Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2010
Instructor: Dr. Susan K. Wood, SCL
Course #: THEO 4330/5330
Section: 101/101
Course Title: Theology of the Church

Description:

This course begins with a transdenominational view of the church from an ecumenical perspective before addressing a theology of the church from a Roman Catholic point of view. It will present Vatican Council II as a pivotal event in the Roman Catholic Church and will examine the leadership and authority of the church, key ecclesial sacraments, ecumenism, its mission in the contemporary world, major issues in today’s church, and the challenges and opportunities facing the church.

Course objectives: By the end of the course the students will be able to:
1. Show how Vatican II was an ecclesiological council and identify the main characteristics of the church emphasized by that council.
2. Identify various models of the church and describe their specific contributions to an understanding of the church.
3. Explain the function of the episcopacy and the papacy with reference to apostolicity, catholicity and communion.
4. Describe the function, exercise and limits of authority in the Roman Catholic Church.
5. Be able to articulate the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and other church communities as developed in the Decree on Ecumenism of Vatican II.
6. Give an account of the function and theology of lay and ordained members of the Church.
7. Describe the relationship between the church and world in Gaudium et spes and the mission of the Church.
5. Analyze the authoritative weight of various church teachings.
6. Identify the challenges facing the church today.

Required texts: