UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2014
Instructor: Mark Johnson
Course #: THEO 2210
Sections: 102 / 103
Course Title: Theology through the Centuries

Description:

For this semester we will be focusing generally on medieval theology, from the thought of St. Augustine of Hippo up to the “Modern Devotion” (the *Devotio moderna*), but we will focus in particular upon the writings of St. Anselm (died 1109) and Thomas Aquinas (died 1274). These two 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 (15%), two exams (30% x 2 = 60%), one exegetical paper (15%), and class participation (10%).

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 students to be prepared to discuss our readings (hence the class participation and attendance requirement). Students will sit in class according to a seating chart, and attendance will be taken each class meeting. Subject to a curve for each 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.