1. Course Description

1.1 Catalog Description: 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. Christian eschatology also will be discussed with a view to the contemporary problematic concerning hermeneutics. Revelation and Faith is recommended prior to this course.

1.2 Goals: Students will (1) identify the sources in scripture and tradition of the doctrines of creation, original sin, grace, justification 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, justification 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, original 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 a way that is doctrinally sound, theologically informed, and pastorally appropriate.

2. Topical Outline

2.1 Theology of Creation: The Human Person’s Origin, Spiritual 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 Texts (*) and Selected Bibliography


*Bransfield, J. Brian. The Human Person according to John Paul II. Pauline Books & Media: Boston, MA, 2010.*


*Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, Encyclical Letter on Christian Hope (30 November 2007).*


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, possible quizzes and small group work.

5. **Required Workload:**

5.1 Students are expected to complete the assigned reading and formulate questions.

5.2 **There will be two exams: a Midterm and a Final Exam both oral.** Possible reading quizzes will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

5.3 **Written assignments** are to be submitted by the beginning of class on or before the assigned dates, according to the procedures outlined below. Late submissions will not be accepted except by prior arrangement.

5.3.1 The **final synthesis project** is due Wednesday, April 26th.

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 **“Justification, Sanctification, Salvation – How can I be saved?”** What important points would you explore? Prepare an outline for your presentation. Attach a brief explanation for each point in your outline. 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.**

5.3.2 **YMD and STB candidates** will in the place of the final synthesis project prepare a research paper of 12-15 pages in length with accompanying Bibliography on a topic chosen from the course and approved by the instructor. **The research paper will be due on April 26th.** It should be well organized, properly documented, typed following the Modern Language
Association (MLA) format and the “Guidelines for Nonsexist Use of Language in NCTE (National Council of Teachers in English) Publication”.

5.4 There will be two oral book reviews. You will be expected to read and know well both *The Scandal of the Incarnation: Irenaeus Against the Heresies* selected passages with an introduction by Hans Urs von Balthasar and *Purgation and Purgatory* by St. Catherine of Genoa (14447-1510). You will be asked to review the book by answering specific questions and commenting on significant passages chosen by the instructor.

6. Grading: Midterm exam, 25%; Final Comprehensive Exam 25%; Final Synthesis Project or a Research Paper for M.A. of Theology or S.T.D. candidates 20%; Written Book Reviews 25%; Attendance, Reading quizzes and questions for discussion 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.

7.3 Disability Services: Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. Their offices can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.

8. Office Hours: Email is the preferred way of reaching the instructor. You may also phone my office in the Vianney Hall 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 both as printed manuscripts and 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: “Theological Anthropology7301,2017,Lastname,firstinitial.Final Project.”
      This is how my Final Project should appear:
   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 (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 Readings:
    The class meets twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:45pm to 4:00pm for the duration of the Spring Semester 2017 as follows:
    January
       18 Part 1: Theology of Creation
       23
       25
       30
    February
       01
       06
       08 Part 2: Theology of Sin
       13
       15
       20
       22
       27 First Oral Book Review - Irenaeus, On the Scandal of the Incarnation
    March
       01 Part 3: Theology of Grace
       06
       08
       20 Midterm Exam
       22
       27
       29 Proposed Outline for the Research Paper
    April
       03
       05 Part 4: Theology of Hope
       10
       19
       24
       26 Final Synthesis Project & Research Paper Due
May

01 Second Oral Book Review – Catherine of Genoa, *Purgation and Purgatory*

03 Last Class

Please note that each part of the course has been divided into topics, with readings assigned and recommended for each topic.

**Part 1: Theology of Creation: The Human Person’s Origin, Spiritual Nature, and Destiny**

Readings for January 18 – February 06


1.1 Introduction to Christian Anthropology
1.2 Science, the Bible, and Christianity
1.3 The Vision of the Hebrew Scriptures
1.4 Creation in the Christian Scriptures
1.5 Creation from Nothing
1.6 The Triune God, the Creator
1.7 Humanity in the Cosmic Context
1.8 Sin and Evil
1.9 Christ and the Cosmos
1.10 Creation and the Future

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

Readings for February 08 – 27


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  

**Part 3: Theology of Grace: The Dynamics of Grace and Justification**  
Readings for March 01 – April 03  


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 Rahner: Grace as Self-Gift  
3.8 Liberation: A Contemporary Language of Graced Experience  
3.9 Deification and Grace  
3.10 Grace in Its Essence: Habitual, Actual, Predestination, Justification  
3.11 Consciousness of the State of Grace  
3.12 The Five Existential States of Grace  

**Part 4: Theology of Hope: Eschatology**  
Readings for April 05 – May 04  


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 Dead
4.5 Limbo
4.6 History and Eschatology
4.7 The End of History: The Coming of Christ, General Judgment, and Signs of End
4.8 The Final Condition: Hell and the Problem of Universal Salvation
4.9 The Kingdom of Eternal Life: Heaven and the Communion of Saints