UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2011
Instructor: Rev. William Kurz, S.J.
Course #: THEO 2110
Sections: 103, 104
Course Title: New Testament Select Books
Course Sub-Title: Johannine Literature

Description:

John’s Gospel has had more apparent impact than the other three on Christian creeds and doctrine. Although it differs significantly from the other three, it shares some common traditions. This Gospel emphasizes Jesus as pre-existent Word and Son of God made flesh, which emphasis the First Letter of John balances by stressing the death of the human Jesus as atoning for our sins. We will use historical and narrative approaches and ask about the community environment for such a Gospel and letters, then their theological interpretation, including learning how to apply these Scriptures to our situations, and their meaning for Christians today.

Finally, as especially relevant to end-time (apocalyptic) preoccupations with wars and disasters (such as the recent best-selling Left Behind series of novels), we will study the very different book of Revelation in relation to other apocalypses (such as Daniel 7-12 in your Bible) and its message for today.

Class preparation, attendance and contributions are important since the format involves heavy use of class analysis of texts and discussion groups more than lecture. No previous Scripture courses are presupposed.

Grades will probably be based on:

[10%] contributions to class interpretation (quality vs. quantity)
[10% = 5% + 5%] ten brief quizzes for class preparation
[10%] Exegetical outlined argument for thesis (preparation for final paper) 1-2 pages
[20%] Midterm Test [25%] Final Exam
[25%] Paper, 8-10 pages (minimum 4 pp. exegesis & 4 pp. personal synthesis & application to contemporary experience).