

**COURSE TITLE:** Comprehensive Exam Seminar

**COURSE NUMBER/SECTION:** THST 6092.1 (CRN47237)

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** Wednesday, 4:30 – 7:00 pm

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jim Fredericks

**EMAIL:** james.Fredericks@lmu.edu

*\*This is a sample course description from an earlier semester and is subject to change.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:**

This is the required comprehensive exam seminar for all MA in Theology students enrolled in the 42-unit program. While drawing on previous course work, the seminar also requires participants to study additional sources that will help them integrate their theological education and provide a foundation for their research projects. The comprehensive exams will be administered as a part of the course requirements. Students are required to take two exams and produce a proposal for a Master's thesis. The first exam covers general themes in systematic theology. The second exam is based on bibliography reflecting a specific interest of the student. This exam is administered by a faculty member who has agreed to serve in this capacity with the consent of the course instructor. The research proposal is supervised by the faculty member who will eventually serve as the student's thesis-director. This faculty member must be approved by the course instructor.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

General familiarity with the work of major Christian thinkers

Ability to articulate and evaluate major theological themes

Ability to construct theological arguments

Ability to integrate theological ideas

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

N/A

**REQUIRED TEXTS (tentative):**

Fiorenza and Galvin, *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives* [Fortress, 2011] ISBN-10: 0800662911

Elizabeth Johnson, *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2011) [this is available as an e-book through Hannon Library]

Jurgen Moltmann, *The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology* (Fortress Press, 1993), ISBN-10: 0800628225

Richard Gaillardetz, *Ecclesiology for a Global Church: A People Called and Sent* (Orbis, 2008); ISBN-10: 1570757690

David Powers: *The Sacraments: the Language of God's self-giving*, (Crossroad, 1998) ISBN-10: 0824517989

## **COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

### **PARTICIPATION (25%)**

**FIRST EXAM (25%):** The first exam tests the student in general themes in systematic theology.

**SECOND EXAM (25%):** The second exam tests the student in an area of theological concern of specific interest to the student.

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL (25%):** The proposal for a research project, presumably, will be the topic of the MA thesis which the student will write in the spring semester.