

Department of Theology and Religious Studies
Graduate Courses
Fall 2020

Please be aware that dates and times listed below may change.

Foundation in Systematic Theology
LAW 7116-1
(capped at 15)

Prof. Chaim Saiman
R 3:10 – 5:10 pm

One of the central features of the Jewish tradition is the degree to which questions that other cultures treat as philosophy, ethics, politics, and theology take on a distinctly legal form. In Judaism, “law” or *halakhah* (roughly Jewish law), is thus a far broader concept than “things that happen in court” or “rules imposed by the state.” The goal of this course is to explore the “idea of halakhah,” by showing how the rabbis used regulatory concepts to do the work other societies assign to a host of other disciplines. Given the irreducibly legal nature of halakhah, however, several questions emerge: What happens to law when it is also a foundation for social and theological thought? What does it mean for speculative thinking to be carried out in legal categories? How are legal texts transformed when recited as prayers or read for religious inspiration? And conversely how are aspirational and aphoristic teachings transformed when encoded into law? What happens when a legal system that may be more interested in education than adjudication, or when the study of law takes precedence over its practice? What does it mean for the study of law to connect Man to God? And how does this law-centric discourse fill its broader religious and social roles? And finally, does this form of law have any place in the context of a modern state? This is devoted to thinking through these questions.

Foundation in Systematic Theology
THL 8000-001
(capped at 5)

Dr. Jennifer Jackson
W 11:30 – 1:50 pm

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of theology and the practices of theologians engaged in this study. Students will develop a working understanding of the language, methods and topics that inform and are informed by Christian theological reflection (with an emphasis on the Roman Catholic perspective). In and through the learning community of the class, students will be able to engage diverse theological perspectives across historical periods, examine the relation between faith and culture, and communicate effectively in critical and constructive ways the tasks and challenges of Christian theological reflection today.

Foundation in Systematic Theology
THL 8000-003
(capped at 5)

Dr. Jennifer Jackson
W 4:30 – 6:50 pm

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of theology and the practices of theologians engaged in this study. Students will develop a working understanding of the language, methods and topics that inform and are informed by Christian theological reflection (with an emphasis on the Roman Catholic perspective). In and through the learning community of the class, students will be able to engage diverse theological perspectives across historical

periods, examine the relation between faith and culture, and communicate effectively in critical and constructive ways the tasks and challenges of Christian theological reflection today.

Foundation in Bible

THL 8001-002

(capped at 5)

Dr. Peter Spitaler

M 7:00 – 9:20 pm

Biblical studies in Augustinian Catholic tradition prepares students to reflect critically and theologically upon scripture in research and teaching. Its focus is the deep inner unity of the biblical narrative as a whole as well as the contributions of individual texts to this unity as they shape a theological narrative concerning the relationships among God, human beings, and the world through time and culture(s)/

Foundation in Spirituality

THL 8003-001

(capped at 5)

Dr. Christopher Barnett

W 7:00 – 9:20 pm

This course can be considered two courses in one. For the first several weeks, it will serve as an introduction to methodological issues in the study of “lived religion” or, in popular parlance, *spirituality*. Each of these class meetings will center on a particular question, supplemented by important and timely scholarly readings. Next, it will survey a number of major figures in the history of Christian Spirituality, considering their strengths as well as their limitations. All told, then, this course will establish an interchange between foundational academic issues in spirituality and foundational contributors to the field — a combination of method and encounter.

Foundation in Ethics

THL 8004-001

(capped at 5)

Dr. Vincent Lloyd

M 4:30 – 6:50 pm

Examination of basic questions and research methods in Christian ethics. Special attention given to the relationship to faith and culture.

Themes in Johannine Literature

THL 8150-001

Prerequisite: Foundation in Bible [THL 8001]

(capped at 7)

Dr. Paul Danove

T 11:30 – 1:50 pm

The Gospel, Epistles and Apocalypse of John, and their main theological themes. Emphasis on the theology of the Word and the passion, death and resurrection accounts.

THM: Economic Ethics**THL 8390-001***Prerequisite: Foundations in Ethics [THL 8004]
(capped at 7)***Dr. Gerald Beyer****M 2:00 – 4:20 pm**

This course will utilize historical and contemporary sources in Christian ethics, Catholic social teaching, economics, and other disciplines to explore questions of economic justice and Christian discipleship in the economic sphere. Specifically, the course considers questions such as globalization, consumerism, poverty and its relationship to race and gender, economic rights, just wages and other worker justice issues and socially responsible investment.

THM: Vatican II & Global Catholicism**THL 8495-001***Prerequisite: Foundation in History [THL 8002]
(capped at 7)***Dr. Massimo Faggioli****T 7:00 – 9:20 pm**

This course examines the Second Vatican Council in its historical background, its unfolding, and its theological legacy in the Church today. The first part of the course will put Vatican II in its historical context and study the history of the event between 1959 and 1965. The second part of the course will analyze the texts of the most important of the sixteen final documents of Vatican II, with special attention to the four constitutions, the declarations on religious liberty and non-Christian religion, and the decree on ecumenism. The third part of the course will examine the council's legacy in the Church over the past fifty years through a study of the reception debate from 1965 to today, with special attention to the reception of Vatican II by the pontificate of pope Francis.

THM: Religious Traditions of the Middle East**THL 8510-001***(capped at 7)***Dr. Yasemin Akis****R 4:30 – 6:50 pm**

Understanding the modern Middle East is almost impossible without first developing an appreciation for the importance of its diverse religious traditions, and the role that religion has played in the development of the region since antiquity. This course examines the many ways that religion has functioned in Middle Eastern societies, beginning with ancient, pre-Islamic practices, such as the Zoroastrian religion of the Persian Empire, the development of Judaism among the ancient Israelites, and the spread of Christianity in the eastern Roman Empire. Of special interest will be the rise of Islam in the seventh century, and the development of unique and localized Islamic traditions in the rapidly expanding Arab empires of the medieval period. The class will conclude by looking closely at the many ways religion is practiced in the Middle East today, from the official secularism of states like Turkey, to the post-revolutionary religious politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the complex relationship between Judaism and Zionism in Israel, to the special challenges faced by Christians and other minorities in places like Egypt or Lebanon.

THM: The Spiritual Sixties**THL 8510-002***Prerequisite: Foundation in Spirituality [THL 8003]
(capped at 7)***Dr. Brett Grainger****R 4:30 – 6:50 pm**

The decade from the mid-1960s to mid-1970s was a period of dramatic religious change. Christianity in America began to face new challenges from eastern religions, humanistic psychology, and psychedelic culture, which together turned on the rising generation to more personalized and experiential forms of spirituality, including mystical states of "cosmic consciousness." This course surveys the religious and cultural scene of mid-century, before assessing the roots of the explosive transformations associated with the "Age of Aquarius," concluding with a consideration of their legacy for the American religious landscape. Special attention will be given to the rise of new religious movements, the turn to religious practice, political developments in racial empowerment and the feminist movement, and to artistic developments in music and literature.

Education Seminar 2**THL 8702-001***(capped at 7)***Dr. Timothy Hanchin****T 7:00 – 9:20 pm**

This is the second course in the two-seminar sequence of the Heart of Teaching program for all PhD students and MTS students in the Theological Education Track. While Theological Pedagogy (THL 8701) focuses on philosophies and accompanying theories of instruction animating theological education, Contextual Education (THL 8702) offers intentional reflection on the student's concurrent Classroom Apprenticeship Practicum. The main content, then, is the student's Assistant Teaching experience augmented by pedagogical resources that best prepare the student for supervised and independent teaching.

Apprenticeship 1**THL 8703-001***(capped at 7)***Dr. Timothy Hanchin**

Instruction, supervision, and mentorship in evidence based pedagogical theory and practices.

THM: Educating for Mission**THL 8710-001***Restricted to MMT students only. (capped at 7)***Dr. Timothy Hanchin****R 2:00 – 4:20 pm**

Historically Catholic institutions such as schools and hospitals face an identity and leadership crisis in our time. The distinct mission and identity of these institutions was previously assumed by a critical mass of ordained and vowed religious. In Catholic higher education, the emergence of lay leadership demands a new vision and strategies commensurate with the challenges of our time. The commodification of education, the fragmentation of knowledge, and the crisis of conversation indelibly inform the context of higher education today. This course examines animating philosophies, pedagogies, and leadership practices that enable Catholic education to flourish in our time. By recognizing the student's ministerial praxis as a *locus theologicus*, this course privileges the method of practical theology. While the investigation focuses on Catholic higher education, the implications for educational leadership in

other mission-based contexts, including healthcare and secondary education, will also be considered.