UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2016
Instructor: Rev. Philip Rossi, S.J.
Course #: THEO 1001
Section: 125
Course Title: Introduction to Theology
Topic: God, Creation, and Human History

Description:

In support of the learning objectives that the Core of Common Studies sets out for study of Theology this section of Theology 1001 will focus upon:
1) Enabling students to develop and use the skills requisite for interpreting a set of scriptural texts that are central for delimiting the theological framework of Christian faith
2) Acquainting students with theological themes and issues that have been historically important for:
   a. The articulation of the content of Christian faith; and
   b. The life and the practice of that faith as embodied by communities of Christians

In particular, this section of Theology 1001 will provide an introduction to the content of Christian faith by focusing on three central elements of the Catholic theological tradition’s understanding of God as:
   a. The creator of all that is;
   b. The fulfillment of human history, in the person of Jesus Christ;
   c. The life-giving Spirit for the life and mission of Christian community (the Church).

The class sessions and assignments for the course will thus consist of a careful reading of select texts from Christian scripture to place them in their historical and theological context. The work of two major twentieth century Christian scholars, Jaroslav Pelikan and H. Richard Niebuhr, will provide the historical and theological framework from which the course will then explore the ways in which such texts have had impact upon the shape of the community’s life at various points in history, and to examine ways in which they continue to bear upon the faith and practice of the contemporary Christian community.