

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2010**  
Instructor: Jackson Lashier  
Course #: THEO 1001  
Section: 105  
Course Title: **Introduction to Theology**

#### Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the Christian tradition as it unfolds first in its foundational text and second in its developing history as a believing community of people. The class will be divided into three sections: 1) an overview of the Old Testament with critical study of key texts, events and characters within that narrative, 2) an overview of the New Testament with critical study of key texts, events and characters within that narrative, and 3) an overview of Christian Church history from the first century to the twenty first century, with a particular emphasis in the formation of the historic doctrines. The student will be evaluated on the knowledge gained about the Christian tradition through three objective texts given at the end of each section, as well as a research paper on a biblical theme/theological topic of the student's choice. In addition to this objective knowledge, the student will be challenged to personally and critically engage the material through reading a common theological text and through various short reflection papers throughout the semester. Questions that will guide personal reflection include: 1) who or what is God? 2) who or what is created humanity? 3) what meaning does the Christian story give to this life? NOTE: Personal engagement does not mean that the student accepts as true the Christian explanation of God, life, etc. but that he or she has *reasons* for accepting or rejecting its truth claims. Classes will facilitate the student's objective knowledge and personal engagement through lectures, discussions of themes and readings, and debates of theological topics.