

SYLLABUS

Introduction to Sacred Theology

THEO 505 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY & THEO 515 FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Department: Holy Spirit College, Theology

Course: THEO 505 and 515, 3 credit hours

Term: Fall 2018 (August 28 – December 13)

Course Location: Jerusalem Classroom, Malta Hall on the Holy Spirit Parish Campus

Course Time: Tues. and Thurs. at 9:30am-11:00am -or- Tues. and Thurs. at 7:00pm-8:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Chris Gustafson

Instructor Email: CGustafson@holyspiritcollege.org

Office Location: Administrative Office, Malta Hall

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri 1:00 pm-5:00 pm, or by appointment

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Sacred Theology combines THEO 505 INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY (1.5 credit) and THEO 515 FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY (1.5 credit)

Course Descriptions:

INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY: In the Catholic intellectual tradition, sacred theology pursued as an academic discipline involves “faith seeking understanding”. To acquire this understanding, one must prayerfully immerse himself or herself in what Augustine calls the *scientia fidei*, “the science of faith.” Students will obtain familiarity with all of the special fields of theology and how they integrate together into a unified whole. Students will also obtain a preliminary understanding of the basic notions and vocabulary employed in theology, the general history of the development of Catholic theology, and the distinctive characteristics of particular schools of thought and individual theologians (1.5 credit hours).

FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGY: Sacred theology takes its starting point with Divine Revelation, God’s self-communication to the Hebrew Patriarchs, Prophets, and the original Apostles, a historical event which culminates in the Person of Jesus Christ. This course will explore the event of Divine Revelation, consider the means whereby this Revelation is transmitted (Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium), examine how doctrine provides a symbol of this communication and develops over time, and investigate the theological virtue of faith which is oriented toward God through the medium of his historical self-revelation. (1.5 credit hours).



III. STUDENT OUTCOMES

1. Students will gain a thorough understanding of the nature of Divine Revelation and Sacred Theology.
2. They will understand the different spheres of Sacred Theology including Theology proper, Christology, Soteriology, Pneumatology, Grace, the Theology of Creation, Eschatology, Ecclesiology, Mariology, Moral Theology, Liturgy and the Sacraments, Spiritual Theology and Church History.
3. Students will have a thorough understanding of the fonts of Revelation, including Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium of the Church.
4. They will come away with a grasp of the Creed and Catholic doctrine as well as a knowledge of the levels of assent required by different levels of Church teaching.
5. Students will read selections from the aforementioned spheres of Sacred Theology so that they might become thoroughly familiar with the subject.

IV. STUDENT OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

The student's familiarity with the five key objectives stated above is assessed by means of classroom participation, reading quizzes (if necessary), a written paper and two exams.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:

1. *Overall grades.* Typically, final grades will not be posted in order to respect student privacy. The final course grade is obtained from reading quizzes, a mid-term exam, a final exam and student participation. The course grade cannot be changed after it is submitted at the end of the semester.
2. *Exam grades.* A report of a student's grade on exams will ordinarily be returned within one week. Printed exams taken in-class cannot be kept by the student. Progress reports including exam grades may be given periodically for each student to keep.
3. *Quiz grades.* A quiz will be randomly given at the beginning of class. Students may request to see their quiz grades at any point in the semester.
4. *Paper grade:* This course involves completion of one paper (10-15 pgs.) on a theological topic of the student's choosing. More information regarding the paper assignment will be given in class. It is expected that student papers will be original. Please review the institutional policy on plagiarism and academic honesty. A copy of the student's paper should be submitted *in class* on or before the assigned due date. It is recommended that a rough draft of the paper be given to the instructor halfway through the course so that it might be tentatively evaluated, and recommendations given. Papers are ordinarily returned for the student to keep within two weeks of submission.
5. *Participation.* Attendance, timeliness, and prepared discussion are important factors considered when establishing a student's participation grade. Material in the texts should be read in a timely fashion.
6. *Extra credit.* Extra credit assignments will be given only at the instructor's discretion. No extra credit will be given once the academic term is over.
7. *Incompletes.* If a student desires an "incomplete" for the course, he or she must request the incomplete *prior* to the last day of class with no exceptions. Incompletes are given only for extenuating circumstances and all work must be completed by the agreed upon date of completion (see the Catalog for more details)

regarding the standard resolution dates for incomplete coursework). After this date, the student's grade will not be changed.

8. The course grade will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (given randomly)	100 points
Participation (Attendance & Preparedness)	250 points
Paper	200 points
Mid-Term Exam	200 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>250 points</u>
(Total	1000 points)

A	1000-940	B-	839-800	D+	699-670
A-	939-900	C+	799-770	D	669-640
B+	899-870	C	769-740	D-	639-600
B	869-840	C-	739-700	F	Below 600

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Aquilina, Mike. *The Fathers of the Church, Third Edition*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2013.
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. New York, NY: Catholic Book Publishing Company. 1994. (Any edition of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is fine)
3. *The Didache Bible (Revised Standard Version – Second Catholic Edition)*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius, 2015.
4. Ott, Ludwig. *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*. Charlotte, NC: TAN books, 1974.
5. Sheed, F.J. *Theology for Beginners*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant books, 1981.

Recommended:

Hardon, John. *Catholic Dictionary*. New York, NY: Image, 2013.

Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992 (Any Edition by Austin Flannery or from the Vatican Website is fine).

VII. ADDITIONAL COURSE NOTES

1. **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices prior to class.** It is very distracting to everyone when devices ring, beep, vibrate or otherwise annoy everyone attempting to pay attention.
2. **Texting is not permitted in class.** You may text during the break.
3. **It is never permitted to take phone calls during class.** Please excuse yourself if you must make an emergency phone call for some reason.
4. **It is never permitted to eat during class.** Taking food out of wrappers, setting a meal out on your desk and chewing are serious distractions. Don't even think of doing this – you will be asked to leave.
5. **Please keep excessive side-talking to a minimum during the lecture.** Talking is distracting for those students who are attempting to listen as well as to the professor. If excessive talking continues during a lecture after a warning, points will be subtracted from that student's participation grade. Classroom input pertaining to the topic being taught is welcome, but **input that is long-winded or irrelevant will be cut short at the professor's discretion.** Please employ the virtue of temperance in your classroom contributions.

6. **Please arrive on time for course lectures.** Sometimes people are held up in traffic or there are weather events that will make a person late for class. This will occasionally happen with everyone. **But it is not permitted for any student to be habitually late.** This is simply rude and unfair to everyone. If you are always 5 minutes late for class, please plan on leaving 10 minutes earlier from your point of departure so that you might arrive on time and be prepared for the commencement of class.
7. If exams are given in-class, no laptops may be used on in-class test dates. All bags and purses must be zipped and put under the desk on in-class test dates.
8. *Please keep your eyes on your own work* during in-class quizzes and exams. If a student is looking at another student's quiz or exam (or if a student is displaying his or her quiz or exam in a conspicuous way), after a warning, the quiz or exam will be given a grade of 'zero.'
9. *Please refrain from talking during in-class quizzes or exams.* If there is talking during a quiz or exam, after a warning, that student's quiz or exam will be given a grade of 'zero.'
10. *Class attendance and participation grade.* Attendance is required for each class. Roll will be taken in each class. If the student is not present when the roll is called, the student will be marked absent. Per institutional policy (see below), students are given two grace absences for a 3 credit course and one grace absence for a 1.5 credit course. After the grace absence(s), *without a valid reason for missing class*, points will be subtracted from the student's participation grade for *each* subsequent class missed. *Valid reasons include: verifiable medical problem, hospitalization, verifiable athletic commitment, auto accident, jury duty – involuntary reasons for missing class.* Students exceeding more than four total absences (more than 2 weeks of class) without a valid reason may be at risk for administrative withdrawal from the class. The roll will be taken approximately 5-10 min. into the class period. Since tardiness is distracting for other students, if a student arrives after the time when the roll is called, they will be marked tardy for that day. No changes will be made to the attendance record unless there is a valid reason for the student's absence or tardiness.
11. *Make-up quizzes.* The purpose of the quiz is to verify that the student is reading the homework which is assigned. As such, quizzes cannot be made up. If a random quiz is given while a student is absent, the quizzes that were taken will simply be averaged together for the final quiz score.
12. *Make-up exams.* If in-class exams are given during the course, make-up exams will be given only at the instructor's discretion. *Make-up exams must be requested (either in person or via email) before the scheduled exam time.* If a make-up exam is requested via email, the email must be dated at a time prior to the class time. There must be a valid reason for a make-up exam (see discussion of class attendance above for valid reasons). Make-up exam requests after the scheduled exam time may or may not be granted, depending on the student's reason for not emailing a request prior to the exam time.
13. *Institutional Class Attendance Policy.* Timely attendance at every class is required for all students working on a degree unless a student is ill or some unforeseen difficulty arises. More than *two* unexcused absences (or 3 hrs. of class) will lower the class participation component of a student's grade. A student who misses 9 hrs. or more of class without a legitimate excuse risks being automatically dropped from the course. Student tardiness (arriving ten minutes late to class or more) also counts as an absence. Proper academic etiquette involves students working on a degree notifying their course instructor *before class* if they will miss a class. **Auditors should not notify the instructor.** Student excuses for absences need to be submitted in writing to the course instructor (for example, by email). A course instructor may elect to defer evaluation of the student excuse to the Academic Dean if he or she desires.
14. *Values Commitment and Plagiarism.* All students are expected to adhere to the Holy Spirit College Honor Code: *I pledge on my honor that I will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor condone others doing so.* Plagiarism is a very serious form of academic dishonesty. Students plagiarize when they do not give credit to the sources

Thurs. 9/27 - Topic 15: The Unity of God
Topic 14: St. Augustine (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 14: *Sacred Scriptures*, The Book of Deuteronomy 6:4-9; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 5 “The Three Persons”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 1, Article 1, Paragraphs 2-3 “The Father”, “The Almighty” (nos. 232-278).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 15: *The Fathers of the Church*, St. Augustine, p. 245ff; *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, Introduction nos. 5 and 6 – “The Development of Dogma” and “Catholic Truths”

Week 6 Tues. 10/2 - Topic 16: The Trinity of God
Topic 17: St. Elizabeth of the Trinity (First Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 16: *Sacred Scriptures*, Gospel of Mark chapter 1; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 6 “The Human Mind and the Doctrine of the Trinity”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 1, Article 1, Paragraph 4 “The Creator” (nos. 279-324).

Thurs. 10/4 - Topic 18: Theology of Creation
Topic 17: St. Elizabeth of the Trinity (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 17: *Sacred Scriptures*: Gospel of John chapter 14; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Article 3; *CCC* Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 1, Article 1, Paragraph 5 “Heaven and Earth” (nos. 325-354).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 18: *Sacred Scriptures*: Book of Genesis chapter 1 (Again); *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 7 “Creation”; *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, pp. 114-122;

Week 7 Tues. 10/9 - Topic 19: Christian Angelology
Topic 20: The Supernatural (First Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 19: *Sacred Scriptures*, Psalm 139: 13-18; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 8 “The Nature of Man”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 1, Article 1, Paragraph 6 “Man” (nos. 355-384).

Thurs. 10/11 - Topic 21: The Nature of Man
Topic 20: The Supernatural (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 20: *Sacred Scriptures*, Genesis, Chapters 2-3; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 9 “The Supernatural Life”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 1, Article 1, Paragraph 7 “The Fall” (nos. 385-421).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 21: *The Fathers of the Church*, Tertullian, p. 108ff; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 10 “The Sin at our Origin”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 2, Article 2, “And In Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord” (nos. 422-455).

Week 8 Tues. 10/16 - Topic 22: The Fall of Man

Homework: Study for Mid-Term

Thurs. 10/18 - **Mid-Term Exam**

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 22: *The Fathers of the Church*, St. Cyprian of Carthage, p. 117ff; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 2, Article 3, Paragraph 1, “He was Conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit, and Born of the Virgin Mary” (nos. 456-483).

Week 9 Tues. 10/23 - Topic 23: Christology
Topic 24: St. Athanasius (First Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 23: *Sacred Scriptures*, Gospel of John chapter 5 verses 19-47; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 11 “The Redeemer”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 2, Article 3, Paragraph 2 “Conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary” (nos. 484-511).

Thurs. 10/25 - Topic 25: The Incarnation
Topic 24: St. Athanasius (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 24: *Sacred Scriptures*, Gospel of Luke chapter 22 verses 31-48; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 12 “The Redemption”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 2, Article 3 Paragraph 3. “The Mysteries of Christ’s Life” (First half), (nos. 512-534).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 25: *The Fathers of the Church*, Origen, p. 127ff; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 2, Article 3, Paragraph 3. “The Mysteries of Christ’s Life” (Second half), (nos. 535-570); *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, Introduction nos. 7, 8 and 9 – “Theological Opinions” and “The Theological Grades of Certainty” and “Theological Censures”

Week 10 Tues. 10/30 - Topic 26: Soteriology
Topic 27: Christ Descended into Hell (First Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 26: *Sacred Scriptures*, Gospel of John Chapter 19; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 13 “The Visible Church”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Section 2 Chapter 2, Article 4, Paragraph 1. “Jesus and Israel” (nos 571-594).

Thurs. 11/1 - Topic 28: The Holy Spirit
Topic 27: Christ Descended into Hell (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 27: *Sacred Scripture*, Acts of the Apostles chapter 1 – chapter 2 vs. 21; *Theology for Beginners*, Epilogue “The Layman in the Church”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Jesus Died Crucified” and “Jesus Christ was Buried” (nos. 595-630).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 28: *The Fathers of the Church*, St. Athanasius, p. 152ff; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “He Descended into Hell. On the Third Day He Rose Again”, “He

Topic 37: St. Alphonsus Liguori (First Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 36: *Sacred Scriptures*, Gospel of Matthew chapter 5; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Article 9, Para 4 (nos. 897-945).

Thurs. 11/29 - Topic 38: Spiritual Theology
Topic 37: St. Alphonsus Liguori (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 37: *The Fathers of the Church*, St. Gregory the Great, p. 290ff; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Article 9, Para 5-6 “The Communion of Saints”, “Mary – Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church” (nos. 946-975).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 38: Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, chapter 8 “The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the Mystery of Christ and the Church”, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Article 10 “I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins” (nos. 976-987).

Week 15 Tues. 12/4 - Topic 39: Church History
Topic 40: Pope Benedict XVI (First Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 39: *Sacred Scriptures*, 1 Corinthians 15:32-58; *Theology for Beginners*, ch. 19 “The Next Life”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Article 11 “I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body” (nos. 988-1019).

Thurs. 12/6 - Topic 41: Eschatology
Topic 40: Pope Benedict XVI (Second Half)

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 40: *The Fathers of the Church*, St. John Chrysostom, p. 209ff; *Theology for Beginners*, chapter 20 “The End of the World”; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 1, Article 12 “I Believe in Life Everlasting” (nos. 1020-1060).

Homework for next class: Homework Sheet 41: Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Amen” (nos. 1061-1065).

Week 16 Tues. 12/11 - Topic 42: The New Evangelization

Homework: Study for Final Exam

Thurs. 12/13 - **Final Exam**

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FURTHER STUDY

Akin, Jimmy. *The Drama of Salvation*. San Diego, CA: Catholic Answers Press, 2015.

Aquinas, St. Thomas. *Summa Theologiae*. Translated by Dominicans of the English Province. 3 vols. New York: Benzinger, 1947.

Aumann, Jordan, OP. *Spiritual Theology*. Allen, TX: Christian Classics [Thomas More], 1980.

- Augustine of Hippo, St. *Confessions* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Augustine of Hippo, St. *On the Trinity (De Trinitate)* Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2012.
- Benedict XVI. *Jesus of Nazareth*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2007.
- Butler, Alban. *Butler's Lives of the Saints*. Rockford, IL: Tan, 1995.
- Catherine of Siena, St. *The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena*. Rockford, IL: Tan, 2010.
- Emory, Gilles, OP. *The Trinity: An Introduction to the Doctrine of the Triune God*. Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2011.
- Flannery, Austin, OP. *Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Postconciliar Documents*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1996.
- Handbook of Indulgences: Norms and Grants*. New York, NY: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1991.
- John of the Cross, St. *The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross*. Trans. Kieran Kavanaugh et al. Washington, DC: ICS Publications, 1973.
- John Paul II, St. *The Church: Mystery, Sacrament, Community (A Catechesis on the Creed – Volume Four)* Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 1998.
- John Paul II, St. *God: Father and Creator (A Catechesis on the Creed – Volume One)* Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 1996.
- John Paul II, St. *Jesus: Son and Savior (A Catechesis on the Creed – Volume Two)* Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 1996.
- John Paul II, St. *The Spirit: Giver of Life and Love (A Catechesis on the Creed – Volume Three)* Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 1996.
- John Paul II, St. *The Trinity's Embrace: God's Saving Plan (A Catechesis on Salvation History – Volume Six)* Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 2002.
- John Paul II, St. *Theotokos: Woman, Mother, Disciple (A Catechesis on Mary, Mother of God - Volume Five)* Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 1999.
- John Paul II, St. Encyclical Letter *Veritatis Splendor*.
- Kreeft, Peter. *Back to Virtue. Traditional Moral Wisdom for Modern Moral Confusion*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius, 1992.
- Kreeft, Peter. *You Can Understand the Bible*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2005
- May, William. *Catholic Sexual Ethics: A Summary, Explanation and Defense (3rd Edition)*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2011.
- May, William. *An Introduction to Moral Theology*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2007.
- Pieper, Josef. *The Four Cardinal Virtues*. South Bend IN: Univ. Notre Dame Press, 1966.
- Pieper, Josef. *Faith, Hope, Love*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius, 1997.
- Tanner, Norman, SJ. *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils (Vols. 1 & 2)*. Washington D.C.: Sheed and Ward, 1990.
- Thomas à Kempis. *The Imitation of Christ*. Rockville, IL: TAN, 1991.
- Vost, Kevin. *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press, 2015.
- Vost, Kevin. *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*. Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press, 2016.
- Ward, Benedicta. *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Collegeville, MN: Cistercian Publications, 1975

Student's Prayer

by St. Thomas Aquinas

Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, origin of all being, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding.

Take from me the double darkness in which I have been born, an obscurity of sin and ignorance.

Give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

