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Office Hours: MWF 11:30am – 1pm HST
and by appointment

Catalog Description

Students probe the nature of human experience and religious meaning, with special attention given to experience of the Judeo-Christian God. Contemporary Catholic-Christians 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 Catholic Intellectual Tradition General Education Requirement.*

Learning Outcomes

The structure, content, learning experiences, and pedagogical philosophy of this course are informed by:

1. The Marianist Educational Philosophy: *Five Characteristics of a Marianist Education* (CME)
 1. Educate for formation in faith
 2. Provide an integral, quality education
 3. Educate in family spirit
 4. Educate for service, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation
 5. Educate for adaptation and change
2. The Catholic Intellectual Tradition: *General Education Core Outcome* (GECO)
The student will explain faith and reason as integral to developing a Catholic sacramental perspective of the cosmos that leads to responsible action supporting social justice.
3. The Religious Studies Program: *Program Learning Outcomes* (PLO)
Upon completion of the undergraduate B.A. program in Religious Studies, students will be able to:
 1. Utilize the key concepts of Catholic theology in a critical reflection on integral human experience.
 2. Engage in respectful dialogue on religious meaning in our globalized, multicultural society.
 3. Employ Christian moral imagination in moral reasoning and decision making that affirms and/or challenges secular and cultural values.
 4. Generate a substantive project that is animated by the Marianist Charism.
4. RE 205: The Christian God and Human Experience: *Student Learning Outcomes* (SLO)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be characterized by the ability to:
 1. Correlate how the sacramental understanding of God is evident in human experience. (GECO, PLO 1, and CME 1)
 2. Describe the meaning of Jesus as foundational for the Christian response to human existence, human choices, and social justice. (GECO, PLO 3 and 4, CME 4 and 5)
 3. Explain the main themes of the relationship between humanity and God as expressed in the Judeo-Christian understanding of God. (GECO, PLO 1, CME 3)
 4. Define significant terms used to describe God not only in Christianity but also other religious traditions, particularly Judaism and Islam. (GECO, PLO 2, CME 2)

Required Materials

Ready access to required materials is necessary for continued success in our course. Please promptly inform the instructor if you encounter any difficulty accessing any of these materials.

1. Access to internet-capable technology
 - a. Important information has been posted onto our Canvas site and will be updated as needed
2. Assigned texts
 - a. Textbook
 - i. Mueller, J.J., ed. *Theological Foundations*, Alternate Edition. Winona: Anselm Academic, 2011. (ISBN-13: 978-1599821344)
 - b. Articles (available for download on Canvas)
 - i. Letter from the Church of Smyrna, "The Martyrdom of Polycarp."
 - ii. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."
 - iii. David B. Yaden, "The Overview Effect: Awe and Self-Transcendent Experience in Space Flight."

Student Requirements

1. Completion of Assigned Texts

A careful reading of assigned materials in a timely and conscientious manner is absolutely essential. Assigned readings are to be completed and ready to be discussed on its designated Canvas threaded discussion. Please see page 10 of this syllabus for a complete schedule of readings and discussions. Students are also strongly encouraged to perform additional independent research to enhance their understanding of the texts.

2. Active Participation

This course emphasizes the skill of collaborative learning through sustained contribution to group discussion. Regular and active attendance is therefore a fundamental requirement. 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. Six or more instances of non-participation implies that the highest grade achievable is a "B." Ten or more instances of non-participation constitutes grounds for a recommendation to withdraw from the course.

3. Three Examinations

Students must undertake the fifth, tenth, and fifteenth week short-essay examinations. These examinations will assess learning of course materials and must be submitted through Canvas, employing adequate grammar and syntax without substantive assistance of generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT).

Assessment

Final grades are calculated from the student's active participation (50%) and three examinations (50%).

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

Credit Hour Policy

As established by the Chaminade University of Honolulu Credit Hour Policy, this three-credit hour course represents completion of a minimum of 135 hours of student engagement over one 15-week semester.

1. 60.00 hours of regular instruction (e.g., lectures on course themes, facilitated weekly seminars on assigned readings, collaborative group discussions, and three midterm examinations)
2. 75.00 hours of ancillary work averaging 4.68 hours per week (e.g., course readings, midterm preparation, supplementary research and study, office hour one-on-one support, optional reflection and clarification papers, completion of additional assignments as needed, etc.)

Course Policies

The Free Exchange of Thought

The university has long been a privileged place for the open and vigorous exchange of ideas. This implies both the freedom to express one's thoughts *and* the responsibility to hear and respect the thoughts of others. Religious freedom and freedom of the conscience are central tenets of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. While students are strongly encouraged to think about – and evaluate – the concepts covered in our course, academic achievement will be assessed solely by the ability to adequately demonstrate satisfactory competence in understanding, appropriation, and synthesis of course content and materials.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty. Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University. For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Style, Language, and Grammar

All work must be submitted in Standard American English (AmE) according to the generally accepted standards of that language. The judicious use of equitable, gender-inclusive language must always be observed.

Office Hours

Students are encouraged to establish a line of one-to-one communication with the instructor via Zoom. Students may send the instructor an email including a list of 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. Assignments must likewise be submitted through their designated channel, ordinarily through our course Canvas site. Please do not contact the instructor through other electronic media including personal email addresses.

University Policies

For complete information regarding all university policies, including academic and personal entitlements, protections, and recourse for students, please refer to the Student Handbook annually updated on the following webpage: <https://catalog.chaminade.edu>.

Attendance Policy ([as codified in the Academic Catalog](#))

Students are expected to attend regularly all courses for which they are registered. Student should notify their instructors when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevents them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address, calling the instructor's campus extension, or by leaving a message with the instructor's division office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade.

Unexcused absences equivalent to more than a week of classes may lead to a grade reduction for the course. Any unexcused absence of two consecutive weeks or more may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor, although the instructor is not required to withdraw students in that scenario. Repeated absences put students at risk of failing grades.

Students with disabilities who have obtained accommodations from the Chaminade University of Honolulu ADA Coordinator may be considered for an exception when the accommodation does not materially alter the attainment of the learning outcomes.

Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.

Academic Conduct Policy ([as codified in the Academic Catalog](#))

Campus life is a unique situation requiring the full cooperation of each individual. For many, Chaminade is not only a school, but a home and a place of work as well. That makes it a community environment in which the actions of one students may directly affect other students. Therefore, each person must exercise a high degree of responsibility. Any community must have standards of conduct and rules by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

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 for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website under Student Life.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kōkua 'Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy and Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>. To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring and Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

RE 205		Reading Schedule	Chuuk Spring 2026
Week	Date	Reading	
1	1/12-1/18	Yaden, <i>"The Overview Effect: Awe and Self-Transcendent Experience in Space Flight"</i>	
2	1/19-1/25	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 1.	
3	1/26-2/1	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 2.	
4	2/2-2/8	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 3.	
5	2/9-2/15	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 4.	
6	2/16-2/22	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 5.	
7	2/23-3/1	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 6.	
8	3/2-3/8	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 7.	
9	3/9-3/15	Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."	
10	3/16-3/22	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 8.	
11	3/23-3/29	Letter from the Church of Smyrna, "The Martyrdom of Polycarp."	
x	3/30-4/5	Easter Break (no assignments or readings)	
12	4/6-4/12	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 9.	
13	4/13-4/19	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 10.	
14	4/20-4/26	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 11.	
15	4/27-5/3	Mueller, <i>Theological Foundations</i> , chapter 12.	