2013

111-12-22H-25 Theological Foundations

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Theological Foundations

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Office: Hinkle Hall 121
Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. 11:30 am-12:30 pm or by appointment
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Email: noonanb@xavier.edu

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.

Course Objectives:
This course is a required Core Curriculum component of Xavier’s Ethics/Religion and Society (E/RS) Focus, which endeavors to realize Xavier’s mission and philosophy of education. Xavier believes it is important for its students to learn to analyze societal issues critically in terms of human values and to develop a sense of compassionate solidarity and service (See the University Catalog).

In accordance with this goal, this course will:
1) investigate the role of faith and religion in human experience, particularly with respect to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (comparative religion)
2) explore Scripture, with particular attention to genre analysis (Christian Scripture)
3) evaluate current ethical issues critically in light of faith and religion (ethics)

Course Schedule:
The following schedule provides a brief, tentative outline of the course. You must access Blackboard regularly in order to obtain the appropriate assignment file for each class period.

Weeks 1-6: Comparative Religion
Weeks 7-11: Christian Scripture
Weeks 12-16: Ethics
Classroom Procedures and Methods:

Class Format
Classes will be conducted in a combination lecture-discussion format with occasional small-group discussions and other activities. You should be prepared to comment on and discuss the subject matter scheduled for each particular class period.

Electronic Devices
Students should turn their cell phones off during class. Laptops are not allowed in class subject to special appeal to the professor based on personal circumstances. The student failing to observe this standard will receive a reduction in grade at the end of the term.

Course Requirements:

Attendance
Regular attendance is required, and I will record attendance by passing out an attendance sheet at the very beginning of class. You will be marked absent if you do not sign this sheet.

You are allowed two unexcused absences for the semester; a total of three or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic 3% reduction of your final grade per absence. Absences due to University sponsored activities (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) or arising from documented personal, medical, or family emergencies will not affect your grade. Please contact prior to the class period missed if such occasions arise.

Textbooks


Supplemental readings will be made available via Blackboard.
Assigned Readings, Quizzes, and Homework
Prior to each class period you should complete the assigned reading for that day. You should also complete the accompanying quiz (available on Blackboard) and/or homework assignment. The purpose of this is to ensure that you stay on task with the class work. Additionally, the material covered by the assigned readings and homework will be incorporated into the exams along with the lecture material.

*I do not accept late/make-up quizzes and homework. Please make sure that you complete your quizzes and assignments prior to the class period for which they are due.*

Exams
Two exams will be given throughout the course of the semester. One will follow the unit on Comparative Religion, and the other will follow the unit on Christian Scripture. These exams will cover selected information from the class lectures, assigned readings, and homework assignments and quizzes.

Comparative Religion Reflection Paper
For our unit on Comparative Religion you shall complete a brief reflection paper. Please see the “Comparative Religion Reflection Paper Rubric” for more information.

Ethics Project
For our unit on Ethics you shall complete a project on contemporary ethics. Please see the “Ethics Project Rubric” for more information.

Grading and Assessment:

**Evaluation**
- Assignments & Quizzes 35%
- Exams (2 @ 20% each) 40%
- Comparative Religion Reflection Paper 5%
- Ethics Project 20%

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100%-94%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>81%-78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93%-92%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>77%-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>91%-90%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>75%-74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89%-86%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>73%-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>85%-84%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>69%-68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>83%-82%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above grading scale is the Theology Department’s standard grading scale. *Grades indicate a professor’s assessment of a student’s academic performance and not a student’s effort.* Class attendance and participation may be used as subjective factors in grading, especially in borderline cases. See the [Theology Department’s policy on grading](#).
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Late Policy
You are responsible for assignments that are due and for what takes place in class whether you are there or not. Assignments and readings are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus; late assignments will not be accepted. Late assignments due to computer error or malfunction do not constitute a special case and are considered late. Exams not taken at the scheduled exam date and time will receive a zero.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty entails the stealing of another’s ideas and falsely representing them as one’s own; it includes actions such as cheating and plagiarism as well as aiding others in these actions. Xavier’s policy on academic integrity can be found in the University Catalog. You are responsible for knowing this policy and will be held accountable to it.

Student Accessibility Services
Students with special needs for testing or any learning disability will be accommodated in conjunction with the Learning Assistance Center. Please be sure to communicate with the professor early in the term so that proper arrangements can be made.

Disclaimer:
This syllabus is not a promise or a contract. The instructor reserves the right to modify class content and requirements as deemed necessary for the effective teaching of the class.