Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2015
Instructor: Jame Schaefer
Course #: THEO 2310
Section: 105
Course Title: Explorations in Christian Theology
Topic: The Human Person

Description:

This Manresa awarded course intersects Marquette’s mission as a Catholic, Jesuit university dedicated to serving God by contributing to the advancement of knowledge, striving for excellence of the whole person, developing faith in God, and establishing leadership in one’s vocation in life for the glory of God. Beginning with an historical overview of ways in which the human person has been depicted theologically, we will examine biblical, patristic, medieval, reformation, and early modern texts, including autobiographies and biographies of individuals who have written about and demonstrated their quests to experience and understand the human-God relationship in their lives. Attention will be given to the contexts of the times in which these individuals lived and the worldviews from which they reflected on human nature and role of the human in God’s creation. Basic findings about the human from contemporary physics, biology, neurophysiology and psychology will be identified and used to model the human person today. You will particularize this model for yourself as a unique person committed to orienting your life to God, another subject of worship, or an ultimate goal.

To achieve the core outcomes of this second level courses in which you will explore and seek to understand theological texts and their interconnections with others, you will aim to achieve the following goals:

1) To discover ways in which the human person has been conceptualized by inspired biblical writers and theologians over historical time by carefully and critically reading assigned texts, identifying the various writers’ concepts of the human person and the circumstances that prompted the concept, and comparing them orally in class discussion and in writing on a section examination;

2) To develop skills that facilitate learning about one key contemporary person and his/her understanding of the human in relation to God by researching and presenting a slide presentation on the person and by demonstrating your thinking about him/her when writing a reflective paper as directed.

3) To become sufficiently knowledgeable about basic scientific findings on the cosmological-biological evolution and neurophysiology of the human species that enables humans to open consciously to and strive for a relationship with others and with God by listening carefully to and responding orally to Marquette scientists’ lectures, reading assigned texts and contributing to small group and full class discussions on them, and demonstrating on a section examination the extent to which you have understood these findings applied to the human person.
4) To develop a realistic model of the human grounded ultimately in God, another subject of worship, or ultimate goal by composing a model in writing and justifying that model on the basis of the rules for appropriate modeling identified from assigned readings and lecture.

5) To recognize your innate talents and acquired abilities and to identify in writing ways in which you plan to develop yourself as you move into the near future.

6) To apply the model of the human person to your vocational goals for the future as a person living justly for the glory of God or another subject of worship or ultimate goal by thinking reflectively and writing competently in the final examination.

7) To emerge from this second level course with the knowledge and skills essential for third-level courses.