1. Course Description

1.1 Catalog Description: This course is a theological exploration of God’s divine self-communication to humankind in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and humankind’s graced response to that revelation in the life of faith. The course will begin with a reflection on the nature of human experience as the locus of the encounter between God and humankind. We will explore the way in which the one divine revelation is mediated through Scripture and Tradition and given normative expression in dogma and doctrine. The respective roles of the magisterium, theologians and the sensus fidelium in the faithful transmission and reception of the Catholic faith will also be explored at length.

1.2 Goals: Students will (1) recognize and appreciate the richness and complexity of the theological task of exploring God’s divine self-communication to humankind in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (Revelation) and of humankind’s graced response (Faith); (2) reflect upon human experience as the locus of the privileged encounter between God and humankind; (3) investigate the role of human language and of reason in speaking of God; (4) understand the uniqueness of God’s revelation in Christ and how Scripture and Tradition together form God’s Word addressed to humankind; (5) read and study the Dogmatic Constitution of Divine Revelation of the Second Vatican Council (Dei Verbum); (6) investigate and answer questions about the Church’s teaching in regards to the canonicity, inspiration, inerrancy and interpretation of the Bible; (7) appreciate the liturgy, Christian art, the Fathers of the Church, Councils, Creeds and Definitions as the great witnesses of Tradition, (8) appreciate the respective roles of the magisterium, theologians and the sensus fidelium in the faithful transmission and reception of the Catholic faith; (9) study the history of the theology of Christian faith and of its present day articulation (models of faith, nature and object of faith, grounding of faith, properties of faith, development of faith and faith’s necessity for salvation.

2. Topical Outline:

Part 1 - Man’s Capacity for God – the Preambles of Faith

2.1 The Experience of God
2.2 God in Human Language
2.3 The Habit and Task of Theology
2.4 Knowledge of God by Reason – The Role of Philosophy in Theology
2.5 Knowledge of God in Faith – The Revelation of God
2.6 The Dogmatic Constitution of Divine Revelation – Dei Verbum
Part 2 – The Word of God Transmitted in the Tradition
2.7 Tradition as Source in Theology
2.7.1 The Meaning of Tradition
2.7.2 The Subject of Tradition
2.7.3 The Content of Tradition: Tradition and Scripture
2.7.4 The Monuments or Witnesses of Tradition
2.7.4.1 The Liturgy and Christian Art
2.7.4.2 The Fathers of the Church, Councils, Creeds and Definitions
2.7.4.3 The Sense of the Faithful – Sensus Fidelium
2.8 Magisterium, Infallibility and the Role of Theologians
2.9 A Survey of Catholic Theology, 1800 to Present

Part 3 – The Word of God Transmitted in the Sacred Scriptures
2.10 Scripture as a Source in Theology
2.10.1 Canonicity
2.10.2 Inspiration
2.10.3 Inerrancy
2.10.4 The Interpretation of Scripture – Bible, Church and Authority

Part 4 – Man’s Response to God -The Theological Virtue of Faith
2.11 A History of the Theology of Christian Faith
2.11.1 Models and Issues of Faith
2.11.2 Nature and Object of Faith
2.11.3 Grounding of Faith
2.11.4 Properties of Faith
2.11.5 Development of Faith
2.11.6 Faith and Salvation

3. Textbooks consulted (*) and Selected Bibliography:


English Bibliography:


4. **Format of presentation:** This course will be a mixture of lecture, class discussion, and small group work.

5. **Required Workload:**
   - 5.1 Students are expected to complete the assigned reading.
   - 5.2 Answer the study review questions for each section.
   - 5.3 Two written exams to be completed outside of class.
   - 5.4 Complete the final synthesis project, due **May 16th.**

Suppose you were to give an hour presentation to an RCIA group or parish adult education group summarizing in your own words the relevance of this course by attempting to answer the following questions:

1. What is the full and definitive stage of God’s Revelation?
2. Why and in what way is divine revelation transmitted?
3. How is revelation mediated through Tradition and Sacred Scripture?
4. What are the respective roles of the magisterium, theologians and the *sensus fidelium* in the transmission and reception of divine revelation?
5. Why does Sacred Scripture teach the truth?
6. How is Sacred Scripture to be read?
7. How did the Canonicity of the books of the Old and New Testament come to be determined and how does the Protestant Bible differ from the Catholic?
8. How does man respond to God who reveals himself?
9. What are the characteristics of faith?
10. Is faith necessary for salvation?”

Prepare an outline for your presentation. Attach a brief explanation for each point of 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 single file.**

6. **Grading:** Two Exams (written), 30% each; Final project 30%; Attendance, study questions and class participation, 10%.

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 in the Vianney Hall during regular business hours. If you would like to have a phone 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 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:
   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 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:
The class meets once a week on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:45pm for the first half of the Spring Semester as follows:

   Part 1 - March 21 & 28 – Man’s Capacity for God – The Preambles of Faith
   General Intro. & Methodological Considerations
   The Experience of God
   God in Human Language
   The Habit and Task of Theology
   Knowledge of God by Reason - Philosophy
   Knowledge of God by Faith - the Revelation of God
   The Dogmatic Constitution of Divine Revelation – Dei Verbum
Part 2 – April 04 & 11 – The Word of God Transmitted in the Tradition
  Tradition as a Source in Theology
  The Meaning, Subject, and Content of Tradition
  The Monuments or Witnesses of Tradition
  The Liturgy & Christian Art
  The Fathers of the Church, Councils, Creeds and Definitions
  The Sense of the Faithful – Sensus Fidelium
  Magisterium, Infallibility and the Role of Theologians
  A Survey of Catholic Theology, 1800 to Present

Midterm Exam

Part 3 – April 18 & 25 – The Word of God Transmitted in the Sacred Scriptures
  Scripture as a Source in Theology
  Canonicity, Inspiration, Inerrancy
  The Interpretation of Scripture – Bible, Church, & Authority

Part 4 – April 02 & 09 – Man’s Response to God - The Theological Virtue of Faith
  A History of the Theology of Christian Faith
  Models and Issues of Faith
  Nature and Object of Faith
  Grounding of Faith
  Properties of Faith
  Development of Faith
  Faith and Salvation
  Concluding Synthesis

Final Exam

11. Required Readings and Other Recommended Readings:

Part 1 – March 21 & 28 – Man’s Capacity for God – The Preambles of Faith
Required Readings:

(placed on UST BlackBoard)

Part 2 – April 04 & 11 – The Word of God Transmitted in the Tradition
Required Readings:
Izquierdo, Cesar. Teologia Fundamental, pp. 103-248.

Part 3 – April 18 & 25 – The Word of God Transmitted in the Sacred Scriptures
Required Readings:
Izquierdo, Cesar. Teologia Fundamental, pp. 415-556.

(placed on UST BlackBoard)
Part 4 – May 02 & 09 – Man’s Response to God – The Theological Virtue of Faith
Required Readings: