

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2009**
Instructor: D. Stephen Long
Course #: THEO 1001
Sections: 126 and 128
Course Title: **Introduction to Theology**

Description:

This course examines key texts in Christian tradition, both ancient and modern, in order to gain a foundation in both Christian scripture and tradition. The purpose will be to guide students into a basic knowledge of an essential component of Marquette's Mission to "seek the truth about God and the world" by gaining knowledge of Catholic beliefs and practices within an ecumenical outlook. This will include a discussion of various rejections of the Christian faith as well as works by those who reject the existence of God. The course unfolds through an examination of four questions:

First, Does God exist?
Second, Who is God?
Third, What is the relationship between God and creation?
Fourth, what is the purpose of creation?

The method for the course will be lecture, discussion and disputations presented by students.

Learning Outcomes:

1. (Programmatic Student Learning Outcomes)
 - Describe theologically the basic content of the Catholic faith in relation to other Christian and religious traditions as well as other worldviews.
 - Interpret theological texts and frameworks in their historical contexts.
 - Articulate implications of Christian faith for growth in holiness and promotion of justice in the contemporary world.
2. (Course Specific Outcomes)
 - Acquire an adequate theological vocabulary in preparation for further study.
 - Provide answers to the above four questions that offer the student's own reasoned analysis and engage competently the various positions examined in class.
 - Be able to engage in disputations with others concerning theology in a charitable and reasonable manner.

Required texts:

- Bible (Oxford Annotated, New Revised Standard)

Department of Theology

- Hans Urs von Balthasar, Credo: Meditations on the Apostles' Creed (Ignatius Press, 2000)
- David Hart, Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and its Fashionable Enemies (Yale University Press, 2009)
- Brent Laytham, God is not . . . religious, nice, one of us, an American, a capitalist (Brazos, 2004)
- John Laurance ed., Introduction to Christianity (Pearson Custom Publishing)
- Ben Quash and Michael Ward, ed's. Heresies and How to Avoid Them: Why it matters what Christians believe (Hendrickson Publishers, 2007)