2014

111-01-06 Theological Foundations

K. Nicholas Yoda

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THEO 111/THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS
FALL SEMESTER 2014

111-01 MWF 8:00 to 8:50 AM
111-06 MWF 9:00 to 9:50 AM
Hailstones Room 101/HAI 101

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Email: yodak@xavier.edu
Office Information and Office Hours:
-121 Hinkle Hall
-Phone: 513.745.3164 Extension #2
-By appointment only

REQUIRED TEXT
Faith, Religion, and Theology: A Contemporary Introduction by Brennan R. Hill, Paul Knitter, and William Madges
Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening by Diana Butler-Bass

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
This course seeks to provide an introduction to the studies of religion and theology appropriate to the context on one's faith within a pluralistic world. Students will also be provided a foundation upon which their further studies and course work in theology and religion can be built upon. Other objectives to be furthered include but are not limited to:
-Heightening awareness of ethical and religious dimensions of significant issues
-Enabling students to understand and evaluate the ethical and religious content of significant issues
-Enabling students to use theological and philosophical methods in the analysis of significant issues
-Helping students integrate theological and philosophical reflection in their studies
-Encouraging students to develop a worldview that is oriented to responsible action

CORE CURRICULUM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE
-Students will organize and express their ideas in writing and orally
-Students will formulate clear and arguable theses, supported by evidence drawn from appropriate sources
-Students will utilize an effective writing process guided by audience, purpose, cultural context, and disciplinary data.
- Students will be able to analyze and interpret texts, images, objects, artifacts, and quantitative and qualitative data
- Students will describe the historical, cultural, mythological, and social contexts of texts, works of art, and theories
- Students will utilize intellectual, moral, and spiritual tools and sensibilities to engage faithfully and responsibly in the world for the promotion of peace, social justice, and ecological sustainability
- Students will consider perspectives of diverse groups when making decisions
- Students will act with sensitivity as members of society and as professionals with people who have ideas, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that are different from their own
- Students will engage Catholic, ecumenical, cross-cultural, and inter-religious perspectives in reflecting upon contemporary issues of significance
- Students will engage in critical, theological reflection on ethical and/or religious questions of social significance, using human experience and religious traditions as resources to address these questions
- Students will critically read, write about, and reflect on ethical and/or religious issues of social significance through interpretation of literary texts

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS
- Organizational Structure and Procedures of Class Discussion
  Unless otherwise indicated, all class sessions will be held in a discussion format. The instructor will begin each class session by giving a brief description of the background, context, ideas, issues, and events pertinent for the discussion of the day. For the remainder of the time, the instructor will moderate a discussion/conversation with the students allowing analysis, deliberation, and rumination around the relevant issues from the materials of the day’s topics.

- Attendance and Participation
  Because the primary format for this course is discussion, it is imperative that the following happen:
  - All materials assigned must be read by the students ahead of time
  - Class must not only be attended but participated in
  Class attendance is expected by every student who is enrolled in this course. Excuses absences will be granted at the discretion of the instructor (e.g., illness, death in family, university approved off-campus activities). Please note that any student with three or more unexcused absences will receive a grade of F for this course.

- Examinations
  Two examinations, covering materials in the textbook and class. All examinations will be take home and essay form distributed on an assigned date and time due back on an assigned date and time as well. As a rule, substitute examinations will not be given unless for the reason of a grave emergency or university approved activity that is off campus. The request must be made before the examination and is at the sole discretion of the instructor.
Weekly Reviews
In the syllabus, you will note the acronym “CAR” (Christianity After Religion). This is the secondary reading that we will use as a launching point for class discussion on the days that certain chapters are assigned. On those days, each student is expected to turn in a one page reflection on that particular chapter. This needs to be double spaced, 12 point font, with one inch margins. Any secondary sources must be footnoted accordingly.

Grading
The coursework will be graded "A" (excellent, original, insightful), "B" (distinguished, thorough, thoughtful), "C" (competent, clear, clean), "D" (mere summary, derivative of class discussion, repetitive), "F" (incompetent, incomplete). More specifically:
The Theology Dept. Grading Guidelines mandates the following scale:

\[
\begin{align*}
B+ &= 91-90 \\
C+ &= 83-82 \\
D+ &= 75-74 \\
F &= 67-0 \\
A &= 100-94 \\
B &= 89-87 \\
C &= 81-79 \\
D &= 73-71 \\
A- &= 93-92 \\
B- &= 86-84 \\
C- &= 78-76 \\
\end{align*}
\]

Please bear in mind that according to departmental standards, the grade of “A” denotes “exceptional academic performance.” It is not the grade given for “strong effort” or a “job well done,” but rather for “uncommonly high academic achievement.”

Tutoring/Learning Assistance
Xavier University’s Learning Assistance Center provides one-on-one and group tutoring, assistance with general study skills, reading, note taking, time management, organization, learning styles, and test taking. There are also services to students with disabilities. Referral by the instructor is available upon request.

Academic Honesty
According to the provisions of the Academic Honesty in Xavier University’s Undergraduate Academic Policies and Regulations:
The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based on the integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include...cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests...

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own.

Please be warned that there is a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty in this course. The instructor expects all work that appears under the student’s
name to be that student’s own, and will follow up on evidence that a student has contravened the university’s regulations on academic honesty. If an incident of academic dishonesty is established, the student will automatically receive a grade of F for the entire course, in addition to a letter of warning from the Dean and details of the offense being noted down in the student’s record file.

GRADE COMPUTATION

-Midterm Grade:
Examination #1 (Midterm) will be your official midterm grade

-Final Grade:
Examination #1 (Midterm) is equal to 25%
Examination #2 (Final) is equal to 25%
Weekly reviews of Christianity After Religion chapters is equal to 25%
Class Participation is equal to 25%
CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

25 August/Monday ἐπιστήμη...now...
27 August/Wednesday ἐπιστήμη...me...
29 August/Friday ἐπιστήμη...you...
1 September/Monday Labor Day: NO CLASS
3 September/Wednesday ἐπιστήμη...you...
5 September/Friday Faith, Religion, and Theology: An Introduction
8 September/Monday Chapter 1: Human Faith
10 September/Wednesday Chapter 2: Christian Faith
12 September/Friday Christianity After Religion: An Introduction
15 September/Monday Chapter 3: Human Development and the Growth of Faith
17 September/Wednesday Chapter 4: Faith and Social Responsibility
19 September/Friday CAR Chapter 1
22 September/Monday Chapter 5: Religion: Why Bother?
24 September/Wednesday Chapter 5: Religion: Why Bother?
26 September/Friday CAR Chapter 2
29 September/Monday Chapter 6: Religion: What Is It?
1 October/Wednesday Chapter 6: Religion: What Is It? (Receive Midterm)
3 October/Friday CAR Chapter 3
6 October/Monday NO CLASS
8 October/Wednesday Examinations Due
10 October/Friday FALL BREAK: NO CLASS
13 October/Monday Chapter 7: Religion: Why So Many?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 October/Wednesday</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Religion: Why So Many?</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 October/Friday</td>
<td>CAR Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 October/Monday</td>
<td>Chapter 8: World Religions and Global Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 October/Wednesday</td>
<td>Chapter 8: World Religions and Global Responsibility</td>
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<td>24 October/Friday</td>
<td>CAR Chapter 5</td>
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<td>27 October/Monday</td>
<td>Appendix: Jesus and Buddha - A Conversation</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 October/Wednesday</td>
<td>Appendix: Jesus and Buddha - A Conversation</td>
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<td>31 October/Friday</td>
<td>CAR Chapter 6</td>
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<td>3 November/Monday</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Understanding Theology</td>
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<td>5 November/Wednesday</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Understanding Theology</td>
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<td>7 November/Friday</td>
<td>CAR Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 November/Monday</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Theology and the Use of Scripture and Tradition</td>
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<td>12 November/Wednesday</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Theology and the Use of Scripture and Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 November/Friday</td>
<td>CAR Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 November/Monday</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Theology and the Use of Scripture and Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November/Wednesday</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Theology and the Use of Scripture and Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 November/Friday</td>
<td>CAR Chapter 9</td>
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<td>24 November/Monday</td>
<td>NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR OUT OF TOWN</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 November/Wednesday</td>
<td>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 November/Friday</td>
<td>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS</td>
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<td>1 December/Monday</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Human Experience and Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 December/Wednesday</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Human Experience and Theology</td>
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<td>5 December/Friday</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Theology, Evil, and Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 December/Monday</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Theology, Evil, and Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 December/Wednesday</td>
<td>Exam Prep and Exams Handed Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 December/Friday</td>
<td>NO CLASS: READING DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 December/Monday</td>
<td>Finals: NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 December/Wednesday</td>
<td>Finals: NO CLASS (Final Examination Due)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December/Friday</td>
<td>Finals: NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 December/Tuesday</td>
<td>Final Grade Due</td>
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