UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term:  
Spring 2014

Instructor:  
Kirsten L. Guidero

Course #:  
THEO 1001

Section:  
901 (This section restricted to Honors Program students)

Course Title:  
Introduction to Theology

Description:

Courses within the Theology area in the University Core of Common Studies (UCCS) are designed to achieve the following objectives:

(1) Describe theologically the basic content of the Catholic faith in relation to other Christian and religious traditions as well as other world views;

(2) Interpret theological texts and frameworks in their historical contexts;

(3) Articulate implications of Christian faith for growth in holiness and promotion of justice in the contemporary world.

Specifically in this course, we will achieve those objectives through the following endeavors:

(1, 3) Articulate what it might mean to think, read, and reason theologically;

(1, 2) Explore and discuss Christian texts as an introduction to reading with historical context;

(1, 2) Examine basic building blocks of Christian doctrine as they arise within the early Christian movement, with an eye towards their notions of authority;

(1, 3) Trace the development of notions of authority within Christianity, including crucial areas of conflict in the early church, medieval, reformation, and early modern periods;

(1, 2, 3) Connect these content areas with more recent challenges within three key areas: literal vs. allegorical readings of Genesis 1 and their application within controversies over the origins of the world, reading with tradition and reading for justice/reformation in gender and civil rights conflicts, and reading texts in light of interreligious synthesis and violence in Algeria.

(1, 2, 3) Develop throughout the course a final essay project that analyzes and evaluates one of the major questions from the course.

Periodic reading participation quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam will, in combination with the final essay, comprise our assessment for success in this course. Intersecting points with ENG 1002, with which this section is paired in interdisciplinary query, will be explored throughout the course, including in the assessments.