

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2008**
Instructor: J. Schaefer
Course #: Theo 111
Section: 1003
Course Title: Explorations in Christian Theology
Course Sub-Title: The Human Person

Description:

As part of the core curriculum, this Manresa course on the human person intersects with Marquette's mission as a Catholic, Jesuit university dedicated to serving God by contributing to the advancement of knowledge, striving for excellence of the whole person, developing faith in God, and establishing leadership in one's vocation in life for the glory of God. Beginning with an historical overview of ways in which humanity has been conceptualized theologically, students will examine biblical, patristic, medieval, reformation, and early modern texts, including autobiographies and biographies of individuals who have written about and demonstrated their quests to experience and understand the human-God relationship in their lives. Attention will be given to the contexts of the times in which these individuals lived and the worldviews from which they reflected on the human place and role in God's creation. Basic findings about the human from the disciplines of physics, biology, neurophysiology and psychology will be identified and used to model the human person today. Each student will particularize this model for themselves as unique persons committed to orienting their lives to God.

The primary student goals of Theology 111 are to discover ways in which the human person has been conceptualized by inspired biblical writers and theologians over historical time, to interpret these ways in their historical contexts and understanding of the world, to become familiar with one key contemporary person and his/her understanding of the human in relation to God, to become sufficiently knowledgeable about basic scientific findings on the cosmological-biological evolution of the human species and the neurophysiological makeup that enables humans to open consciously to and strive for a relationship with God, to develop a realistic model of the human grounded ultimately by God, to recognize one's innate talents and acquired abilities, and to apply that model to vocational goals as a person living justly for the glory of God.

Required texts:

An annotated copy of the Bible (New America, New Jerusalem, or Oxford with Apocrypha)
Brown, Murphy & Maloney, *Whatever Happened to the Soul?* (Fortress 1998)
Gregersen et al., *The Human Person in Science and Theology* (T & T Clark 2000)
McFague, *Super, Natural Christians* (Fortress 1997)