

## Department of Theology

---

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Spring 2008**  
Instructor: Dr. Jame Schaefer  
Course #: Theo 1  
Section: 1701  
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

#### Description:

Approached from an ecumenical perspective, this course is designed to stimulate student interest in the scholarly study of the Catholic tradition and its ongoing significance. Selected texts from the Bible to modern times are examined to identify key persons, events, and concepts, to understand them within the contexts of the times in which they were written, and to recognize their basic differences from other Christian, Judaic and Islamic perspectives. Continuing efforts to express faith in God are explored subsequently by students through individual research on topics in contemporary theology and preparation of an annotated bibliography.

Students should emerge from this course with a basic theological vocabulary and knowledge of key persons, events, concepts and themes in the Catholic Christian tradition, an historical perspective from which to view theological discourse, critical thinking skills appropriate to the discipline of theology, an awareness of the basic characteristics of Judaism and Islam in comparison with Christianity, familiarity with theological research sources and the variety and scope of contemporary theological discourse, and an intellectual horizon needed to commence a second-level course in theology by successfully completing this course.

#### Required texts:

*The Catholic Study Bible or The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*  
MU Theology Department, *Introduction to Theology*, ed. John D. Laurance, S.J. (2006)  
C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* ()