UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2015
Instructor: Erik Hesla
Course #: THEO 1001
Section: 118
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

Description:

Theology, according to the famous definition of St. Anselm, is “faith seeking understanding.” In keeping with this definition, this THEO 1001 course has a twofold purpose: first, to introduce students to what Christians believe; and second, to attain a deeper understanding of the significance and implications of the Christian faith.

We will achieve these two goals through an exploration of the key sources of the Christian faith, sacred scripture and tradition. Particular attention will be given to understanding the central Christian doctrines or teachings articulated in these sources, especially those concerning the Church, Christ, God, salvation, sin, grace, and the sacraments. Along the way we will ponder such important questions as: what is the nature of the human person? where does evil come from and is it compatible with the existence of a loving God? what is the relation between faith and reason? In addition, we will highlight important ethical implications of Christianity and briefly explore how Catholicism relates to other Christian traditions and to other faiths.

As an academic study of the Catholic faith, this course will emphasize the importance of logical reasoning and argumentation and the ability to interpret texts in their proper historical and literary context. While this course will be taught from a Catholic perspective, much of what we will cover is also believed by Christians of other traditions.