UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2015
Instructor: Dr. Deirdre Dempsey
Course #: THEO 1001
Section: 902 (Honors Section)
Course Title: Introduction to Theology

Description:

This Honors Intro to Theology will be paired with Krista Ratcliffe's Honors English 1302 class. Dr. Ratcliffe's students will explore the self, the I, in literature of the 18th century and later; in this Honors Theo, we'll look at the sense of self in foundational texts of the Christian tradition. Some of these will be the tried-and-true texts -- for example, what does it mean for the traditions that lean on these biblical stories for some theological truths that, in Genesis, God seems to abandon the large canvas work of Genesis 1-11 in order to focus on the small canvas of Genesis 12? Away from humanity writ large to a particular individual and family? Dr. Ratcliffe's class will examine literary expressions of the I in relation to the other; we'll look, in Theology, at what some of our foundational texts tell us about the self in relation to the sacred and in relation to the other. So -- what do some of these foundational texts tell us about how the self fits into community? How important is the other, in terms of Christian foundational texts? When Jesus quotes his Scriptures and says that one of the two most important laws dictates that we "love our neighbor as ourselves," what is meant by "neighbor" and what is meant by "as ourselves"? Along with biblical texts, we'll be looking at patristic period texts (think Augustine, whom you might have encountered in Philosophy), and secondary literature for the necessary background. Expect three short (4-5 pages) papers, 5 quizzes, and one exam, plus an inclass presentation.