Students, please note that this is not a complete list of course descriptions for courses offered in fall 2021. We are still in the process of assigning faculty instructors and/or faculty are still working on their courses and have not turned one in.

For a full list of course offerings, please see the class schedule in Prowl. If you don't see the course description for the class/section you are interested in, you can see a generic description in the bulletin on the registrar’s website: https://registrar.lmu.edu/.
FALL 2021
Course Title: Introduction to the Old Testament
Course Number: Thst 1000.01 & 1000.02 (Two Sections)
Sections Times/Days: MWF 3:30 – 4:30 (01) and 5:00-6:00 (02)
Instructor: Dr. Daniel L. Smith-Christopher

Course Description
This course is intended to be a challenging introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). The emphases of this course are historical and literary familiarity with the Hebrew Bible, although questions about the Hebrew Bible as a religious text will not be out of place. This is a “historical-critical” approach to Textual analysis. No particular religious orientation is assumed, and students are invited to probe, question, and explore new ideas about the Bible. Students need not have a strong religious background in order to do well in this class – but it is good to have an interest in history, reading, and an interest in challenging questions. Students will discover that there is more to “The Bible” than they expected or thought they knew! All questions welcomed.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will:
(1) Have a basic orientation to all the books of the Old Testament.
(2) Have a basic grasp of essential dates of Old Testament History, and the importance of those events for the study of the Bible.
(3) Have a basic understanding of the different genres of Old Testament Literature, such as Poetry, Wisdom, Prophetic Texts, Law, Story.
(4) Have a basic understanding of critical approaches to the study of the Bible.
(5) Specific learning outcomes will be stated for each week on the Syllabus.

Prerequisites/Recommended Background
There are no prerequisites to this course. It is a basic course intended for the first or second year of University.

Required Texts:
1) Bible - New Revised Standard Version [NRSV] (New American Bible Revised is OK)
3) Handouts/Digital provided during the course of the semester.

Course Work / Expectations
1) Class attendance is required
2) I grade on a point system = 100 pts total. There will be 7 quiz-type short tests worth 10 points each, spaced every two-three weeks, covering BOTH reading and lecture material. There is no mid-term or “Final”, only the tests.
3) All students will write the final paper (10-13 pages), an analysis of a selected Bible passage, which is worth up to 30 points. Full Research Paper expectations – citations, bibliography, etc. There will be detailed instructions.
4) It is possible to earn extra points – instructions will be provided.
SEMESTER: Fall 2021

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

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1000.03 & THST 1000.04

TIMES/DAYS: TR 12:00-1:30PM (03), TR 2:00-3:30PM (04)

INSTRUCTOR: Rosanna Lu

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
This course is an introductory course to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) which will focus 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
COURSE TITLE: The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Theology, History, and Interpretation

COURSE NUMBER: THST 1000.05 / JWST 1000.05

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/R 12:00 – 1:30 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Gil Klein

CORE AREA: FND: Theological Inquiry

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will: 1.) Identify and analyze foundational theological questions. 2.) Interpret religious sources critically and creatively. 3.) Connect ultimate questions to Christian and Jewish faith and practice. 4.) Assess diverse religious approaches and contexts. 5.) Appreciate the intrinsic value of theological inquiry and its relation to meaningful action. 6.) As part of this course, students will learn to evaluate non-textual materials such as works of art and architecture, which were produced in the ancient Near East. These materials and works profoundly illuminate the theology and history of ancient Israelite religion and their analysis will greatly contribute to the students’ understanding of the relations between different modes of religious expression. 7.) Students will also examine the fundamental question of the Hebrew Bible/Old testament’s status as Scripture and analyze the complex relationships between the critical historical analysis of the Bible and its traditional understanding as divine word in both Christianity and Judaism. 8.) Students will appreciate the place of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in relation to other works of Scripture, as well as later exegetical works and extra-canonical text.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None.

REQUIRED TEXTS

3.) Additional readings on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Grades will be based on the following: attendance & participation; midterm; group presentation; final exam.
COURSE TITLE: New Testament Contexts

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1010 – 01/JWST 1998 - 03

TIMES/DAYS: MWF 11:00am-12:00pm

INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Emanuel

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
This cross-listed Theological Studies and Jewish Studies course introduces students to New Testament texts and contexts. While a primary focus is situating New Testament writings in their own historical settings—a traditional starting point within the field of New Testament Studies—the course also examines 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 ancient Jewish/early Christ-centered texts;
2. To become familiar with the social and historical contexts of New Testament and ancient Jewish/Christian 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 communities 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Reading Responses</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Essay</td>
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<td>One Podcast Assignment</td>
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SEMESTER: Fall 2021

COURSE TITLE: Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition

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

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 2:00-3:30 pm and 4:00-5:30 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


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
COURSE TITLE: In Search of a Way

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: CRN: 44469. THST 1050.02

TIMES/DAYS: T/R:

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, practices, and paths of the spiritual journey within Christian spirituality have on the formation identity as seen in Scripture, Christian spiritual teachings, and the ongoing narrative of the Christian tradition.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND
FND: Theological Inquiry

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Recommended Text:


COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: As this is a 4 unit 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.
COURSE TITLE: In Search of a Way
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1050.4
TIMES/DAYS: MWF 9:30-10:30
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1050.5
TIMES/DAYS: MWF 11:00-12:00
INSTRUCTOR: Nirinjan Khalsa
CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
This course will introduce students to the meaning and significance of spiritual practices in their distinctively Christian expressions and expressions associated with other religious traditions, particularly Sikh. Students will learn about the richness and complexity of the 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. Students will consider the relationship between religious experience, the development of theological thought, and ethical action in daily life. The course will take up such ultimate questions as: Who am I as an individual and within a community, and what is my place in the larger scheme of things? What is of ultimate value? What makes for a meaningful life? How can we best make sense of suffering and death, love and relationships, oneness and otherness?

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. Assess diverse religious approaches and contexts.
5. Appreciate the intrinsic value of theological inquiry and its relation to meaningful action.
6. Ability to use intellectual inquiry as a means for fostering empathy and understanding across different human encounters.
7. Gain the skills to talk wisely and sensitively about human diversity and religious difference in the context of difficult matters such as prejudice and oppression.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND
No Pre-requisites required

REQUIRED TEXTS
Valarie Kaur, See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
Be prepared to engage with the course materials both inside and outside of the classroom while demonstrating critical inquiry through weekly lectures, small and large-group discussions, reflection journals, engaged practices, two quizzes, and a final paper.
SEMESTER: Fall 2021

COURSE TITLE: In Search of a Way: Examining the Diverse Voices of American Buddhism

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1050 - 09

TIMES/DAYS: MW 2:00-3:30 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Eric Haruki Swanson

CORE AREA: Theological Inquiry

FLAGGED: n/a

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
This course will introduce students to the meaning and significance of spiritual practice in its distinctively Christian expressions and expressions associated with other traditions. The focus of the course is on "lived religion" - the embodied, eclectic and often improvisational character of spiritual experience, both collective and individual. It also seeks to understand the critical role of practice in shaping spiritual meaning and identity. Specifically, this course will begin by introducing two forms of reflective exercises: Catholic theologian St. Ignatius of Loyola’s Ignatian Examen and Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh's Five Mindfulness Trainings. This will be followed by a critical examination of the development of Buddhist Modernism in the United States, focusing on the effects of white privilege in scholarly discourse about Buddhist communities. In an effort to decenter the whiteness of American Buddhism, the course will focus on how Black and Asian American Buddhists have responded to contemporary issues of race, representation, suffering, and liberation. By doing so, the course encourages students to reflect on how the Buddhist teachings continue to be reshaped by its communities of faith and to celebrate the diversity of voices as the Buddhist tradition took root and continues to flourish in the United States.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
SL01: Identify and discuss various interpretations of the Buddhist teachings as it developed in the United States;
SL02: Assess the key issues surrounding race and ethnicity as it pertains to Buddhist communities;
SL03: Learn to question presuppositions one may have about the Buddhist tradition and be open to examining ideas and practices of the Buddhist tradition without exoticizing its teaching and cultures;
SL04: Attune oneself to both the privileged and underrepresented voices in Buddhist communities;
SL05: Familiarize oneself with local Buddhist communities in the greater Los Angeles area;
SL06: Construct an argument concerning the Buddhist tradition based on engagement with scholarly sources;
SL07: Produce an annotated bibliography on a topic related to the course;
SL08: Express and interpret ideas through oral communication;
SL09: Prepare, practice, and deliver an original oral presentation.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND
None

REQUIRED TEXTS

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
The workload is consistent with a four-unit writing intensive engaged learning course. One unit is defined by LMU as a minimum of three hours of work by an average student per week for a fifteen-week semester. The course consists of interactive lectures and in-class discussion and exercises. Students should be prepared to actively contribute to conversations on the assigned readings and class discussions.
TERM: Fall 2021
COURSE TITLE: God and the Good: An Introduction to Christian Ethics
COURSE NUMBER: THST 1060-01, -02
SECTION TIME/DAYS: T 6:30-9:30PM; R 6:30-9:30PM
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 2021  
COURSE TITLE: God and the Good: An Introduction to Christian Ethics  
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1060.3 and THST 1060.4  
TIMES/DAYS: MWF 8:00-9:00 am and MWF 12:30-1:30 pm  
INSTRUCTOR: Joshua Beckett  
CORE AREA: FOUNDATIONS: Theological Inquiry  
FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course invites students into the interdisciplinary world of Christian Ethics. Via a close reading of texts, we will cultivate a conversation with and about Scripture, church tradition, philosophy, and contemporary issues. Together, we will journey into the three tasks of Christian Ethics: analysis-description (“What is going on? What is being said?”), evaluation-comparison (“How does this relate to what is good, right, and fitting?”), and prescription-construction (“What do we do to live out what is good, right, and fitting?”)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES During this course, students will:

- Discern commonalities and distinctions between several ethical models in historical perspective.
- Develop critical and constructive tools for engaging in the analytic, evaluative, and prescriptive tasks.
- Grow in convicted civility and discuss contested ethical issues with a critical mind and a charitable posture.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND None

REQUIRED TEXTS


COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Rigorous and respectful engagement in class discussions  
Consistent completion of assigned readings  
Biblical ethics video  
Book reflection paper  
Social ethics class facilitation  
Final working paper
SEMESTER: Fall 2021

COURSE TITLE: Comparative Theology (Course Theme: Death & the Meaning of Life)

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1080.05

TIMES/DAYS: TR 12:00pm-1:30pm

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Christopher A. Daily (cdaily1@lmu.edu)

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, Christianity, 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, 2021

COURSE TITLE: World Religions in Los Angeles

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 1500.01 & .02

TIMES/DAYS: Section .01 TR 8:00 – 9:30 AM; Section .02 TR 10:00—11:30 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:
40% Written Assignments (four reflection papers)
10% Class Participation
25% Mid-Term Exam (On Eastern Traditions, written in green books)
25% Final Exam (On Western Traditions, written in green books)