UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Summer 2014 (Sess. 1)
Instructor: Mark Johnson
Course #: THEO 2210
Section: 101 (Distance Learning)
Course Title: Theology through the Centuries

Description:

For this course we will be focusing generally on medieval theology, from the New Testament, through St. Augustine of Hippo, up to the thirteenth century. We will focus in particular upon the writings Augustine (died 430), St. Anselm (died 1109), and Thomas Aquinas (died 1274). These three thinkers and saints have a special relationship to the medieval phenomenon known as “scholasticism.” We will consider their teachings on God and Jesus Christ, as well as the key topic of faith’s relationship to reason.

The assessment opportunities for the course will consist of six quizzes (20%), two exams (25% x 2 = 50%), one exegetical paper (15%), and class participation (15%).

These assignments are designed to help students meet our Student Learning Outcomes for the Knowledge Area of Theology, adopted by the University in May of 2005. According to that document, each student should be able to perform the following three tasks:

1. Describe theologically the basic content of the Catholic faith in relation to other Christian and religious traditions as well as other world views—our class will consider how the influence of philosophical teaching from Greek and Roman sources influenced medieval Christian thought.
2. Interpret theological texts and frameworks in their historical contexts—we will emphasize this heavily, since our texts cannot be understood apart from the places, times, and purposes of their authors.
3. Articulate implications of Christian faith for growth in holiness and the promotion of justice in the contemporary world—inevitably the topics considered in our texts and authors will prod us to see how the world they see is like, or unlike, our own, and how we might navigate within in our world, borrowing from theirs.

I expect student to be prepared to discuss our readings via online discussion. Subject to a curve for the class, and calculated as a percentage of 100, grades will be assigned as follows: 100-94 = A, 89-93 = AB, 82-88 = B, 77-81 = BC, 70-76 = C, 67-69 = CD, 60-66 = D, below 60 = F.

NOTE: all the materials for this course are available online, through the D2L site for the class.