UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2016
Instructor: Dr. Michael Cover
Course #: THEO 1001
Section: 902 (Honors)
Course Title: Introduction to Theology
Topic: Conversion

Description:

This course introduces Christian theology through the lens of one crucial phenomenon: conversion. What is conversion, and what unique shape does it take in the light of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience? Does one convert only once, or is it an ongoing process? What about “conversion” between different expressions of Christianity; or “conversion” from Christianity to another religion, to agnosticism, or to atheism? By focusing on narratives of conversion throughout the Old and New Testaments, as well as in the writings of Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, Ignatius of Loyola, Mary McCarthy, C.S. Lewis, and Graham Greene, students will (1) gain a sense of how personal and corporate conversion are related to Church membership and participation; (2) develop their ability to discuss religious experience and church teaching, including the phenomenon of conversion, in light of classical and modern Christian texts; and (3) improve their writing and communication skills in expressing these ideas.