GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2011
Instructor: Dr. Danielle Nussberger
Course #: THEO 8522
Course Title: Major Figures in Modern Theology
Course Subtitle: Hans Urs von Balthasar

Content:

This course will survey the many and varied facets of the theological universe of the Swiss, Catholic theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar. We will have four main goals throughout our exploration of his theological vision: 1) to discern how he makes use of scripture and tradition in the formulation of his theo-aesthetics, dramatics, and logic, 2) to discover his contributions to theology as an ecumenical theologian, 3) to determine what affect his thought is having on contemporary theological discussion by reading those who have interpreted, evaluated, and utilized it for their own theological agendas, and 4) to suggest ways in which he will continue to leave his mark on the theological landscape.

Format:

Seminar style format with a combination of instructor’s lectures and student-led discussion

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Student presentations on the reading material to initiate discussion
- A book review
- A final 20-25 page paper

Language Pre-requisites:

- The use of at least one French, German, or other foreign language source in the final paper for those M.A. and Ph.D. students who are beyond their first year