**RE 205 The Christian God and Human Experience Fall 2019**

MWF 8:30am – 9:20am, Henry Hall 227

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Catalogue Description  
Students probe the nature of human experience and religious meaning, with special attention given to experience of the Judeo-Christian God. Contemporary Catholic-Christian faith is systematically analyzed in terms of its core concepts, values and visions. This study addresses the question and critique of God in the modern world and surveys contemporary theology in a spirit that is Catholic, Christian and Ecumenical. *Offered every semester. This course fulfills the lower division Religious Studies General Education Core requirement*.

Course Description  
Students will examine and discuss the theological foundations of Christianity from a contemporary Roman Catholic perspective, probing concepts fundamental to formulating a coherent and systematic faith-vision within a diverse, multi-cultural society. Central themes include revelation and faith, scripture and tradition, the Trinity, church and ecumenical dialogue, and mission and ethics.  Contemporary debates on fundamental concepts in theology will be offered in a spirit that is catholic, Christian, and ecumenical.

Goal   
To probe human experience and history for insight into the dynamics of revelation and faith as operative on both human and transcendent levels. In addition to questions of ultimate meaning, this course will explore the fundamental elements of human religious experience, as evidenced and amplified in both Judaism and Christianity. Foundational concepts relevant to a living faith will be studied with reference to both the individual and the community. This course seeks to present the rationale and logic, the viability and possibility for embracing a faith that lives through understanding, articulation, and practice. It is designed to help students appreciate the fuller dimensions of both human life and a mature faith.

Objectives  
1. Examine questions of ultimate meaning, essential aspects of human experience and the basic themes of the Christian religion in a way that embraces its tradition and provides for its continual *resourcement*  
2. Highlight theological categories that articulate and animate contemporary faith with a view toward understanding their foundational and relational value  
3. Provide a systematic study of Catholic Christianity in a spirit of correlation and contrast to other Christianities, world religions, and humanity at large  
4. Expose the theological foundations of a faith and a religion that seeks to be both faithful and fertile within an historical and global context  
5. Foster renewed enthusiasm for the study and embrace of religion as humankind’s greatest spiritual, intellectual and socio-historical endeavor

Discipline Student Learning OutcomesThrough active engagement of course material students, will demonstrate an understanding of:  
1. Catholic theology; its diversity, historical development, and position within the broader Christian and human traditions   
2. Christianity and its relationship with other major world religions   
3. Ethics, morality, and methods of moral decision making in the Christian tradition   
4. The Catholic Intellectual Tradition, particularly the Marianist tradition of education for service, social justice, and peace   
5. The role of the gospel in both affirming and challenging secular cultural values   
6. The uniqueness of Hawai’i and the Pacific Rim as a meeting place for various religious traditions

Required Materials

1. Assigned texts
   1. Textbook
      1. Mueller, J.J., ed. *Theological Foundations*, Alternate Edition.

Winona: Anselm Academic, 2011.

* 1. Class Articles
     1. Week 2: David B. Yaden, et al., “The Overview Effect: Awe and Self-Transcendent in Space Flight.”
     2. Week 7: C.S. Lewis, “*Making and Begetting*” and “*The Three-Personal God*.”
     3. Week 10: Letter from the Church of Smyrna to the Church at Philomelion in Phrygia, “*The Martyrdom of Polycarp*.”
  2. Exam Articles
     1. Packet A:
        1. Harry L. Poe and Jimmy H. Davis, “*The Religious Way of Knowing*” **or** Đuro Šušnjić, “The Dialogue Between Religion and Science: Truths, Ideas and Beliefs.”
     2. Packet B:
        1. Leonardo Boff, “*The Communion of the Trinity as Basis for Social and Integral Liberation*” **or** Joan H. Timmerman, “*The Sacramentality of Human Relationships*
     3. Packet C:
        1. Richard Gula, “*Law and Obedience*,” **and** Martin Luther King, Jr., “*Letter from a Birmingham Jail*.”

1. Three Bluebooks for examinations

Student Requirements

1. Completion of Assigned Texts

Reading assigned materials in a timely and conscientious manner is absolutely essential. Assigned readings are to be completed and ready to be discussed on the first session of the week. Students are encouraged to independently perform additional research complementary to the course material so as to aid in deepening their understanding.

1. Regular Attendance

This course emphasizes the skills of note-taking and contribution to group discussion. Regular attendance is therefore a fundamental requirement. Six or more absences implies that the highest grade achievable is a “B.” Ten or more absences constitutes grounds for a recommendation to withdraw from the course. In the event of an absence, it is the sole responsibility of the student to obtain all pertinent notes and handouts.

1. Active Participation

We will all strive to contribute to each other’s learning experience through the sharing of our understanding of course material and our own thoughts and ideas. Students best prepared to participate often:

1. Create conditions conducive to classroom focus and attentiveness
2. Are open and ready to thoughtfully and respectfully dialogue with others
3. Pose insightful questions for the benefit of all
4. Draw upon their own experiences to help illustrate course concepts
5. Examinations

Students must be present and ready for the sixth- and eleventh-week examinations and the final examination at the end of the semester. These examinations are to be legibly written in blue or black ink and are to be submitted in Bluebooks only. Oral recitation of illegible examinations may be scheduled during office hours. The final examination will be cumulative; the use of notes will be permitted. Make-up examinations for justified absences may be administered orally during office hours.

Assessment

I do not ask that you *believe* the subject matter covered in our course; I ask that you *know* it. One’s final grade for the course will be calculated from the student’s regular class attendance (20%), active participation (20%), the two midterm examinations (20%, 20%), and the final examination (20%). Because command of the course material will be assessed largely through examination, students are highly encouraged – *but are not required* – to regularly submit reflection papers on the previous week’s material. These papers will not be graded but will afford the student an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the course material, cue the instructor to pedagogical deficiencies, or pose questions that might be taken up in plenary session. Reflection papers will be returned with instructor comments for further student engagement and improvement. These comments may be a source of insight on a student’s grasp of course material and an invaluable aid in preparation for examinations.

Grading Scale

Grades earned are to be interpreted as follows:

A Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative

B Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner

C Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter

D Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work

F Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

Course Policies

*The Free Exchange of Thought*

The university has long been a privileged place for the exchange of ideas and positions. This implies both the *freedom* to express one’s thoughts and the *responsibility* to hear and respect the thoughts of others. While students are encouraged to think about and question the concepts covered, you will be assessed solely by your ability to respectfully demonstrate competence in understanding, critical appropriation, and creative synthesis of the course materials.

*Classroom Decorum*

Please remain seated for the duration of the course and refrain from offensive or distracting behavior including, texting and DMing, eating, fraternizing, intentionally polemic and inflammatory discourse, and extraneous speaking. The instructor will regularly pause to invite your questions; please reserve them until asked.

*Electronic Devices*

The use of electronic devices during periods of instruction, including audio and video recording, is strictly prohibited.

*Academic Honesty and Plagiarism*

Plagiarism might be broadly defined as the misrepresentation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own. In the first instance of alleged plagiarism, the instructor and student will agree to meet during office hours to review the evidence supporting the allegation of plagiarism and discuss proper citation techniques. Subsequent offenses will not be tolerated. Withdrawal from this course and other disciplinary actions will be considered and pursued to the fullest extent afforded by university policy.

*Style, Language, and Grammar*

All work must be submitted in legible and intelligible Standard American English (AmE) or ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i (by prior arrangement with instructor), according to the generally accepted standards of those languages. The Turabian/Chicago style is preferred. Exceptions may be made for expression in other formats (e.g., spoken word, song, or visual art) as appropriate. In all cases, the use of gender-inclusive language is to be observed.

*Office Hours*

Office hours are to be held as posted and are subject to change. To guarantee instructor availability and to reduce student wait time, students are strongly encouraged to schedule an appointment through email. If the regularly scheduled times do not meet your needs, please send the instructor an email and a list of three possible dates and times to meet.

*Instructor and Student Communication*

All written communication between the instructor and student must take place through official Chaminade University email addresses. Please do not contact the instructor through other electronic media. It is imperative that you check your email on a regular basis; important information (such as class cancellations, academic progress reports, or requests to meet during office hours) may and will be conveyed there.

*ADA Policy*

Pursuant to federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination on the basis of disability and are eligible for reasonable accommodations or modifications in the academic environment to enable them to equal access to academic programs, services, or activities. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Counseling Center in the Student Support Services Building, Room 101, by phone at (808) 735-4845 or email: counselingcenter@chaminade.edu for further information. Web: [studentaffairs.chaminade.edu/counseling-center/counseling-services](https://portal.chaminade.edu/faculty/CTL/Shared%20Documents/studentaffairs.chaminade.edu/counseling-center/counseling-services)

## *Title IX Compliance* Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services.

*Academic Conduct*

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University’s jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook, available online.

*Tutoring and Writing Services* Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students at Kōkua `Ike, the Center for Student Learning. Trained peer and professional tutors are available for a variety of subjects including, but not limited to, biology, chemistry, math, nursing, and English. Please check Kōkua `Ike’s website (<https://chaminade.edu/advising/kokua-ike/>) for the latest times, a list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via Smarthinking, which can be accessed from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – Smarthinking. For more information, please contact [tutoring@chaminade.edu](mailto:tutoring@chaminade.edu) or 808-739-8305.

### Characteristics of a Marianist Education An education in the Marianist tradition is marked by five principles. This course has been designed with them in mind. You are also encouraged to reflect upon these characteristics in your education and personal development throughout your tenure at Chaminade University.

1. Education for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice and peace
5. Educate for adaptation and change

**Date Day Class Course Material**

8/26 M 1 Course Introduction

8/28 W 2 Anthropology I

8/30 F 3 Anthropology II

9/2 M ***x*** **Labor Day – Holiday**

9/4 W 4 Anthropology III

9/6 F 5 Anthropology IV

9/9 M 6 The Experience of Israel I

9/11 W 7 The Experience of Israel II

9/13 F 8 The Experience of Israel III

9/16 M 9 The Experience of Jesus I

9/18 W 10 The Experience of Jesus II

9/20 F 11 The Experience of Jesus III

9/23 M 12 The Task of Theology I

9/25 W 13 The Task of Theology II

9/27 F 14 *Exam I Review*

9/30 M 15 **Exam I**

10/2 W 16 The Trinity I

10/4 F 17 The Trinity II

10/7 M 18 The Trinity III

10/9 W 19 The Trinity IV

10/11 F 20 The Trinity V

10/14 M ***x*** **Discoverers’ Day – Holiday**

10/16 W 21 Ecclesiology I

10/18 F 22 Ecclesiology II

10/21 M 23 Sacraments I

10/23 W 24 Sacraments II

10/25 F 25 Sacraments III

10/28 M 26 Mariology and Martyrology I

10/30 W 27 Mariology and Martyrology II

11/1 F 28 *Exam II Review*

11/4 M 29 **Exam II**

11/6 W 30 Ecumenism I

11/8 F 31 Ecumenism II

11/11 M ***x*** **Veterans’ Day – Holiday**

11/13 W 32 Moral Theology I

11/15 F 33 Moral Theology II

11/18 M 34 Catholic Social Thought I

11/20 W 35 Catholic Social Thought II

11/22 F 36 Catholic Social Thought III

11/25 M 37 Contemporary Theologies I

11/27 W 38 Contemporary Theologies II

11/29 F ***x*** **Thanksgiving Weekend – Holiday**

12/2 M 39 Film 2.a

12/4 W 40 Film 2.b

12/6 F 41 *Course Review*

**Week Date Reading Material**

1 8/26 – 8/30 *No readings assigned*

Anthropology I Ongoing: Packet A (Harry L. Poe and Jimmy H. Davis, “The Religious Way of Knowing” ***or*** Đuro Šušnjić, “The Dialogue Between Religion and Science: Truths, Ideas and Beliefs.”)

2\* 9/4 – 9/6 Ready: David B. Yaden, et al., “The Overview Effect: Awe and Self-Transcendent

Anthropology II Experience in Space Flight.”

Ongoing: Packet A (Poe *or* Šušnjić)

3 9/9 – 9/13 Ready: Mueller, chapter 2

Israel Ongoing: Packet A (Poe *or* Šušnjić)

4 9/16 – 9/20 Ready: Mueller, chapter 3

Jesus Ongoing: Packet A (Poe *or* Šušnjić)

5 9/23 – 9/27 Ready: Mueller, chapter 1

Theology Prepared for Exam I: Packet A (Poe *or* Šušnjić)

6\* 10/2 – 10/4 Ready: Mueller, chapter 4

Trinity I Ongoing: Packet B (Leonardo Boff, “The Communion of the Trinity as

Basis for Social and Integral Liberation” ***or*** Joan H. Timmerman,

“The Sacramentality of Human Relationships.”)

7 10/7 – 10/11 Ready: C.S. Lewis, “Making and Begetting,” and “The Three-Personal God”

Trinity II Ongoing: Packet B (Boff *or* Timmerman)

8\* 10/16 – 10/18 Ready: Mueller, chapter 5

Ecclesiology Ongoing: Packet B (Boff *or* Timmerman)

9 10/21 – 10/25 Ready: Mueller, chapter 7

Sacraments Ongoing: Packet B (Boff *or* Timmerman)

10 10/28 – 11/1 Ready: Letter from the Church of Smyrna to the Church at Philomelion in Phrygia, “The Martyrdom of Polycarp.”

Mariology Prepared for Exam II: Packet B (Boff *or* Timmerman)

11\* 11/6 – 11/8 Ready: Mueller, chapters 10 and 11

Ecumenism Ongoing: Packet C (Richard Gula, “Law and Obedience” ***and***

Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”)

12\* 11/13 – 11/15 Ready: Mueller, chapter 8

Moral Theology Ongoing: Packet C (Gula *and* King)

13 11/18 – 11/22 Ready: Mueller, chapter 9

Catholic Social Thought Ongoing: Packet C (Gula *and* King)

14 11/25 – 11/27 Ready: Mueller, chapter 12

Contemp. Theology I Ongoing: Packet C (Gula *and* King)

15 12/2 – 12/6 *No readings assigned*

Contemp. Theology II Prepared for Final Exam: Packet C (Gula *and* King)

*\*dates adjusted for holidays and examinations*