

THEO-100-M01
THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS
MW, 17:00-18:15/PRH 8

Professor: James O'Leary, S.J.

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Office: Padre Rubio Hall, top floor

Office Hours: M-F, 12:00-14:00, 16:00-17:00 and by appointment

Course description:

Why we're a religious people. Introduction to the disciplined reflection on religion and study of religious phenomena from a human, historical and personal perspective. Focus on the sacred and the profane; mystery, myth, religious attitudes and expressions; the ways in which religious experiences are evoked, expressed and evaluated; and a survey of major world religions.

A vital component of the course is service-learning, which will take us out of the classroom and into an organization which works with the poor and vulnerable in Madrid, in order to learn about justice and solidarity through action.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate an active grasp of basic theological texts of both Christian and non-Christians traditions.
- Students will interpret these texts by means of historical-critical and literary-critical methods.
- Students will accurately summarize basic theological concepts in their own words, explain the relationships between two or more theological concepts and identify the historical and/or contemporary relevance of these concepts.
- Students will ask questions relevant to the course content and contribute meaningfully to class discussions.
- Students will reflect on their service-learning experience and its relationship to their own thoughts, feelings, decisions, vocations and lifestyles.

Required work:

- Regular, punctual class attendance and preparation for class by doing the assigned readings and participating in class discussions.
- Choose a site in coordination with Rodrigo Urbina in Student Life (urbinard@slu.edu)
- Make four visits to this local organization.
- After each visit, record your thoughts and feelings about your service experience, and compare and contrast what you experience to what we are learning in class religion, faith, morality and justice. This is to be turned in at the end of the semester.
- Present to the class a brief history of the organization, your responsibilities and your thoughts and feelings about the experience.

Policy on late-work:

- Quizzes and exams must be taken on the dates assigned. No make-up evaluations are allowed.
- If you are scheduled to present and are unable to do so, you are responsible for switching dates with a classmate and informing the professor of the change.

Attendance policy: Attendance is expected.

Grading policy: The final grade is intended to reflect the student’s fulfillment of the course requirements, engagement with and comprehension of material studied, and ability to reflect this comprehension and engagement in the class assignments. The final grade will be determined in the following manner:

Quizzes (4 at 10 points)	40 %	Midterm examination	20 %
Service-learning presentation	10 %	Final examination	20 %
Service-learning journal	10%		

Grading Scale:

93-100 A	73-76 C+
89-92 A-	69-72 C
85-88 B+	65-68 C-
81-84 B	60-64 D
77-80 B-	0-59 F

Required texts:

- Theological Foundations: Concepts and Methods for Understanding Christian Faith
- Assorted readings

Email: Both Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to a student’s sl.u.edu address. Hence you should check your sl.u.edu account on a regular basis or have the mail from this address forwarded to a preferred account.

SLU Mission Statement: “The Mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God 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 of 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 and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.”

Accommodation Statement

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Academic Integrity

Because the university is a community of learning, an environment of mutual trust and integrity is vital. Students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility for maintaining this environment. The university's Academic Honesty Policy strictly forbids cheating, falsification, and plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the intentional representation of someone else's thoughts or words as if they were one's own.) Any violation of this policy will result in an F for the pertinent academic exercise. A detailed statement of the policy may be found at

http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Student Assessment.

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your work for this course, including exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers and/or portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

Course Calendar

Dates of topics, readings and assignments for each class are scheduled as follows. Any changes from this schedule will be announced in class.

January

- 14 Classes begin: Introduction to class and participants.
Read "The Old Testament"
- 21 Read "The New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature"
- 27 Last day to DROP a class without receiving a grade of "W" and ADD a class.
- 28 Read "Christology: "Who Do You Say That I Am?"
- 30 No classes

February

- 04 Read "The People of God: The Church"
- 10 Last day to choose "Audit" or "Pass/No Pass" options.
- 11 Read "Grace and Sacraments: The Mystery of the Divine–Human Encounter"
- 16 Midterm Exam
- 18 Sign up for service-learning presentations.
Read "Christian Morality: Choosing God in This World"
- 20-23 Winter Break
- 25 Read "Social Justice: Gospel Witness and Mission of the Church"

March

- 11 Read "Judaism, the Jewish People, and the Church"
- 13 Last day to DROP a class and receive a grade of "W".
- 13-15 Loyola Pilgrimage Retreat through Campus Ministry
- 18 Read "Islamic Religious Experience: Foundations, Scripture, and Spirituality"
- 30-05 Semana Santa

April

- 08 Read "Catholic Theology in a Global Context: A World Church"
- 12-18 Atlas Week
- 15 Women doing theology, class discussion and supplementary readings
- 22 Hinduism, class discussion and supplementary readings
- 29 Buddhism, class discussion and supplementary readings

May

- 01 Día del Trabajo
- 06 Final day of class
- 08 Final Exam 15:30-18:30