GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2014
Instructor: Rev. William Kurz, S.J.
Course #: THEO 8315
Section: 101
Course Title: Luke-Acts

Content:

Biblical studies have been undergoing radical paradigm shifts beyond modernism’s exclusive emphasis on historical criticism into post-modernism and more holistic and multi-disciplinary approaches, including “narrative criticism,” intertextual actualization, and now theological interpretation of Scripture as God’s word. Meanwhile, questions persist about the historical value of Acts as a guide to the origins of Christianity and for interpreting Paul’s letters.

This course will treat Luke-Acts as biblical narrative and how as God’s word it speaks to Christian life as paradigmatic and authoritative. It will do a close reading of the Greek text of Luke and Acts, using historical, narrative, intertextual interpretation, Wirkungsgeschichte (reception history from patristic interpreters on) and theological interpretation in the tradition of the Church reading, interpreting, and applying Scripture.


Format:

Fundamentally a seminar focused on exegesis, narrative, intertextual and theological interpretation, with appropriate input by the teacher & explicitly ecumenical presentations, discussions & shared exegesis and interpretation by students from their respective denominational backgrounds. Class cooperation, not competition, is the basic ground rule.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

Fundamentally a seminar focused on exegesis, narrative, intertextual and theological interpretation, with appropriate input by the teacher & explicitly ecumenical presentations, discussions & shared exegesis and interpretation by students from their respective denominational backgrounds. Class cooperation, not competition, is the basic ground rule.

Language Pre-requisites:

For those majoring in New Testament, Greek is required. Others will have to be able to use the major dictionaries, concordances, and similar tools that key on Greek words. If needed, help in the easy process of learning the Greek alphabet is provided at the beginning of the course. (As in all departmental courses, French and/or German are expected from early in our program.)