

## *SPRING 2017 Course Description*

### **THEO 418-001: Prophetic Literature**

**Monday 4:15 PM-6:45 PM**

**Tom Wetzel**

In the biblical tradition, the prophet is not a fortune-teller or merely a mouthpiece for God. Rather, the prophet is God's confidante and advisor, one who can discern God's hand at work in history but who also can challenge God to change his ways. The prophet stands as mediator between God and Israel, and between God and the world. In this course, we will first briefly explore the origins and meaning of prophetic work in ancient Israel, and then we will listen as some of the great prophets of ancient Israel strive to change Israel and to change God—and in the process, envision a restored world. We will use historical methods to uncover the sometimes unsettling and conflicting experiences of the prophets, wrestling with the issues such as conflicting prophetic traditions, failed prophecy, and the nature of authentic prophetic voice. Along the way, we may discover how and whether prophetic speech continues today.

Prerequisites: THEO 231, "Old Testament," or consent of instructor

### **THEO 420-001 The Revelation to John**

**Monday 10:25 – 12:55**

**Edmondo Lupieri**

The purpose of this course / seminar is twofold: (a) to study the most common features of ancient apocalyptic worldview and its attention given to the end of the world, and (b) to analyze the diversity and transformations of Early Christianity around the end of the first century and the beginning of the second. To accomplish this purpose, in addition to detailed study of the book of Revelation, we will read and discuss selected texts from the OT, the books of Enoch, and two apocalypses contemporary to John: 4 Ezra and 2 Baruch. All texts will be read in translation (but PhD students in NTEC and MA students in BLL are expected to read the NT and – when the case – the LXX in Greek)



## *SPRING 2017 Course Description*

### **THEO 440/001: Church in the Modern World**

**Thursday 4:15 PM 6:45 PM**

**Miguel H. Diaz**

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) envisioned a Church fully engaged with the modern world, especially with contemporary human challenges and aspirations. This important gathering of Church leaders underscored the responsibility of Christian believers to read “the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel” so as to carry out the central task of the Church. Since the Second Vatican Council, various models have been proposed in an effort to shed some light on the nature and mission of the Church. This course examines these contemporary understandings of the Church and highlights the ecclesiology of Pope Francis who envisions the Church as a “field hospital” in service to the marginalized, the poor, and the oppressed.

#### Required Text

Avery Dulles, *Models of the Church*, Expanded Edition, 2000 (New York: Doubleday, Random House)

### **THEO 460/001: History of Christian Theology (Reformation to Modern)**

**Tuesday 4:15 PM 6:45 PM**

**Mark Mc Intosh**

This term our history of Christian thought (Reformation to Modern) explores the mysteriously intertwining themes that come to define (and haunt) modernity: the crisis in human knowing and certainty, the boundary-breaking pursuit of human advancement, and the shifting meaning of the supernatural. We consider these motifs from Faustus to Frankenstein to the quest for Artificial Intelligence – as the backdrop for the evolving vision of theology within modernity. Readings may include selections from: Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, Teresa of Avila, *The Interior Castle*, Shakespeare, *The Winter’s Tale*, Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Pascal, *Pensées*, Bunyan, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, Novalis, Henry von Ofterdingen: *A Romance*, Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, John Henry Newman, *University Sermons*, Simone Weil, *Waiting for God*, and Henri de Lubac, *The Mystery of the Supernatural*.

Requirements: class presentation, take-home midterm and final exams, 15pp max. (20pp max for grad students) research paper; additional requirement for graduate students: brief literature review as an element in the research paper process.



## SPRING 2017 Course Description

### THEO 470 Foundations & Critical Issues in Theological Ethics

TTH 1:00pm-2:15pm

Sullivan 203

Michael Schuck

This course is an in-depth study of four foundational questions whose answers are at the core of every project in Christian theological ethics:

- what is the bearing of *God's existence* on human morality?
- what is the *nature of the world* within which human morality is engaged?
- what are the characteristics of *humans as moral agents*?
- what types of *moral norms* should humans draw on for ethical decision making?

To put a workable focus on these vast questions, the course concentrates on the answers given by three key figures in the history of Christian ethics: Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Immanuel Kant. While the ancient, medieval, and modern worlds within which these thinkers lived are extinct, the answers they gave to these foundational questions of theological ethics remain a rich and necessary resource for the construction of any postmodern Christian ethic.

Students in this course will first acquire a solid grasp of each figure's historical context and conceptual framework, after which they will read and discuss significant portions of each author's original works. Throughout the course, students will be challenged to build out their own tentative answers to the four foundational questions of theological ethics, as refracted through their study of Augustine, Aquinas, and Kant.

The course will be a combination of instructor lecture, student presentation, and open discussion. Students will take unit tests on each of the three figures studied in the course and write a final paper. Tests and final paper requirements will be designed to appreciate the distinction between the undergraduate level 300 students and the graduate level 400 students.

## SPRING 2017 Course Description

### **THEO 470 Foundations & Critical Issues in Theological Ethics**

**TTH 1:00pm-2:15pm**

**Sullivan 203**

**Michael Schuck**

#### **Partial Reading List**

##### *Primary Texts*

Aquinas Summa Contra Gentiles, selections

Summa Theologiae, selections

Augustine Confessions, selections

On The Morals of the Catholic Church

The City of God, selections

Kant Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals

Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone, selections

##### *Secondary Texts*

Feser Aquinas, selections

Gustafson Protestant and Roman Catholic Ethics, selections

Jaspers 'Augustine' in Plato and Augustine

Schacht 'Kant' in Classical Modern Philosophers

Tarnas The Passion of the Western Mind, selections

### **THEO 480-001 Issues in Applied Theological Ethics: Bioethics**

**Friday 10:25 am – 12:55 pm**

**Hille Haker**

Over the last decades, bioethics has become a sub-discipline of ethics that addresses the individual medical practices, the institutional health frameworks, and the policies that govern health-related issues. The goal of this course is to relate the bioethics topics to the broader social ethical debates. We will discuss some newer theoretical approaches: Bioethics as Ideology Critique (Biocapitalism); Biopolitics (Foucault, Rose, Benjamin); Race and biomedicine (Holloway, Williams), Feminist bioethics (“International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics”), Philosophy of Science and Technology (Latour; Marcuse; Bishop); Literature and Ethics (Animal ethic in literature: Coetzee, Derrida). We will discuss topical issues in the fields of medical research, with special focus on research in ‘development countries’; security & surveillance technologies; robotics (social robots; internet of things); bioethics and the debate on animal-human-machine; Understanding the brain (PTSD; memory; depression research; gendered brain; emotional brain, etc.); and Constructing life (synthetic biology; gene editing, biodiversity).

## *SPRING 2017 Course Description*

**THEO 519-001 The Revelation to John**  
**Monday 10:25 – 12:55**

**Edmondo Lupieri**

The purpose of this course / seminar is twofold: (a) to study the most common features of ancient apocalyptic worldview and its attention given to the end of the world, and (b) to analyze the diversity and transformations of Early Christianity around the end of the first century and the beginning of the second. To accomplish this purpose, in addition to detailed study of the book of Revelation, we will read and discuss selected texts from the OT, the books of Enoch, and two apocalypses contemporary to John: 4 Ezra and 2 Baruch. All texts will be read in translation (but PhD students in NTEC and MA students in BLL are expected to read the NT and – when the case – the LXX in Greek)

**THEO 527-001 The Gospel of Thomas**  
**TTr 1:00 PM 2:15 PM**

**Chris Skinner**

This course will consist of an in-depth exploration of the most important issues related to the discovery, scholarly interaction with, and interpretation of the Gospel of Thomas. This includes considerations of Thomas's language of composition, date of composition, relationship to NT writings, theological outlook, and importance to modern scholarly discussions within the field of New Testament/Early Christianity.

## *SPRING 2017 Course Description*

### **THEO 585-001 Issues in Applied Theological Ethics: Bioethics**

**Friday 10:25 am – 12:55 pm**

**Hille Haker**

Over the last decades, bioethics has become a sub-discipline of ethics that addresses the individual medical practices, the institutional health frameworks, and the policies that govern health-related issues. The goal of this course is to relate the bioethics topics to the broader social ethical debates. We will discuss some newer theoretical approaches: Bioethics as Ideology Critique (Biocapitalism); Biopolitics (Foucault, Rose, Benjamin); Race and biomedicine (Holloway, Williams), Feminist bioethics (“International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics”), Philosophy of Science and Technology (Latour; Marcuse; Bishop); Literature and Ethics (Animal ethic in literature: Coetzee, Derrida). We will discuss topical issues in the fields of medical research, with special focus on research in ‘development countries’; security & surveillance technologies; robotics (social robots; internet of things); bioethics and the debate on animal-human-machine; Understanding the brain (PTSD; memory; depression research; gendered brain; emotional brain, etc.); and Constructing life (synthetic biology; gene editing, biodiversity).

## *SPRING 2017 Course Description*

### **THEO 592/001: ISET Seminar: Political Theology**

**Wednesday 10:00 AM      12:55 PM**

**Colby Dickinson**

This doctoral seminar for the ISET program will focus on political theology, specifically the relationship between liberalism, religion and politics from within a contemporary continental, philosophical perspective. We will initially explore the legacy of Carl Schmitt's formulation of political theology before analyzing a number of his more recent commentators, including Hans Blumenberg, Giorgio Agamben, Clayton Crockett, Roberto Esposito, Paul Kahn, Carl Raschke, Jeffrey Robbins, John Milbank, William Cavanaugh and Bruno Latour. In particular, we will take a look at not only new ways to consider political theology in relation to liberalism and any hope for a 'radical democracy', but we will also explore the development of a modal ontology (Agamben, Latour) that might point the way toward envisioning a new relationship between politics and theology altogether.

#### **Required texts**

Giorgio Agamben, *The Use of Bodies*, trans. Adam Kotsko, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016,

ISBN 978-0-8047-9840-2

Clayton Crockett, *Radical Political Theology: Religion and Politics After Liberalism*, New York: Columbia

University Press, 2013, ISBN 978-0231149839

Roberto Esposito, *Two: The Machine of Political Theology and the Place of Thought*, trans. Zakiya Hanafi, New

York: Fordham University Press, 2015, ISBN 978-0823267620

Paul W. Kahn, *Political Theology: Four New Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*, New York: Columbia

University Press, 2012, ISBN 978-0231153416

Carl A. Raschke, *Force of God: Political Theology and the Crisis of Liberal Democracy*, New York: Columbia

University Press, 2015, ISBN 978-0231173841

Jeffrey W. Robbins, *Radical Democracy and Political Theology*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2013,

ISBN 978-0231156363

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*, trans. George Schwab, Chicago:

University of Chicago Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0226738895