

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2009**
Instructor: Dr. L. William Oliverio, Jr.
Course #: Theo 2300
Section: 103
Course Title: Quests for God, Paths of Revelation

Description:

This course will consist of three major units:

The first unit will examine religious belief and unbelief in the modern world. It will especially do so by looking at the topic of religious experience. It will also include a brief survey of quests for the divine and divine revelation in several non-Christian world religions. Charles Taylor's *Varieties of Religion Today* will be our main text for this unit.

The second and third units will then examine two major Christian traditions and their respective understandings of seeking God and divine revelation. The Catholic tradition will be examined using Robert Barron's *The Strangest Way* as well as through excerpts from some key official documents. The charismatic-pentecostal tradition of Christianity, a Christian tradition that now has 600 million adherents in the world, will then be examined as its spirituality and theology provide insight into the contemporary religious scene. Harvey Cox's *Fire from Heaven* will be our primary text for doing so.

Required texts:

- *Varieties of Religion Today: William James Revisited*, Charles Taylor (Harvard U. Press)
- *The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path*, Robert Barron (Orbis)
- Readings from official Catholic documents (available through class reserves):
 - *Dei Verbum: The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, Vatican II
 - Excerpts from *Fides et Ratio: On the Relationship between Faith and Reason*, John Paul II
 - Excerpts from *Deus Caritas Est: On Christian Love*, Benedict XVI
 - Excerpts from *Caritas in Veritate: On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth*, Benedict XVI
- *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the 21st Century* by Harvey Cox (Perseus Books)
- Excerpts from other authors available through class reserves