1. Course Description

1.1 Catalog Description: Systematic theological reflection on the beginning and end of the universe and the human person in the light of Christian revelation; the human person as created in the image of God, fallen through original sin, restored in Christ through grace; justification, good works and merit in the history of theology; Christian eschatology with a view to the contemporary problematic concerning hermeneutics.

1.2 Goals: Students will (1) identify the sources in scripture and tradition of the doctrines of creation, original sin, grace and hope; describe their historical and literary contexts, and explain their meaning in these contexts; (2) identify the contemporary issues relating to the doctrines of creation, original sin, grace and hope and explain their meaning for interpreting human existence in the world today; (3) demonstrate respect for the traditional language and imagery in which the doctrine of creation, sin, grace, justification and hope have found expression; (4) recognize and appreciate the complexity of the theological task, the values of pluralism in theology, and the role of the Magisterium; (5) respond to questions raised about the meaning of the doctrines of creation, original sin, grace, justification and hope in way that is doctrinally sound, theologically informed, and pastorally appropriate.

2. Topical Outline

2.1 Theology of Creation: The Human Person’s Origin, Nature, and Final Destiny

2.2 Theology of Sin: Discussion of Original Sin and Salvation

2.3 Theology of Grace: The Dynamics of Grace and Justification

2.4 Theology of Hope: Eschatology

3. Required Textbooks (*) and Selected Bibliography


Feingold, Lawrence. The Natural Desire to Seed God according to St. Thomas Aquinas and His Interpreters. Sapientia Press of Ave Maria University: 5050 Ave Maria Blvd., Ave Maria, FL 34142, 2010.


*Letter of the S. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on Certain Questions Concerning Eschatology, (17 May 1979).*

Letter of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World, (13 May 2004).


4. **Format of Presentation:** This course will be a mixture of lecture, class discussion, and study review questions.

5. **Required Workload:**
   - 5.1 Students are expected to complete all the assigned reading and answer the study review questions.
   - 5.2 There will be a Midterm and Final exam (written outside class time).
   - 5.3 A final synthesis project, due **March 05**.

Suppose you were invited to give an hour presentation to an RCIA group or parish adult education group summarizing the study of Christian Anthropology and Eschatology entitled “Will Many Be Saved?” What important points would you explore? Prepare an outline for your PowerPoint presentation. Attach a brief explanation or note for each point in your outline. Finally, compose five questions you think the group might ask of you, and tell me, clearly and succinctly, how you would answer them. **Please submit the whole assignment as a single file.**

6. **Grading:** Two exams – Midterm & Final, each 30%; Final project 35%; Attendance, quizzes and participation, 5%.

7. **Academic Standards**
   - 7.1 **Academic Honesty:** All the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. **Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper attribution) will be tolerated.** Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee. They will also be reported to appropriate ecclesiastical authorities where applicable.

As stated in the Norms of Conduct for the University of St. Thomas, academic misconduct includes: (a) cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; (c) attempting to engage in such acts.

Plagiarism is **using the work of another person and claiming it as your own**. The most common types of plagiarism include:

- Using a paper or portion of a paper prepared by someone else;
- Quoting someone else’s language or words without proper quotation or citation; and
- Paraphrasing someone else’s ideas, framework, or insights without giving credit to the original author in a citation.
Students are very strongly urged to consult the following websites for additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/

Academic misconduct in any form is unacceptable and suspected violations will be pursued aggressively.

7.2 Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every meeting. Any absences without substantive reason (in the judgment of the instructor) will adversely affect your final grade. Regardless of the reasons for absence, students are responsible for the whole content of the course.

8. Office Hours: Email is the preferred way of reaching the instructor. You may also phone my office during regular business hours. If you would like to have a conversation outside of business hours, please email to arrange an appointment. My email address and phone number are given at the top of the syllabus.

9. Submission of Work:
9.1 Work should be submitted electronically in an email attachment as a Microsoft Word or Rich Text file, to andersjb@stthom.edu.

9.2 Format: Please identify each and every assignment you send with this label: “CU2210CA2016.Lastname,firstinitial.Assignmentname.”

This is how my Final Project should appear:
“CU2210CA2016.Anderson,J.Final Project”

9.3 Use this label format in three places:
a. In the topic of the email;
b. As the name of the file;
c. In the header on page one (1) of the paper, placed in the top left hand corner.

9.4 Rationale for the format: This format will organize each student’s work under his/her own name in my files, and facilitate my retrieval of each document without having to re-label it.

10. Calendar of Classes and Required Readings: Please note that the four parts of the course have been divided into two week sections with readings assigned and recommend for each part.

Part 1: Theology of Creation: The Human Person’s Origin, Nature and Destiny
Week 1 & 2: Saturday – January 09, 2016

1.1 Science, the Bible, and Christianity
1.2 The Vision of the Hebrew Scriptures
1.3 Creation in the Christian Scriptures
1.4 Creation from Nothing
1.5 The Triune God, the Creator
1.6 Humanity in the Cosmic Context
1.7 Sin and Evil
1.8 Christ and the Cosmos
1.9 Creation and the Future
Required Reading:
Catechism of the Catholic Church: 279-384


Recommended Readings:


Part 2: Theology of Sin: Discussion of Original Sin and Salvation

Week 3 & 4: Saturday – January 23, 2016
Midterm Exam – Outside Class – Brief Answer Questions

  2.1 Questions about the Origins of Man
  2.2 The State of Innocence: Original Justice
  2.3 Original Sin, I: Definition and Background
  2.4 Original Sin, II: The New Testament and Tradition
  2.5 Man in the Image of God
  2.6 Christ, the Last Adam
  2.7 The Centrality of Experience in the Discussion of Grace
  2.8 Elements in a First Description of Grace
  2.9 Hebrew Scriptures
  2.10 New Creation in Christ: Paul of Tarsus

Required Reading:
Catechism of the Catholic Church: 385-421; 1730-1748


Recommended Reading:
Part 3: Theology of Grace: The Dynamics of Grace and Justification
Week 5 & 6: Saturday – February 06, 2016

3.1 The Experience and Language of Grace
3.2 Augustine: Grace and Human Autonomy
3.3 Aquinas: Nature and Grace
3.4 Julian of Norwich: “And All Shall Be Well”
3.5 Martin Luther: Sin and Grace
3.6 Trent, Molinism and Jansenism: A Tug of War
3.7 The Love of God: Grace as Self-Gift
3.8 Liberation: A Contemporary Language of Graced Experience
3.9 Social Grace: A Liberationist Theology of History
3.10 Grace in Its Essence: Habitual, Actual, Predestination, Justification, Consciousness of the State of Grace
3.11 The Five Existential States of Grace

Required Reading:
Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1949-2029

Recommended Reading:

Part 4: Theology of Hope: Eschatology
Week 7 & 8: Saturday – February 20, 2016
Final Exam – Outside Class – Brief Answer Questions

4.1 The Story of Hope in the Hebrew Scriptures
4.2 The Story of Christian Hope
4.3 Philosophical Basis for Systematic Eschatology
4.4 Eschatology and Individual Destiny: Death, Judgment, Purgatory, Suffrages for the Dead
4.5 Limbo? - The Hope of Infants Who Die Without Being Baptized
4.6 History and Eschatology
4.7 The End of History: The Coming of Christ, General Judgment, and Signs of the End
4.8 Definitive Failure: Hell and the Problem of Universal Salvation
4.9 The Kingdom of Eternal Life: Heaven and the Communion of Saints

Required Reading:
Catechism of the Catholic Church: 988-1060


Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) of Vatican II, chapter 7.


**Recommended Readings:**


