

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2010**

Instructor: Philip Rossi, SJ

Course #: THEO 8515

Course Title: **Philosophy as Source and Resource for Theology**

Content:

This course will examine:

1. A representative selection of philosophical texts that bear upon the framing of theological questions and discussions.
2. A representative selection of theological texts in terms of the philosophical issues and/or presuppositions which are significant for their interpretation.
3. Some representative accounts of the relationship between theology and philosophy,

Format:

A mixture of lecture, discussion, and student led presentations

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- 3 short (1000-1500 word) papers with a critical/analytic focus on topics/issues arising from the course readings. Each student will also be expected to lead at least one class session on one of these topics/issues
- 1 longer course paper (3500-4000 word MAXIMUM!) in the format of a short essay or "note" for a scholarly journal. Paper topic will be determined in consultation with course instructor

Language Pre-requisites:

- Students will be expected to consult and utilize relevant sources in either French or German in the preparation of the longer course paper.

Required Texts:

- *Philosophy in Christian Antiquity*, C. Stead
- *The God of Faith and Reason*, Robert Sokolowski
- *Fides et Ratio*. John Paul II
- *Freedom and Creation in Three Traditions*, D. Burrell
- *Faith, Reason and the Existence of God*, Denys Turner
- *A Catholic Modernity?* Charles Taylor
- *Evil in Modern Thought*, Susan Neiman
- Various articles and book chapters; final list to be determined, but likely to include:
- Robert Merrihew Adams, "Original Sin: A Study in the Interaction of Philosophy and Theology," *The Question of Christian Philosophy Today*, ed. Francis J. Ambrosio (New York: Fordham University Press, 1999): 80-110.

- Susan Neiman, "The Structure of Faith" and "The Task of Philosophy," Chapters 4 and 5 of *The Unity of Reason: Re-reading Kant* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994): 145-206.
- Jaroslav Pelikan, "The Language of Negation," Chapter 3 of *Christianity and Classical Culture* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1993): 40-56.
- Robert Sokolowski, "The Method of Philosophy: Making Distinctions," *The Review of Metaphysics* 51 (1998): 515-532.
- Philip J. Rossi, "Reading Kant from a Catholic Horizon: Ethics and the Anthropology of Grace," (forthcoming in *Theological Studies*).
- Charles Taylor, "Language and Human Nature," *Human Agency and Language: Philosophical Papers 1* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985): 215-247.
- ----- "Overcoming Epistemology," *Philosophical Arguments* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1995): 1-19.