

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**
Instructor: Dr. D. Lyle Dabney
Course #: THEO 2310
Section: 101, 102
Course Title: **Explorations in Christian Theology**

Description:

What is human existence and what makes for a good life? While this question has been answered in classic ways in the history of the western tradition, it has been raised anew and become an important issue again in contemporary culture and Christian theology. This undergraduate course will introduce students to this discussion in an exploration of central themes in Christian theology such as God, Christ, Creation, Sin and Salvation, Sacraments, and Revelation through the lens of this renewed concern about the question of human being and becoming. The course will be divided into four parts. The first will examine the earliest human narrative that shaped the west: the heritage of the classical tradition. The second will investigate the rise of Christendom and the answer that the western theological tradition has offered to the question of our humanity. The third part will survey the emergence of modernity and the development of the new responses to the human question that it has championed. The final part of the course will explore the state of some of the central contemporary issues in the debates about being and becoming human in the light of the Biblical narrative.

Required texts:

- Roger Trigg, *Ideas of Human Nature. An Historical Introduction*, (Oxford: Blackwell Pub., 1999).
- Thomas Sowell, *A Conflict of Visions: Ideological Origins of Political Struggles*, (New York: W. Morrow, 1987)
- Warren S. Brown, Nancey Murphy, and H. Newton Malony (eds.), *Whatever Happened to the Soul?: Scientific and Theological Portraits of Human Nature*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998).