

**FALL 2018**  
**THEOLOGY 300 LEVEL COURSES**

THEO 308/001 (combined 406/001)

Biblical Hebrew I

CC114                      TTh 11:30 - 12:45

Robert Di Vito

This course presents the fundamentals of classical Hebrew, i.e., the language of the Christian Old Testament and the Jewish Scriptures. It is designed to enable the student to eventually read the text in the language in which it was written. This is indispensable not only for a full appreciation of the meaning of the biblical texts themselves but also for an understanding of the interpretations which underlie any and all modern translations of the Bible into English. Even a rudimentary knowledge of biblical Hebrew gives one access to the enormous body of secondary literature that has developed on the Bible, since most serious scholarship presumes some basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet and language.

Emphasis in the course falls on the acquisition of the Hebrew alphabet, basic syntax, and the basic grammatical forms of the language. Although grammatical forms and the basic concepts of Hebrew syntax will be presented analytically and deductively, early on students will be engaged in reading simple textual samples from the Bible. These readings will serve not only to further the student's acquisition of the grammar and syntax but also to stimulate class discussion of significant biblical themes and concepts. By the completion of this course and its companion course THEO 309 / THEO 407 a student should have the ability to begin reading the authentic prose of the Old Testament.

Theology 313/001 (combined 424/001)

The Synoptic Gospels: Luke and Matthew

Mondays 10:25-12:55

Edmondo Lupieri

The purpose of this course is twofold: A) help students to realize the diversity inside early Christianity as represented in the Synoptic Gospels and to grapple with the problems created by such diversity, with particular attention to commonalities and contrasts in the worldviews operative in Matthew and Luke; B) familiarize the students with exegetical approaches to the Synoptic Gospels in general, with particular focus on Matthew and Luke. In pursuit of this goals, students will become acquainted with the historical background of early Christianities, understand the unique nature of the Synoptic Problem, and acquire facility with biblical commentaries on these Gospels. By exegesis of selected passages from the two major Synoptic Gospels (and occasionally Mark and John) and the differences they represent, it is hoped students will be able to connect their contemporary experience of Christian diversity to that of the earliest followers of Jesus. To facilitate reflections on early variety among Christian groups, a guest lecturer will illustrate and discuss the Marcionite edition of the Gospel of Luke.

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**FALL 2018**  
**THEOLOGY 300 LEVEL COURSES**

THEO 318/001 *(combined 460/001)*

Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern

Mund 609                      Monday 4:15 - 6:45

Ross, Susan

This course is a historical/theological survey of major Christian thinkers in the Reformation and Modern periods and is intended to provide a solid historical background for Theology majors. The main emphasis of the course is on the major theological issues of the time period: that is, justification and grace in the Reformation, the role of reason and the influence of the Enlightenment on theology, the role of experience in the modern world, the significance of liberation theologies, to name just a few. We will also pay attention to context. The focus will be on primary texts, although I will also include relevant secondary sources. The structure of the course will be part lecture, part close reading of selected texts, part discussion. Since both undergraduate and graduate students will be in the course, the requirements for the two cohorts of students will have different requirements.

Course Goals:

- To have an understanding of the historical context of the ideas that have concerned theology since the Reformation;
- To be able to understand the significant primary texts from this period;
- To have a familiarity with the significant authors of this period;
- To be aware of resources for further study.

THEO 331/001

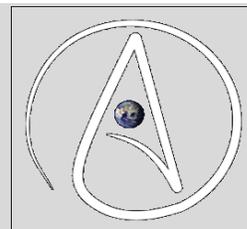
Theology of Secularization: Atheism

LSB 312                      TTh 1:00-2:15 pm

Dr. Colby Dickinson

Atheism has quickly risen to become one of the largest categories of (non)belief in our current global society. Yet despite its obvious appeal, many questions remain to be answered, such as: what exactly does it mean to profess an atheist worldview? Is atheism simply a reaction to religious belief, or can it be a positive contribution to human meaningfulness (a 'secular humanism')? Is atheism itself a religion? Can it establish a community of like-minded individuals? How is atheism distinct from, but also conjoined with, the secularization of our world? Is there anything religious persons can or should do in response to the rise of atheism? In short, this course will examine the historical rise of atheism in the modern period and its various manifestations and positions established in opposition to religious belief, especially insofar as it shares a certain trajectory with secularism today. We will look at a variety of texts that explore the topic of atheism, including intellectual histories of atheism in the modern period as well as more popular works on non-belief and secular humanism in the present era, in order to gain a better understanding of what constitutes atheism today and what future it might have in relation to traditional religious practices, beliefs and communities.

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**FALL 2018  
THEOLOGY 300 LEVEL COURSES**

THEO 352/001 <i>(combined 449/001)</i>
Buddhist-Christian Dialogue
MUND 0606      TTh 2:30 - 3:45
Hugh Nicholson
<p>This course introduces the key issues, along with the relevant Buddhist teachings, in Buddhist-Christian dialogue. It presupposes no prior familiarity with Buddhism.</p> <p>The course has three parts. The first introduces the essential teachings of both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. The second part examines the significant historical encounters between Christians and Buddhists, including the Christian missiological critique of Buddhism in the colonial period, the emergence of "Buddhist Modernism" as an indigenous response to those critiques, and the lively current interest in Buddhism in the West. The third part of the course examines some of the constructive fruits of Buddhist-Christian dialogue, including the Kyoto School of philosophy of religion and Christian-Buddhist comparative theology.</p>

BUDDHIST

CHRISTIAN

THEO 383 <i>(combined ENGL 383/001)</i>
Theology, Arts, and Literatures: The Catholic Writer, Then and Now
MUND 608      Wednesday 4:15-6:45
Gregory Wolfe
<p>In 1940, the famous writer George Orwell noted: "A fairly large proportion of the distinguished novels of the last few decades have been written by Catholics and have even been describable as Catholic novels." He was referring to what has become known as the twentieth century "Catholic Literary Revival," featuring such writers as Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Georges Bernanos, Francois Mauriac, Shusaku Endo, Flannery O'Connor, and Walker Percy. But what of the twenty-first century, a time when Western societies have witnessed increasing secularization and disaffection from institutional religion, a time marked by the rise of the religious "nones"? Are there Catholic writers today whose work might be compared to an earlier generation? And what differences of vision or emphasis might be discerned in their writing? This course will cover important texts from both periods so that students will be able to reflect on both theological and literary continuities and differences. Among the topics we will explore will be the ways Catholic writers have treated such themes as sacramentalism, the nature of desire, and what has been called "the tragic sense of life." The earlier generation of writers will be set alongside such contemporary authors as Alice McDermott, Christopher Beha, Mary Karr, and Richard Rodriguez.</p>



**FALL 2018**  
**THEOLOGY 300 LEVEL COURSES**

THEO 393/001 *(combined 480/001)*

Justice and Solidarity

Mund 519 Tuesday 4:15-6:45

Tisha Rajendra

This seminar in social ethics explores the intersection between justice and solidarity. While both concepts emerged in domestic contexts, globalization has placed new demands that theories of justice reach across national borders. Drawing on both philosophical and theological theorists such as John Rawls, Martha Nussbaum, Jon Sobrino, Bryan Massingale, Kelly Brown-Douglas, and Ada María Isasi-Díaz, this course interrogates how justice and solidarity function in both local and global contexts. Feminist, womanist and mujerista accounts of justice and solidarity will receive special attention. This course examines two applied issues of global justice in detail: migration and climate change.

