Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2011
Instructor: J. Schaefer
Course #: THEO 1001
Sections: 123 and 126
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

Description:

Approached from an ecumenical perspective, this course is designed to introduce students to the scholarly study of the discipline of theology from a Catholic theological perspective. Focus will be placed on the various ways in which the ancient Israelites, early Christians, patristic and medieval theologians, church reformers, a socially-conscious pope, an exemplar of racial justice, and a contemporary scientist expressed their faith in God. Key persons, events, and theological concepts will be understood within the contexts of the times in which the texts were written, their authors' various understandings of the world, and the meaning they have today. Students should emerge from Theology 1001 with a basic theological vocabulary and knowledge of concepts in the Catholic tradition, an historical perspective from which to view theological discourse about experiences of God, critical thinking skills appropriate to the discipline of theology, an awareness of the major characteristics of Judaism and Islam in comparison with Christianity, an understanding of the implications the Christian faith has for growth in holiness and promotion of justice in the world, and an intellectual horizon needed to commence a second-level course in theology.