizes comparative analysis of primary religious sources and focuses on how diverse religious approaches to questions of ultimate concern might be mutually illuminative. The course also includes interactive encounters with practitioners of the religions under consideration. More specifically, the course looks at scriptural narratives shared across the Abrahamic faiths as found in their sacred texts and as interpreted by faith communities, and explores what we can learn about the theology of each tradition from both the overlaps and divergences across these stories.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students will: 1) demonstrate knowledge of the foundational scriptures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and their respective interpretive traditions; 2) demonstrate an understanding of the core theological claims of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, looking at both shared as well as conflicting claims, and the manner and extent to which these claims have been shaped as the religious traditions have engaged with each other; 3) demonstrate that they can engage both empathetically and critically with conflicting religious claims; 4) through class participation and written assignments improve their verbal and written skills.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None

REQUIRED TEXTS

Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, *The Bible with and without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* (New York: HarperOne, 2020).

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Class Element	Grade Percentage
In-class attendance	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm	30%
Final exam	30%

SEMESTER: Spring 2024

COURSE TITLE: World Religions in Los Angeles

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1500.01 & THST 1500.02 (Crosslisted as JWST 1998.01 & .02)

TIMES/DAYS: Section .01 T/R 8:00 – 9:40 AM; Section .02 T/R 9:55 AM—11:35 AM

INSTRUCTOR: L. Arik Greenberg, Ph.D.

CORE AREA: Studies in American Diversity

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion and of world religions, and to the religious traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and other current religious trends. Special emphasis is placed upon how these religious traditions have emerged within the context of Los Angeles, how they have changed, grown, and adapted to their new surroundings.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course students will 1) be able to identify the major beliefs, practices and history of several major religious traditions; 2) examine the complex historical, political, economic, and social context of religion in Los Angeles; 3) illustrate how religious communities negotiate internal and external systems of religious, racial, ethnic, and gendered power; 4) appreciate diverse perspectives and approaches to religion; and 5) demonstrate that they can think both empathetically and critically about conflicting religious claims. 6) Additionally, through class participation and written assignments students will have improved their verbal and written skills.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None, other than an open mind and a willingness to see the commonalities and cherish the diversities between people's faith traditions.

REQUIRED TEXTS [textbooks will be available through the bookstore at a discounted bundle-pricing from the publisher]

Roy C. Amore, Amir Hussain, and Willard G. Oxtoby, editors. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions, Fourth Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN13: 9780190919023

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha, New Revised Standard Version, Fourth Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN13: 9780195289558 ISBN10: 0195289552 ISBN 9780195289602

The Bhagavad Gita. Translated by W. J. Johnson. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN13: 9780199538126 ISBN10: 0199538123

The Qur'an, Translated by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN13: 9780199535958 ISBN10: 0199535957

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

10% Class Attendance & Participation

10% Group Presentations

40% Written Assignments (four reflection papers)

20% Mid-Term Exam (On Western Traditions, Indigenous traditions, and introductory topics)

20% Final Exam (On Eastern Traditions and New Religious Movements)