GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2011
Instructor: D. Stephen Long
Course #: THEO 8550
Course Title: Special Questions in Systematic Theology
Course Subtitle: Political Theology

Content:

This course seeks to accomplish two goals: first, provide students with an overview of ‘political theology’ ancient and modern. Second, examine if there is a ‘crisis of modernity,’ what it might be, and the various theological responses to its political shifts. In this second part (the bulk of the class) narratives of modernity’ by Blumenberg, Dupré Gillespie, Lilla Löwith, Neiman, Charles Taylor and Cornel West among others will be explored. This then sets the context for theological responses to the ‘crisis,’ which include the denial such a crisis exists. Theologians to be discussed include among others: Cavanaugh, Hauerwas, Hollenback, Milbank, Murray, Niebuhr, Carl Schmidt, Stout, Wolterstorff and Yoder.

Format:

The seminar will be a mixture of lectures, discussions and student presentations.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Doctoral students are required to do one or two in-class presentations and a major essay. Masters’ students are required to do three 6-8 page essays.