UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2014
Instructor: Dr. Terrence Crowe
Course #: THEO 1001
Section: 131
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

Description:

This class is intended as a broad introduction to theologies in Judeo-Christian traditions. We use select readings from Scripture and other sources to ask questions and pursue basic insights concerning spirituality, religion and God. Another connected outcome is enhanced literacy and awareness.

We will pay special attention to theological messages and their interpretation. There are many approaches that can be employed to further this study. Allowing for some exposure to modern historical methods, we will anchor our investigation in a salvation history narrative [See Vatican Council II's "Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation," Chapter One.]. This approach claims that that diverse Scriptures serve an overall message and possess a general congruity.

Important as the subject is, Theo 1001 is not a comparative religions course. We will be focusing on ideas, issues and claims central to the Judeo-Christian traditions. While doing this, we will remain aware of and respectful towards other traditions and alternative interpretations.

A hoped for outcome--hard to quantify--is that this class provide a growth in awareness of and appreciation for "limit questions," which religious thought and conversation can evoke. This class will be open to, indeed encourage, an "existential" dimension to understanding and responding to the materials and ideas encountered. Existentialism is an approach to life and thought which encourages a self-chosen mode of living and a stance towards how one is to live in this world. Human beings are a mystery. They cannot be easily interpreted nor described. In such matters, there is always something more to say.