

Theology 200 Level Course Descriptions

Fall 2024

THEO 203-001: Social Justice & Injustice

TBA

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15AM – 9:05AM

THEO 203-002: Social Justice & Injustice

Dr. Tisha Rajendra

Thursday 4:15PM – 6:45PM

THEO 204-001: Religious Ethics and Eco Crisis

Schuck, Michael

Monday 4:15PM – 6:45PM

This course explores integral responses to environmental problems from the standpoints of three world religions. An integral response is observant (scientific), moral (ethical), meaningful (spiritual), and practical (operational) because human life itself is a moral and meaningful journey of sensory observation and practical

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THEO 232-001: New Testament

Dr. Olivia Stewart Lester

232-001: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30AM – 12:20PM

This course introduces students to the New Testament, including the gospels, the letters of Paul, the letters of other early Christian leaders, and the book of Revelation. We will situate these texts in their own historical moment, considering them within both Hellenistic Judaism and the larger Greco-Roman world. Diverse portrayals of the life and teaching of Jesus will emerge, and we will mark the ways that rich variety extends into the teachings of his followers. This course will also introduce students to modern methods of interpreting the Bible, including reading the New Testament in terms of postcolonialism, race, gender, sexuality, disability, and ecology, in addition to historical and literary approaches. This course considers the different questions each scholarly method asks of a New Testament text, and the tools it uses to answer them. This course will familiarize students with the history and contents of New Testament texts, as well as different approaches to interpreting them, in the interest of equipping students for knowledgeable and respectful dialogue about the Bible in their individual communities and our shared public life.

THEO 232-003, 232-004: New Testament

Dr. Teresa Calpino

232-002: Tuesday, Thursday 8:30AM – 9:45AM

232-003: Tuesday, Thursday 2:30PM – 3:45PM

The various documents of Christianity known as the “New Testament” form the foundation of Christian religious life and its doctrines. But because they were produced in societies that are far-removed from our own, they can easily be misunderstood. Too often we approach the Bible with the intention of finding the original meaning that is true for all people in all times. But no interpretation is developed in a vacuum. Interpretation of Scripture can never occur apart from the identity of the one doing the interpreting and their socio-cultural context. The Bible has been used throughout U.S. history to justify the oppression of Black and Brown people, Native Americans and the LGBTQ+ community. However, there is always a choice in how to read the text. The Bible

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THEO 265-01E: Sacraments & Christian Imagin.

Dr. Mara Brecht

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20AM – 10:10AM

Christian sacraments and liturgy may seem to be removed from reality: apolitical in orientation, separate from the world, and metaphysical in their concern. And yet, sacramentality—the view that God is present in all of creation—

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THEO 278-001, 278-002: Religion & Gender

Water Tower Campus

Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld

278-001: Tuesday, Thursday 10:00AM – 11:15AM

278-002: Tuesday, Thursday 1:00PM – 2:15PM

What is God's gender? The gender of Christ? Did God make covenants with women? Why can women be ordained in some denominations but not others? This course will look at Biblical and theological questions around gender in Judaism and Christianity and how they relate to ongoing questions about women in religious leadership. This course counts towards the Core requirement in theology as a second-tier course and has no prerequisites.

THEO 279-001, 279-002: Roman Catholicism

TBA

279-001

Theology 200 Level Course Descriptions Fall 2024

THEO 282-002, 282-003: Hinduism

Dr. Yarina Liston

282-002: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:40P-2:20P

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THEO 295-001: Islam

Prof. Omer Mozaffar

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:15AM – 9:05AM

This course will provide you with an introduction to the study of Islam and the Muslims. If you are not at all familiar with Islam, your success in this course should provide you with the skills you need for further study on Islam. If you are advanced in your study, your success in this course should provide you with coherence in the subject matter that you might not have previously appreciated.

To achieve this goal, we will explore the primary sources, being the Qur'an and the life of the prophet Muhammad. We will look at personal narratives and will look at the legacies of past Muslims and the ways their ideas and actions influence our lives today, with the whole course culminating in a study of Islam in America, today. In studying a tradition as large and old as Islam, we will use class discussion to discuss ideas,