UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2013
Instructor: Duane T. Loynes, Sr.
Course #: THEO 1001
Section: 122
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

Description:

"Why do we have to take a course in theology?"

This is a common question posed by entering freshmen at Marquette University. And, to a certain extent, it’s understandable. Most students arrive on Marquette’s campus wanting to be freed from the shackles of religion. College, they argue, is a time to enjoy life and study things that matter. Requiring courses in theology reminds many students of the aspects of their upbringing that they did not like.

If the aforementioned attitude resonates with you, then this course will be a 14-week project to change your mind.

The purpose of this course is two-fold. First, students will cultivate a basic theological literacy of the major concepts, figures, periods, and controversies of the Christian faith. Second, students will develop an appreciation for the abiding relevance of theology, and its past and present impact upon our culture.

The course will be comprised of three parts. In the first part we will do a brief overview of the Bible, highlighting the salient themes and the basic structure of the Old (Hebrew) and New Testaments. Secondly, we will walk through 15 centuries of Church history to try to understand how Christianity went from a small band of followers who patterned their life after a humble carpenter and became the massive institution it is today. Thirdly, we will evaluate the relevance of Christianity as it pertains to social justice issues such as poverty, racism, and homosexuality. What role has the Church played in both causing and solving these important problems?