

THEOLOGY 2415
 God in Human Experience
 MW 16:00-17:15 – PRH 8

Professor: James O’Leary, S.J.
 E-mail: james.oleary@slu.edu
 Telephone: 554-5858, extension 279
 Office: Padre Rubio Hall, top floor;
 Office Hours: M-F, 12:30-13:30, 17:30-18:30 and by appointment

Course Description: Departing from human experience, this course explores the history of the concept of God in the three Abrahamic religions through a variety of means, including archeology, history, theology, and evolutionary psychology. The patterns which link Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and the ways in which they have changed their concepts over time are explored as one of the central themes.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate critical thinking by analyzing themes, concepts and presuppositions presented in the course material.
- Students will analyze and critique the coherence and argumentation of the course contents within their historical and/or contemporary contexts.
- Students will formulate a thesis and develop a written argument on a specific question in relationship to the course content.
- Students will analyze specific theological topics within the course and the relationship between them.

Required Work:

- Regular, punctual class attendance and preparation for class by doing the assigned readings and participating in class discussions.
- Offer a presentation (sign-up sheet to be circulated) on a chapter of the text. Your presentation should be emailed to me (james.oleary@slu.edu) at least two days before you are scheduled to present so that I may review it ahead of time.

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 % | Class presentation | 10 % |
| Midterm examination | 20 % | Attendance/Participation | 10% |
| Final examination | 20 % | | |

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 |

Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected.

Policy on Late-work:

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

Required Text:

- A History of God by Karen Armstrong

Email:

Both Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to a student's slU.edu address. Hence you should check your slU.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 Judaeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus."

University Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at <https://www.slu.edu/the-office-of-the-provost/academic-affairs-policies>. Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/student-resources/academic-advising/policies-and-procedures#43>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals. The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

University Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator

will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multiplettherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:
<http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Students with Special Needs: 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 <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/campus-life/student-services/disability-services>

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

Course Calendar

September

- 04 First Day of Class; Introduction to class and participants.
Read Introduction
- 11 Read Chapter 1
Sign up to lead class discussion.
- 17 Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade of W and/or Add a Class
- 18 Read Chapter 2
- 20 Quiz 1
- 25 Read Chapter 3

October

- 02 Read Chapter 4
- 09 Read Chapter 5
- 11 Midterm exam
- 16 Read Chapter 6
- 23 Read Chapter 7
- 25 Quiz 2
- 30 Read Chapter 8
Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

November

- 01 Día de Todos los Santos (University closed)
- 06 Read Chapter 9
- 08 Quiz 3
- 13 Read Chapter 10
- 20 Read Chapter 11
- 27 Read notes on Blackboard
Quiz 4

December

- 04 Read notes on Blackboard
- 06 Día de la Constitución (University closed)
- 11 Read notes on Blackboard
- 13 Final Day of Class
- 18 Final Exam 15.30