UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2012
Instructor: Dr. J. Zemler
Course #: THEO 2400
Section: 101
Course Title: Christian Discipleship

Description:

Christian Discipleship
(Always Bring Syllabus to Class)

This is an intensive second level theology course that explores Christian Discipleship.

A study of Christian Discipleship generates numerous questions (some of which we hope to answer by the end of the semester!):
- Does a Christian disciple behave in one way or another? If a disciple lives and acts in a certain way, how does one discern the path to that way of living?
- Is there something about Jesus of Nazareth that a disciple believes? If so, what is the content and basis for that belief?
- Do disciples have particular responsibilities to themselves and others if they really are disciples of Jesus?
- Is Christian Discipleship connected to how one lives their lives in terms of macro and micro economics, income distribution and taxation, health care, and international relations?
- Can a person claim to be a disciple of Jesus and also perform military service?
- Can a non-Christian be a Christian disciple?
- What does Christian Discipleship teach us about friendship with others, ourselves, the communities we interact with, and with God?

The professor is very interested in the idea of Christian Friendship, being a Friend of God. From a Christian perspective, to be a Friend of God, is to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. To that end, we will study the idea of friendship and its resonance with Christian Discipleship. To do this we will not only examine the relevant scriptural passages on discipleship, but also Cicero (Yes! THAT Cicero!), Augustine, and Benedict. We will then spend time with the Cistercian idea of friendship with God and its employment in modern times.

Do I have to be a Christian to succeed in this Class? No, you do not. The course is explicitly Christian in its subject matter, so do not be surprised if there is a lot of material about Jesus. But one does not have to be a Christian to take this course and do well academically. The course assumes students have taken Theology 1001, Introduction to Theology. All information that is testable will be provided in the class by lectures or other media. The same skills that enable one to succeed in an academic humanities course will help one to succeed in this course.

Testable Material: Expect several exams that test objective material and one or more writing assignments. Exams are multiple choice and short answer. Writing assignments will be explained in class so that students will know exactly what is expected.