Theology Department
2013-2014

Fall Semester

Christian Ethics

**EF/ET3212cr Ethics of the Ten Commandments**  
**Tu 2:00-4:50pm**
This course explores the intersection of theology, ethics, and Christian education through an examination of the Ten Commandments and their significance for Christian life. Attention will be given to such issues as the commandments in the public realm, Sabbath-keeping, and truth-telling, as well as to theories and methods of Christian education. The course will equip students with educational frameworks and skills necessary for effective teaching of the Ten Commandments to a range of learners. Some attention will also be given to cultural presentations of the Ten Commandments through books, movies, billboards, and television.

- This course fulfills the philosophy or ethics distribution requirement.
- This course fulfills the general requirement for a course on Christian responsibility in the public realm.
- This course fulfills the education and formation requirement.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Duff and Mr. Mikoski

**ET3340cr Christian Ethics and Modern Times**  
**MoTuTh 10:30-11:20am**
An introduction to Christian moral norms, virtues, and practices, to the social ideals that Christians confess, and to modern disputes over the substance of those ideals. How shall we love our neighbors, show hospitality to strangers, bear the burdens of sinners and enemies, and speak truth to power in these modern times? Are the ideals of neighbor-love and prophetic justice compatible with the norms of liberal democracy, with individual freedoms and equal rights, or not? Special attention will be given to Christian attitudes toward sexuality, punishment, racial and gender bias, war and nonviolence, economic inequality, and environmental decay.

- This course fulfills the general requirement for a course on Christian responsibility in the public realm.
- This course fulfills the philosophy or ethics distribution requirement.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Bowlin

**ET3460cr Theology and Ethics of Dietrich Bonhoeffer**  
**We 9:30-11:20am; Fr 10:30-11:20am**
This course will explore and assess Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s distinct approach to theology and ethics, analyzing the method and content of his work, the context in which he lived and wrote, and the extent to which his work still speaks to the church today. In addition to reading some of Bonhoeffer’s major works (*Creation and Fall, Discipleship, Life Together, Ethics*, and *Letters and Papers from Prison*), we will read a biography of Bonhoeffer.

- This course fulfills the general requirement for a course on Christian responsibility in the public realm.
- This course fulfills either the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or the philosophy or ethics distribution requirement.
Wednesday, June 5, 2013

- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Duff

**ET3750cr  Studies in Theology and Ethics  Mo 2:00-4:50pm**

Focusing on select primary texts from the ancient church to the present, this course will explore the intersection of theological commitment and ethical concern. Topics include: divine authority and temporal rule, atonement and sacrifice, love and justice, tolerance and coercion, grace and agency, divine command and absolute prohibition.

- This course fulfills the general requirement for a course on Christian responsibility in the public realm.
- This course fulfills the philosophy or ethics distribution requirement.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Bowlin

*Doctrinal Theology*

**TH2100 Systematic Theology  TuThFr 9:30-10:20am** plus precept, see below

A foundational course covering the major Christian doctrines from revelation to eschatology, emphasizing their biblical basis, evangelical focus, ecclesial context, Trinitarian scope, and contemporary significance for Christian life and ministry.

- Required of all juniors.
- Enrollment limited to sixty students.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Taylor

Precepts: A - Th 1:00-1:50pm; B - Th 2:00-2:50pm; C-Fr 8:30-9:20am; D-Fr 9:30-10:20am; E-Fr10:30-11:20am; F-Fr 1:00-1:20pm

*Course Cancelled

**TH3210 Christian Theologies of the Jewish People  We 9:30-11:20am; Fr 10:30-11:20am**

Sleeping quietly within ecclesiology is the Christian teaching on the Jewish people that generally assumes that the church has replaced the Jewish people as the Israel of God, and is quite simply now the people of God. While the classic teaching has been articulated with some nuance, at times, the disastrous history it spawned has disclosed the basic conviction as problematic, and alternatives are currently being formulated. The course will explore this problem first by examining classic Christian formulations of the Jewish people then by assessing alternatives to it from Paul of Tarsus through Karl Barth and finally by seeking a salutary approach to it for the present.

- This course fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Charry

**OT/TH3216 Revelation and Biblical Interpretation in a Postmodern World  Mo 2:00-4:50pm**

This course provides a constructive exploration of the doctrine of revelation and biblical interpretation in the light of postmodern challenges to meaning and truth and post-Holocaust questions about the reality of God.
Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Focusing on particular biblical texts, the course explores diverse approaches to biblical meaning, both historical and contemporary, with a view toward appropriating those meanings today. Students consider the changing nature of religious life today and how to formulate a viable approach to theology and biblical interpretation for the twenty-first century.

- This course fulfills the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- This course does not fulfill the “close reading of the text” requirement.
- Prerequisites: OT2101 and TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2013-2014: Mr. Dobbs-Allsopp and Mr. Johnson

TH3200cr Judaism, Christianity, and Islam  Mo 8:30-11:20am
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam strive with one another theologically, culturally, politically, and, in the Middle East, geographically. By turns, each later tradition has sought to triumph over those that came before by claiming that its revelation is definitive. At a time of acute religious and political turmoil among adherents of these traditions in Israel/Palestine, it is important that Christians understand Judaism and Islam on their own terms and the context of the political interaction among adherents of all three traditions in that region. This course will both inform students of the historical, theological, and cultural tensions and continuities among the traditions and prepare for the travel course trip to Jerusalem in January 2014.

- This course fulfills Theology Department distribution requirements.
- This course fulfills the general requirement for a course on Christian responsibility in the public realm.
- May be taken as a stand-alone course or as part of the two course sequence.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Charry

NEW Course Listing

TH3370 The Youngest Cappadocian: Gregory of Nyssa  Tu 2:00-4:50 p.m.
This course examines the theological contributions of Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, Basil of Caesarea, and Macrina in the fourth century, which may be the most creative in Christian history. We will examine both doctrinal and spiritual works as there was no distinction between these two genres at that time.

- This course fulfills the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or fulfills Theology Department distribution requirements.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Ms. Charry

TH3415 Doctrine of God  TuTh 10:30-11:20am; Fr 9:30-10:20am
This course is a study of the mystery and self-revelation of God; the tension between the biblical understanding of God and classical philosophical conceptions; the attributes of God; the doctrine of the Trinity; and the inseparability of knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves.

- This course fulfills the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. McCormack

TH3444 The Liberation Theology of Gustavo Gutiérrez  Th 2:00-4:50pm
Wednesday, June 5, 2013

A critical examination of the doctrinal structure of Gutiérrez’s theology of liberation. Special attention will also be given to theology’s relation to ecclesial, economic, cultural, and political dynamics in Latin America, especially as bearing upon the struggle of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

- This course fulfills the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Taylor

**TH3451 Modern Christology**  
**Tu 2:00-4:50pm**  
The course explores various ways in which Christ and salvation have been defined in modern theology. Special attention is devoted to Kant, Schleiermacher, and Barth. A new typology is explained to understand differing views of how Christ is related to his saving work. Special attention is devoted to the question of Christ’s atoning sacrifice.

- This course fulfills the requirement for a doctrine or theologian course or fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Hunsinger

**TH3780 Socrates and Jesus**  
**Tu 2:00-4:50pm**  
Christianity is a complex intermingling of two major streams: the biblical narratives and the intellectual traditions of the Greco-Roman world. This course returns to the roots of both streams by exploring the lives, the teachings, the deaths, and the ongoing influence of Jesus and Socrates as presented in the gospels and selected Platonic dialogues. Topics covered include their diverse but sometimes overlapping views of love and death, justice and the kingdom of God, their use of paradox and parable, and the nature of the authentic human life. While comparing the two figures has a long history in the West, it is made more interesting by recent research into literary versus philosophical approaches to Socrates and current controversies over the “historical Jesus” versus the “Christ of faith.” The course is integrative in nature, helping students to apply literary, philosophical, and theological insights into the constructive task of ministry.

- This course fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- This seminar is limited to MDiv degree students. Others require permission of instructor.
- Enrollment is limited to twenty students.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2013-2014; Mr. Johnson

**TH4100 Sermon Shape-Up: Preaching Christian Doctrine**  
**Mo 8:30-10:20am; We 8:30-9:20am**  
The purpose of this course is to connect the study of systematic theology with the writing of sermons. What are good ways to enrich sermons with doctrinal content, and what are ways to be avoided? The course will consist in studying published sermons that display strong doctrinal content, in reflecting on such sermons from the standpoint of preaching theory, and in writing doctrinal sermons as a requirement for the course.

- This course is an elective and does not fulfill any department distribution requirement.
- Prerequisite: TH2100
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2013-2014; Mr. Hunsinger.
EC/TH5301 Missional Initiative in Post-Christendom Europe  We 8:30-11:20am
This course will investigate current initiatives to address the challenge of the secularized European mission field as it confronts the late Christendom churches. Diverse theological initiatives and their practical translation will be analyzed as they interact with interpretations of the changing context. In addition to recent literature, Skype conversations with a range of theologians and practitioners will give the students direct access to those involved in these initiatives. The translatability of both the theological insights and the practical initiatives into the North American context will be investigated.

- This course fulfills the mission, ecumenics, history of religions, or sociology of religion distribution requirement.
- This course fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Guder

TH5318 Roots of Theological Anthropology  Tu 2:00-4:50pm
Current debates in evolutionary biology, primatology, and paleoanthropology are dominated by arguments that claim that the origins of human spirituality, morality, and cognition directly relate to the evolution of human sexuality and primordial language. This places the roots of human consciousness on a direct continuum with proto-moral and ritual behavior in social animals, thus raising the question of whether religious awareness and moral decision-making have been selected for in the course of evolution. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to these questions and will evaluate theologically what it means to be human, what it means to talk about the evolution of religion, and how theological anthropology is enriched when it takes seriously the evolution of human sexuality and our moral, aesthetic, and religious dispositions.

- This course fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- 3 credits.
Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. van Huyssteen

TH5390 Aquinas on Love  Th 2:00-4:50pm
Jesus calls those who follow him beloved. He enjoins them to love God above all and to love their neighbors as themselves. He also calls them friends and encourages them to love the unlovable and befriend the friendless. And most mysteriously of all, the scriptures speak of God as love. The claim is not that God loves---although surely God does---but that love is what God is. This course explores Thomas Aquinas’s (1224/5-1274) attempt to make sense of this God, this Love, these commands and these claims.

- Enrollment is limited to twelve students.
- This course fulfills the general distribution requirement in theology.
- Prerequisite: TH2100.
- 3 credits.
Fall Semester 2013-2014; Mr. Adam Eitel

Philosophy

PH1000 Basic Philosophy  We 9:30-11:20am; Fr 10:30-11:20am
This course is intended for students who want to familiarize themselves with the basics of philosophy. It is divided into two parts, each with three sections. Part One: History of Philosophy—ancient, medieval, and modern. Part Two: philosophical problems—metaphysics, mind, and morality.

- This introductory course does not fulfill the philosophy or ethics distribution requirement.
PH3301 Philosophy of Religion  
**Tu 8:30-10:20am; Th 8:30-9:20am**
Philosophical reflection on religion can be traced back to Plato, long before the time of Christ. In contemporary philosophy, arguments about the rationality of belief in God and life after death figure prominently, but the purpose of this course is to explore a different philosophical debate about the nature of religion as an aspect of human life, and its relation to magic, superstition, ethics, and metaphysics. Special attention will be paid to less-well-known writings by major philosophers such as Hume, Kant, and J.S. Mill.

- This course fulfills the philosophy or ethics distribution requirement.
- 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Graham

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**PhD Seminars**

**TH9056 Theology and the Challenge of Interdisciplinary Reflection  
Th 2:00-4:50pm**
Focus on the unique place of theology in the current interdisciplinary and cross-cultural conversation. The special challenge will be to revision the public nature of theological reflection in a pluralist, postmodern context where rigid, modernist disciplinary distinctions seem to be breaking down and new spaces open up for theology’s conversation with contemporary culture. In dialogue with contemporary theologies, philosophy, and philosophy of science, a theory of interdisciplinarity will be developed that will enable theologians to enter interdisciplinary conversations with personal faith commitment intact, while at the same time transcending the boundaries of disciplinary and cultural traditions. 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. van Huyssteen

**TH9060 Readings in Hans Urs von Balthasar’s Theo-drama  
Mo 2:00-4:50pm**
The topic of the seminar will be the doctrines of God, Trinity, and Christology in the theology of von Balthasar. Some comparison with other, post-Barthian developments—especially in Catholic theology—will be undertaken (e.g. Rahner, Kaspar, Schoonenberg, et. al.) 3 credits.

Fall Semester 2013–2014; Mr. McCormack

**TH9090 Seminar in Missional and Ecumenical Theology  
Fr 8:30-11:20am**
This seminar will focus on ”The missional and ecumenical legacy of Karl Barth.” The seminar will engage intensively Barth’s “missional ecclesiology” in paragraphs 71 and 72 of volume IV: “the vocation of the Christian as witness,” and “the sending of the community of the Holy Spirit.” Next to the primary focus on the ecclesiology Barth develops here, we will also give some attention to the issues of translation and the impact of translation upon Barth reception. Students with questions about this course are invited to direct them to Prof. Guder. 3 credits.

Fall Semester, 2013–2014; Mr. Guder