GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2014
Instructor: Philip J. Rossi, S.J.
Course #: THEO 8515
Course Title: Philosophy as Source and Resource for Theology

Content:

This course will examine:
1. A representative selection of philosophical texts that bear upon the framing of theological questions and discussions.
2. A representative selection of theological texts in terms of the philosophical issues and/or presuppositions which are significant for their interpretation.
3. Some representative accounts of the relationship between theology and philosophy.

The general objective of the course is the development of conceptual skills useful for identifying the theological and/or philosophical presuppositions at work in texts/arguments, identifying the context/provenance from which these presuppositions arise, and engaging them both critically and constructively as elements in theological inquiry.

Tentative list of required readings:
- Philosophy in Christian Antiquity, C. Stead
- The God of Faith and Reason, Robert Sokolowski
- Fides et Ratio. John Paul II
- Freedom and Creation in Three Traditions, D. Burrell
- Faith, Reason and the Existence of God, Denys Turner
- A Catholic Modernity? Charles Taylor
- Evil in Modern Thought, Susan Neiman

Various articles and book chapters; final list to be determined, but likely to include:
Department of Theology


Format:

Combination of lecture, discussion, and student presentations

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- 3 short (1000-1500 word) papers with a critical/analytic focus on topics/issues arising from the course readings. Each student will also be expected to lead at least one class session on one of these topics/issues
- 1 longer course paper (3500-4000 word MAXIMUM!) in the format of a short essay or “note” for a scholarly journal. Paper topic will be determined in consultation with course instructor

Language Pre-requisites:

- Student work should show evidence of consultation of appropriate non-English sources.