UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Summer 2011
Instructor: Dr. D. Lyle Dabney
Course #: THEO 4310/5310
Section: 101
Course Title: Theology of the Holy Spirit

Description:

What does it mean to say that a person or a way of life is ‘spiritual?’ And how is that related—if it is related at all—to talk about God as ‘Spirit’ or God the ‘Holy Spirit?’ Whereas there were once widely accepted answers to these questions, they have now become matters of confusion and debate in Christianity and contemporary culture. This course explores the theology of the Holy Spirit and the notion of human spirituality. It will consist of three parts covering, successively, the Biblical Witness, the Christian Tradition, and the Contemporary Discussion. Questions such as the relation of the Spirit to God, of the Spirit to Jesus Christ in particular and to humanity in general, and of the Spirit to the physical universe will be considered.

The goals of this course are three: first, to enable students to become conversant with the major forms of the doctrine of Holy Spirit and with notions of spirituality in both their historical development and current configurations; second, to bring students to an understanding of the underlying logic shaping this doctrine in the tradition; and third, to help students begin to think through how Christian spirituality and the doctrine of the Holy Spirit might best be understood today.