This directed reading will explore the life and thought of Hans Urs von Balthasar, one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century. Through discussion and assigned readings the student will investigate von Balthasar’s tributaries of influence and his central insight of Being as love. Emphasis will be placed on Balthasar’s theology of the Paschal Mystery in terms of the Trinitarian mystery. At the conclusion of the course the student should be familiar with the thought of von Balthasar as well as the works that influenced him.

Evaluation criteria for assignment of the course grade: The student should be able to explain, in his own words the central thought of the assigned readings. In addition the student will complete 2 written examinations and a final synthesis project in the form of an annotated bibliography which should be seen as preparation for a major research paper or journal article.