Theology 100-46 Syllabus Fall 2012
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Office Hours: M 2-3; Th 10-11:50, Adorjan 352

SLU Mission: “The mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God (in Latin: Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam—AMDG) and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research and community service. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding God’s creation, and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit University, the pursuit is motivated by the inspiration of the Judaeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.”

Theology 100 within the Mission: In response to the mission of this Catholic, Jesuit University, the Theological Foundations course (THEO-100) seeks to educate students from all the undergraduate programs in a critical discourse with human experience, biblical origins, historical foundations, and historical developments of the Christian tradition. The course provides opportunity for human enrichment through creative questioning, awareness of Christian cultures, access to other cultural and religious contexts through comparative study, and a balanced appreciation of Christianity as a vital element in our global heritage.

Students will be introduced to the Hebrew and Christian scriptures with an emphasis on important texts and theological issues. We will also draw upon the liturgy as a primary source for understanding the One Christian Mystery and will consider various forms of art as potential ways for “doing” Christian theology. Students will explore how historical and literary criticism help in understanding fundamental theological concepts such as God, revelation, faith, creation, covenant, and salvation history. In post-biblical developments students will study the early experience of Christians, especially as they learned to articulate their faith in Christ and thereby developed their understanding of the triune God.

Students will be challenged to acquire the targeted skills of reading, writing, and speaking theologically. They will also be encouraged to consider how critical, careful and creative theological questioning can deepen their understanding of God, the world and the human condition.

Assignments:
- Personal Profile and Religious Self-Portrait
- 5 Bi-weekly, 250-word précis on one of the major reading assignments (20 pts each)
- Participation, including discussion starting: take turns, two at a time, ready with summary/ questions of the readings for the day (50 pts)
- Mid-term Exam (50 pts)
- Final Exam: (100 pts)
Synthesis Paper (100)
Total: 400 pts
Extra credit: 3-5 page Composition of Place: Religious Saint Louis (5 pts)

Sources
- New American Bible (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005) (Or any other version)
- Foundations in Christian Theology, Edited by Mueller

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information on examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to your course instructor, who will investigate and adjudicate them according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the university. The full Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts & Sciences can be found at http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml

Extra Services: Any student who feels that he/she may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course—as outlined in the syllabus, due to presence of a disability, should contact the Office of Disabilities Services. Please telephone the office at 314-977-8885, or visit Room 331 in Busch Student Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Week 1 “Our Hearts Are Restless Until They Rest in Thee”

Mon, Aug 26
- J. Feeney, “Can a Worldview be Healed? Students and Postmodernism” (BB)

Wed, Aug 28
- Paul Wadell, “Happiness: The One Thing Everybody Wants” (BB)

Fri, Aug 30
- Introduction to St. Augustine’s Confessions

Due: Personal Profile and Religious Self-Portrait
Week 2 God of the Faith/ God of Reason

Mon, Sep 2
- Labor Day

Wed, Sep 4
- *Confessions*, Book 1-2

Fri, Sep 6
- *Confessions*, Book 3-4

Due: Precis #1

Week 3 God’s Self-Revelation in Salvation History

Mon, Sep 9
- *Confessions*, Book 5-6

Wed, Sep 11
- *Confessions*, Book 7

Fri, Sep 13
- *Confessions*, Book 8
- **Due:** Unplugged Exercise

Week 4 The Self and the Personal God

Mon, Sep 16 No Class

Wed, Sep 18
- *Confessions*, Book 9-10

Fri, Sep 20
- *Confessions*, Book 11, 13

Week 5 The Old Testament

Mon, Sep 23
- *Genesis* 1-12 (Bible)

Wed, Sep 25
- Easter Vigil Readings (BB)

Fri, Sep 27
- *Foundations*, Ch 2 “Old Testament,” 55-70, and Ch 10 “Judaism, the Jewish people and the Church,” 277-283

Due: Precis #2
Week 6 The New Testament

Mon, Sep 30
- *Gospel of Mark*

Wed, Oct 2

Fri, Oct 4
- *Gospel of John*, 1:1-18

Week 7 Christology

Mon, Oct 7
- Pontifical Biblical Commission, “The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church” (Part III) (BB)

Wed, Oct 9
- Identity is Mission. Mission is Identity.
  - NT Wright, “The Lord’s Prayer as a Paradigm of Christian Prayer” (BB)

Fri, Oct 11
- Soteriology and Deification
  - *Foundations* “Christology: ‘Who do you say that I am?,’” 105-130

Due: Precis #3

Week 8 The Church: Internal Structures

Mon, Oct 14
- Acts 1-3

Wed, Oct 16
- Midterm Exam

Fri, Oct 18
- Dr. Boky Gbadegesin, Fine Arts and African American Studies
- Art, Culture, African Missions and the Christian Imagination

Week 9 Church Makes Eucharist and Eucharist Makes Church

Mon, Oct 21
- Fall Break

Wed, Oct 23
- Benedict XVI, “Baptism Homily” (BB)
- Ratzinger, “Contemplation of Beauty,” 32-41 (BB)
Fri, Oct 25

Due: Precis #4

Week 10 The Mission of the Church

Mon, Oct 28

Wed, Oct 30
- Walter Brueggemann, "Othering with Grace and Courage" (BB)

Fri, Nov 1
- Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* #1-18 (BB)

Week 11 Mission of Church: Integral Human Development

Mon, Nov 4

Wed, Nov 6
- *Humanae Vitae* #1-18 (BB)

Fri, Nov 8
- Jesuit Conference, “Standing for the Unborn” (BB)

Week 12 Mission of Church: Recognizing Grace in the World

Mon, Nov 11
- Flannery O’Connor, “Revelation” (BB)

Wed, Nov 13
- *Nostra Aetate* (BB)

Fri, Nov 15

Due: Precis #5

Week 13 Seeing Christianity With New Eyes

Mon, Nov 18

**Wed, Nov 20**
• Barron, *The Strangest Way*, 31-53

**Fri, Nov 22**
• Barron, *The Strangest Way*, 53-66

**Week 14 Seeing Christianity With New Eyes**
**Mon, Nov 25**
• Barron, *The Strangest Way*, 67-93

**Week 14 Seeing Christianity With New Eyes**
**Wed, Nov 27 ** **Thanksgiving**
**Fri Nov 29 ** **Thanksgiving**

**Week 15 Seeing Christianity With New Eyes**
**Mon, Dec 2**
• Barron, *The Strangest Way*, 93-112

**Wed, Dec 4**
• Barron, *The Strangest Way*, 113-136

**Fri, Dec 6**
• Barron, *The Strangest Way*, 136-167

**Due: Synthesis Paper**

**Week 16**
**Mon, Dec 9**
• Review and Synthesis

**Final Exam TBA**