Catalogue description

Theological Anthropology examines the Christian understanding of the human person before God by reflecting on the doctrines of creation, sin, grace, liberation and hope. This course will provide a study of the human person in the light of Christian revelation as created in the image of God, fallen through original sin and restored in Christ through grace. The course will offer a systematic discussion of grace, justification, good works and merit in the history of theology with an orientation to contemporary ecumenical dialogue.

Section details

Class meetings will be from 1:15 pm to 4 pm on Tuesdays in room 202 of the Nold Building.

Required texts


Students applying this course toward an MA, MAPS, MAT, or STB (not simply the MDiv or a certificate of studies for ordination) must also select a fourth book on which they will make a 2-hour seminar presentation later in the semester. See the course requirements below.

Students who need to brush up on their philosophical anthropology are advised to read James B. Reichmann’s *Philosophy of the Human Person* (Chicago: Loyola, 1985).

**Course Requirements**

1. In each seminar session students are required to be vocally engaged in explaining and responding to the assigned reading. This requires thorough preparation for each meeting.

2. All students will take an oral final exam.

3. Students applying this course toward an MA, MAPS, MAT, or STB must also make a 2-hour seminar presentation. This will be based on one of the books marked with an asterisk in the course bibliography and on wider and deeper research beyond the required texts. There are 15 books to choose from, on the following topics:

   - Social activism (Benda)
   - Friendship (Epstein)
   - Worldly hope (Scruton)
   - Natural law (Jensen or Hittinger)
   - Hell and universalism (Rowell)
   - Modernity and sexuality (Giddens)
   - Technology (Postman)
   - Jansenism (Groethuysen)
   - Identity (Wieseltier)
   - Psychology & morals (Dalrymple)
   - Normalizing homosexuality (Reilly)
   - Resentment (Scheler)
   - Election (Novak)
   - Orthodox anthropology (Lossky)
   - Ecumenism with Protestants (Kärkkäinen)

Books for the seminar presentations will be chosen during the first class meeting. Alternative books and topics may be proposed.

Presentations will be made later in the semester, in reverse order of seniority. A current topical bibliography, detailed presentation outline, and explanatory notes must be
distributed no later than one week before the presentation itself. Level-appropriate research well beyond the required texts is obligatory.

Students are required to use real books and papers in class, and to take notes by hand. No computers (including tablets, e-book readers, and smart phones) may be used in class except as accommodations to disabilities. There are three reasons for this requirement: (1) electronics are distracting to others, (2) electronics degrade their user’s engagement with what is happening in class, and (3) taking handwritten notes is demonstrably more effective than typing them. Besides, (4) most of us spend too much time looking at screens already, and (5) we are losing skills we will need during and after the zombie apocalypse.

Seminar sessions may not be recorded except as an accommodation to a disability.

**Grades**

Seminar participation, the oral final exam, and seminar presentations (when required) will be of equal weight in course grading. Grades will be curved to a 3.0 average for the section. If, in the end, this seems inequitable to the professor, a different class average may result.

**Course calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>August 24</th>
<th>Introduction — syllabus review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Overview part 1: Vonier, chapters 1 to 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Overview part 2: Vonier, chapters 21 to 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aquinas on our nature; McDermott pp. 105–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Denzinger texts in systematic index VII b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Overview part 3: Vonier, chapters 39 to 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Appetite &amp; apprehension; McD pp. 124–42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Genesis and the imago Dei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>McDermott pp. 142 to 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Denzinger texts in systematic index VII b, c, d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Divine governance and creation</td>
<td>McDermott pp. 150 to 163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>God's love, providence, &amp; predestination</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 50 to 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Fall break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 276 to 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Grace, Justification, and Merit part 1</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 303 to 324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Grace, Justification, and Merit part 2</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 303 to 324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Grace, Justification, and Merit part 3</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 303 to 324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Grace, Justification, and Merit part 4</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 303 to 324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>McDermott, pp. 303 to 324</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>(class cancelled for impending Thanksgiving break)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>McD 200–04, 215–16, 344–47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bibliography


* Jensen, Steven J. *Knowing the Natural Law: From Precepts and Inclinations to Deriving Oughts*. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2015. See also Cortest and MacIntrye.


*Pascal, Blaise. The Provincial Letters. (Any complete edition.)*


