2015

THEO 111-28 Theological Foundations

Alexander Hwang
hwanga1@xavier.edu

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A basic study of human and religious faith, especially the Christian faith, the connection between faith and religion, the personal and social value of religion, the diversity of world religions, and the issues connected with religious diversity and global responsibility; a basic understanding of Theology and how it relates to faith, along with different ways of reading scripture and tradition and how those readings affect issues of gender, class, race, violence, evil, and sin. Required course for E/RS.

II. COURSE EXPECTATIONS:
I hope that we will be better equipped to think critically, write effectively, and act compassionately, through this basic study and practice of theology in the Ignatian spirit.

Students will take seriously their own intellectual and spiritual development of the whole person and the whole person in the other.

Students will make every effort to arrive to class on time and prepared.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
5 Objective Quizzes (Multiple Choice and Short Answer): 5 x 5% (25%)
Mid-Term Exam (Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and Essay): (20%)
Theological Interpretation/Reflection on Reading (Assigned) (10%)
Religious Site Visit and Reflection (3 pages): (10%)
Active Participation/Attendance: (10%)
Final Exam (Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and Essay): (25%)

V. COURSE RESOURCES:
Office of Student Success
Location: 514 Conaton Learning Commons
Phone: 513-745-3036
Email: studentretention@xavier.edu

The Staff in the Office of Student Success is available to assist students to make the most of their Xavier experience. Personal staff consultations, success coaching, referrals to on-campus Solution Centers, and guiding students to effectively navigate their college experience are central to our work. Please visit www.xavier.edu/student-success to learn more or visit us in the Conaton Learning Commons.
GRADING POLICY (DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY WEBSITE)

Grades indicate a professor's assessment of a student's academic performance and not a student's effort. In accordance with University policy, letter grades in undergraduate theology courses mean the following:

A = Exceptional academic performance (that is, uncommonly high academic achievement, which demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, uncommon skills in critical analysis and effective communication, and imagination)

B = Good academic performance (that is, high quality academic achievement; demonstrated competency in the discipline above the average or standard)

C = Satisfactory academic performance (that is, academic achievement that meets an average or standard level of competency in the discipline)

D = Minimal academic performance, sufficient to pass

F = Failure

If a theology professor chooses to use plus/minus grades in conjunction with number grades, the following scale applies:

A=94-100; A-=92-93
B+=90-91; B=87-89; B-=84-86
C+=82-83; C=79-81; C-=76-78
D+=74-75; D=71-73; D-=68-70

I. THE GRADING OF OBJECTIVE AND ESSAY TESTS

Grades reflect the accuracy, coherence, clarity and completeness of answers and essays.

II. THE GRADING OF PARTICIPATION

A = The student is consistently well prepared for class, actively listens and contributes thought-provoking insights.
B = The student is prepared for class and demonstrates thoughtful engagement with the material.
C = The student is inconsistently prepared for class and is infrequently engaged with the material.
D = The student is minimally prepared for class and shows a lack of interest in the course material.
F = The student shows lack of interest in the course, is frequently late or absent, and regularly demonstrates a lack of commitment to the class.
III. THE GRADING OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Writing assignments are evaluated according to content, use of theological sources/resources and expression of ideas. The sources/resources should be used with critical intelligence, historical sensitivity, and imagination.

CONTENT:

A = The essay clearly states a thesis, develops it with careful analysis, insight, and originality; and supports and defends the argument substantially and concretely with appropriate reference to and reflection on sources/resources.

B = The essay adequately defines a thesis and supports it sufficiently and consistently; it defends the argument, is accurate, and exhibits familiarity with sources/resources and reflection them.

C = The essay lacks a clear thesis, may contain inaccuracies, and/or fails to exhibit familiarity with or reflection on the sources/resources.

D = The essay lacks a thesis, contains inaccuracies, and/or does not refer to appropriate sources/resources.

F = The essay is dishonest or bears little or no relation to the assignment.

INTERPRETATION:

A = Demonstrates keen understanding of the cultural and historical context of the sources/resources used in the essay and a parallel understanding of the situation to which they are being applied. When appropriate, assesses well other interpretative options, explains interpretive choices made in the essay and exhibits creativity or originality.

B = Demonstrates an adequate understanding of the cultural and historical context of the sources/resources used in the essay and a parallel understanding of the situation to which they are being applied. When appropriate, makes reference to other interpretive options.

C = Analysis is inadequate or lacking in one of the two aspects above. Does not consider other interpretative options.

D = Analysis is inadequate in both aspects above.

F = Little to no interpretation given.

ORGANIZATION:

A = Essay progresses in carefully ordered stages; transitions effective; paragraphs and sentences coherent.

B = Essay's purpose generally clear; transitions usually coherent; paragraphs and sentences usually coherent.

C = Essay's purpose apparent, but incompletely carried out; or paragraphs ineffectively developed; or transitions too abrupt; sentences sometimes incoherent.

D = Purpose not always apparent; paragraphs poorly developed; transitions abrupt or unclear; sentences sometimes incoherent.

F = Purpose not apparent; paragraphs incoherent, or undeveloped; transitions lacking; sentences incoherent.

MECHANICS/EXPRESSION:

A = Conforms to standard usage or rarely diverges from it in respect to grammar, punctuation and spelling. Creative and precise word choice.

B = Infrequently diverges from standard usage in respect to grammar, punctuation and spelling. Appropriate word choice.

C = Occasionally diverges from standard usage in respect to grammar, punctuation and spelling. Occasionally inappropriate, vague, or unidiomatic word choice.

D = Fairly frequently diverges from standard usage in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Inappropriate word choice gets in the way of the reader's understanding.

F = Frequently and seriously diverges from standard usage in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Inappropriate, vague, or unidiomatic word choice.
TUESDAY, AUG. 25
Introductions
The Creed: “I”
Take quiz: http://www.beliefnet.com/Entertainment/Quizzes/BeliefOMatic.aspx
Assignment: One page essay “I am . . .”

THURSDAY, AUG. 27
“Faith”
[B] Ch. 1

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1
“Faith”
[BR] Ch. 1

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3
“God”
[B] Ch. 2

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8 (QUIZ 1)
“God”
[BR] Ch. 2

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10
“Creation”
[B] Ch. 3

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15
“Creation”
Genesis 1-2

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17
“Creation”
[BR] Ch. 3

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22
“Jesus”
[B] Ch. 4

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24 (QUIZ 2)
“Jesus”
Beginning Chapters of each Gospel
Extra Credit: Two page essay on a movie about Jesus (Due Sept 29)

TUESDAY, SEPT. 29
“Jesus”
[BR] Ch. 4

THURSDAY, OCT. 1
“Salvation”
[B] Ch. 5
Tuesday, Oct. 6
“Salvation”
[BR] Ch. 5

Thursday, Oct. 8
“Salvation”
Canvas Readings (Official Pronouncements of the Apostolic See on Divine Grace and Free Will)

Tuesday, Oct. 13 (MIDTERM EXAM)

Thursday, Oct. 15
“Spirit”
[B] Ch. 6

Tuesday, Oct. 20
“Spirit”
[B] Ch. 6

Thursday, Oct. 22
“Trinity”
[B] Ch. 7

Tuesday, Oct. 27 (QUIZ 3)
“Trinity”
[B] Ch. 7

Thursday, Oct. 29
“Church”
http://historytimeline.org
[B] Ch. 8

Tuesday, Nov. 3
“Church”
[B] Ch. 8

Thursday, Nov. 5
“Church”
Church and the World:

Tuesday, Nov. 10
“Church”
Sexuality:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPYRXop7aPA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmp6lLct-fQ

Thursday, Nov. 12 (QUIZ 4)
“Church”
Social Justice
http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background.htm
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Tuesday, Nov. 17
“Sacraments”
[B] Ch. 9

Thursday, Nov. 19
“Sacraments”
[BR] Ch. 9
Tuesday, Nov. 24 (NO CLASS)
Thursday, Nov. 26 (NO CLASS)

Tuesday, Dec. 1 (RELIGIOUS SITE VISIT REFLECTION DUE)
   “Heaven”
   [B] Ch. 10

Thursday, Dec. 3 (QUIZ 5)
   “Heaven”
   [BR] Ch. 10

Tuesday, Dec. 8
   “Heaven”
   Rick Warren on Hell: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC6NbYQVhwA
   Heaven, Hell, and Angels: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA7mteJ748U

Thursday, Dec. 10 (REVIEW)

**Tuesday, Dec. 15, FINAL EXAM 10:30 AM**