SEMESTER: Fall 2022

COURSE TITLE: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Theology, History, and Interpretation

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: JWST/THST 1000.03 & JWST/THST 1000.04

TIMES/DAYS: TR 11:50 AM - 1:30 PM (03), TR 1:45 PM - 3:25 PM (04)

INSTRUCTOR: Rosanna Lu

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
This is an introductory course to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) focusing on the development of ancient Israelite traditions as well as development of interpretations of the biblical text. Students will critically engage with selected biblical texts representing issues of social, societal, political and theological concerns. Students are encouraged to critically engage with the biblical text in comparative consideration of contemporary conceptualizations of social justice, power dynamics and spirituality.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students who successfully complete this course will:
(1) acquire basic familiarity with the content, context, and history of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible,
(2) examine and critically evaluate the development of religious traditions throughout the span of ancient Israelite history,
(3) develop basic skills in critical and creative analysis of the Hebrew Bible, and
(4) develop practice in integrating theological inquiry and related meaningful action.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND
None

REQUIRED TEXTS
1. Bible – New Revised Standard Version
2. David Carr, An Introduction to the Old Testament: Sacred Texts and Imperial Contexts of the Hebrew Bible
3. Additional readings on Brightspace

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
1. Attendance and participation in class meetings
2. Weekly group discussion activities
3. Written assignments
4. Group projects and presentations
5. Reading quizzes, exams
SEMESTER: Fall 2022

COURSE TITLE: New Testament Contexts

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1010 01 (cross-listed with JWST 2998 03)

TIMES/DAYS: MW 3:40-5:20PM

INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Emanuel

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course introduces students to the New Testament's many texts and contexts. While a primary focus will be to situate New Testament writings in their own historical settings—a traditional starting point within the field of New Testament Studies—the course will also examine how New Testament sources have been analyzed in contexts beyond their own times. Throughout the class, students will learn about the early Jesus movement; the construction of the New Testament canon; the development of New Testament Studies as an academic field; and the relationship among text, context, and interpretation. No prior knowledge is needed.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To gain familiarity with the textual complexities of New Testament and other early Christ-centered documents;
2. To become familiar with the Jewish and Gentile contexts of New Testament texts in order to explore what they might have meant to those who lived at the time in which they were written;
3. To recognize the relationship among text, context, interpretation, and interpretive histories;
4. To think ethically about the ways in which the New Testament might have been significant to its community of origin;
5. To think ethically about the ways in which the New Testament continues to influence contemporary culture;
6. To become familiar with the methods and vocabulary scholars use to discuss the Bible and New Testament writings;
7. To learn to read texts closely, attending to multi-vocality and multiplicity of meaning;
8. To develop a vocabulary to talk about the relationship between ancient Judaism and Christian origins.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

None

REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance and Participation 10%
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Reading Responses 20%
4. Midterm 25%
5. Final 25%
SEMESTER: Fall 2022

COURSE TITLE: Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1030-04 and THST 1030-05

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 with a focus on biblical interpretation. The survey begins with the Patristic era emphasizing the development of Jerome’s Vulgate (405), and continues into the Catholic response to the Reformation, the promulgation of the Vatican II document Dei Verbum (1964), and ending with present Catholic concerns for the poor and marginalized. 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


Cunningham, Lawrence, Introduction to Catholicism ISBN 978-0-511-50140-1, Electronic Version Available through the Hannon Library at Introduction to Catholicism


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 2022

COURSE TITLE: Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1030.2 and THST 1030.3

TIMES/DAYS: MWF 9:25 – 10:35 am and MWF 10:50 am – 12:00 noon

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

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
COURSE TITLE: In Search of A Way

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: CRN: 44467. THST 1050.11

TIMES/DAYS: M/W: 1:40pm -3:25pm St. Roberts 353

INSTRUCTOR: Rachel Fox

CORE AREA: Theological Studies

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 Christians 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
FND: Theological Inquiry

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Recommended Text:

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: As this is a 4unit course the expectation is that one will spend 12 hours a week on this class. Since we spend 3 hours a week in class time, the expectation is that you will spend on average 9 hours per week on work outside of class.
TERM: Fall 2022
COURSE TITLE: God and the Good: An Introduction to Christian Ethics
COURSE NUMBER: THST 1060-01, -02
SECTION TIME/DAYS: T,W 6:00-9:20PM
INSTRUCTOR: Matthew Petrusek, Ph.D.
CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry
FLAGGED: n/a

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course provides a broad survey of foundational texts and ideas that have contributed—and continue to contribute—to the vast, diverse, and living body of moral thinking that constitutes “Christian Ethics.” The survey follows three interrelated strands of inquiry. The first is descriptive and historical: starting with Scripture, we will move in a roughly chronological line through some of the major theological and philosophical moments in the history of Christian Ethics and see how they eventually culminate in contemporary Christian ethical thinking. The goal from this standpoint is to see how patterns of moral thinking and the conclusions they form about the nature and content of Christian ethics change, transform, and, even, remain consistent through time. The second strand is interpretive and conceptual: throughout the course we will identify and scrutinize the fundamental theological, ontological, anthropological, epistemological, and ethical conceptions and presuppositions in each text in order to understand not only what a particular author thinks but also why she or he thinks in that way. Finally, the course will also have a normative component. We will not only ask what each author thinks individually and in relation to others; we will ask whether any of them are right. Asking that question—in effect, starting to do Christian ethics on one’s own—will require us to determine normative standards of judgment and ask why and how they are justifiable.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students who take this course will:

- Identify, understand, compare, and evaluate the fundamental theological and ethical differences and similarities among the alternative views the course will examine.
- Understand and articulate the fundamental similarities and differences between “Protestant” and “Catholic” forms of theological-ethical thinking.
- Understand and articulate how “Christian ethics” can be conceived of as a unified field of inquiry while, at the same time, encompassing deeply divergent conceptions of the nature of God and the human good.
- Understand and articulate how differing conceptions of God and the human good apply to and inform contemporary, concrete moral issues.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Preparation of all assigned readings
Informed and consistent contributions to class discussions
Two five-six page papers
Essay-format midterm and final exams
SEMESTER: Fall 2022

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

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1060.3

TIMES/DAYS: Mondays/ Wednesdays / Fridays 10:50-12:00

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, economic issues, 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

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
- Reading summaries
- Exams
- Group Presentation
- Final Research Paper
COURSE TITLE: Comparative Theology (Course Theme: ‘Death & the Meaning of Life’)

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1080.01

TIMES/DAYS: MW 9:55am-11:35am

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Christopher A. Daily

CORE AREA: FND: Theological Inquiry

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

In this course, we will explore diverse notions of the meaningful life and the good death through the analysis of different global religious beliefs and practices of living, dying, and death (including voluntary death, martyrdom, and sacrifice), as well as rites of mourning and commemoration. In studying a religion’s theology of death, students will also come to understand a religious system’s theory about the meaning and purpose of life and how to live a good life. At the end of the course students will have gained a comprehensive understanding of the complex variety of death practices and of the symbolism of death and the meaning and purpose of life in many major religious traditions. Religions covered in the course include Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianities, and Islam.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will come to understand:

a) many religious ways of explaining life, death, dying, and the afterlife (particular religions covered include Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Chinese religions);

b) the influence a culture’s theory of death has upon its living people and institutions;

c) how the rise of science has failed to displace core religious understandings of life and death;

d) the basic tools and approaches used in the academic study of theology and religions;

e) the many ways of living (and dying) in this world other than our own;

f) and, given that all of the religious systems covered in the course can be found in southern California, you will also grow to appreciate how these core ideas lead to alternate living and dying experiences amongst LMU’s neighbors. This insight will provide you with a new vision of the multicultural landscape of Los Angeles.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

No prior study of theology or religion is necessary.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The course will make use of readings from a wide array of primary sacred texts, as well as excerpts from supporting secondary scholarly studies. All course readings are uploaded to Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

1. 40% Examinations (one Midterm Exam and one Final Exam, worth 20% each)
2. 30% Learning Journal (reflective entries are written throughout the semester)
3. 20% Final Comparative Essay
4. 10% Class Preparedness and Participation
SEMESTER: FALL 2022
COURSE TITLE: Comparative Theology: Buddhism and Christianity
COURSE NUMBER/SECTIONS: THST 1080.2
TIMES/DAYS: TR 8:00 – 9:40am
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Enriquez
CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry
FLAGS: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Understanding theology as a mutual critical dialogue between faith and daily life, this course is designed to enter students into dialogue with Buddhism and Christianity, tracing them through their historical development and seeing how historical, social and cultural circumstances have influenced the theological interpretation of sacred texts as well as religious beliefs and practices. We will also look at some of the ways that each tradition gives expression to ethical action in daily life, and how it relates to spiritual practices.

A number of questions will accompany us throughout the semester: What are the Buddhist and Christian worldviews? How do they answer questions such as: Who am I? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life? Why do we suffer? How do specific human circumstances (socio-economic status, gender, race, etc.) challenge these traditions, and how are the teachings of these traditions re-interpreted in light of these circumstances? Moreover, with a comparative approach to theological inquiry, the course emphasizes the comparative analysis of primary religious sources including lived experience that centers on the voices of those who are marginalized and oppressed. It will focus on how diverse religious approaches to ultimate questions might be mutually illuminative. Hence, another question we will explore is how dialogue between the two religions pose questions for each other as they are studied together? What are the challenges and promise of comparative learning? Furthermore, how might this dialogue shed light upon one’s own assumptions, one’s own understanding of life and what it means to be human – especially in a world that can be experienced as inhuman?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Identify and analyze foundational theological questions including how such questions arise from the specific contexts of persons and communities.
2. Identify and examine major beliefs and practices in Buddhism and Christianity
3. Interpret Buddhist and Christian sources critically and creatively including paying attention to whose voices are represented within these traditions.
5. Compare Buddhist and Christian approaches to ultimate questions about self and the world, including issues of power and privilege.
6. Appreciate the intrinsic value of theological inquiry and its relationship to meaningful action
7. Integrate a comparative perspective into one’s worldview
8. Value religious diversity and complexity

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS
• Thich Nhat Hanh, Living Buddha, Living Christ: 20th anniversary edition (Riverhead Books, 2007)
• Jan Willis, Dreaming Me: Black, Baptist, and Buddhist – One Woman’s Spiritual Journey (Wisdom Publications, 2008)
• Other required readings will be available on Brightspace

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
Class Discussions Two exams
Reflection Papers Final Paper
SEMESTER: Fall, 2022

COURSE TITLE: Comparative Theology

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1080 Section 01; THST 1080 Section 02

TIMES/DAYS: 1080.01, Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00-9:40; 1080.02, Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:50-13:30

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 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 religions under consideration.

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


COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Element</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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SEMESTER: Fall, 2022

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 TR 8:00 – 9:40 AM; Section .02 TR 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]


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)