

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2010**
Instructor: Dr. John Zemler
Course #: THEO 1001
Sections: 130 and 131
Course Title: **Introduction to Theology**

Description:

Viable theology is predicated upon finding the meaning of one's own and others' real-world experience in light of the divine. To study theology we will examine a variety of the fundamental experiences of Judaism and Christianity, with some inclusion of Islam. Our focus will begin with the Jewish and Christian Scriptures, as well as their histories and interpretations. In particular, we will examine topics such as Creation, Suffering, Messiahship, Biblical Texts & Canons, Persecutions, Church Structures & Organizations, and Christology. We will also engage some of the different modes by which religious communities embrace and express their faith and experience, e.g., narratives, art work, music, creeds, proverbs, folklore, and gospels. We will also pay specific attention to how experience and scripture are reflected in liturgy and prayer.

Lastly, we will engage the question of "Just War." Can war be justified; can not going to war be justified? Corollary to this we will engage the subject of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and how it wounds the soul.

Note: Your faith or lack thereof, has no bearing on your success in this course. The course is self-contained and requires no previous knowledge of theology to succeed.