

FD-01

COURSE # 205 FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY Fall Day 2001
Instructor: D. Anderson (Humanities Department/ext.867) M-W-F/10:00-10:50AM
Main Campus

Catalogue Description: Students will study and discuss the theological foundations of Christianity from a contemporary Catholic perspective, probing concepts fundamental to formulating a coherent and systematic faith-vision within a diverse, multi-cultural society. Central themes include: revelation & faith/ grace & Jesus / religion & salvation / scripture & tradition / church & mission / ethics & ecumenical dialogue. 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. This course will explore in systematic fashion the fundamental elements of human religious experience as evidenced and amplified in both Judaism & Christianity. Foundational concepts relevant to 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 mature faith in terms of both its constitutive parts and extended possibilities.

Objectives:

- 1) to examine in depth the essential thematics of Christian theology in a way that embraces the tradition and provides for its continual resourcement
- 2) to highlight theological categories that articulate and animate contemporary faith with a view toward understanding their foundational and relational value
- 3) to provide a systematic study of Catholic Christianity in a spirit of correlation and contrast to other Christianities, world religions and humanity at large
- 4) to expose the theological foundations of a faith & a religion that seeks to be both faithful and fertile within an historical and global context
- 5) to foster renewed enthusiasm for the study and embrace of religion as mankind's greatest spiritual, intellectual and socio-historical endeavor

Requirements:

- 1) presence & participation in all scheduled classes for this course
- 2) completion of all assignments & projects as given throughout the course
- 3) satisfactory completion of all examinations during the semester

Recommendations:

- 1) notebook for recording information during class presentations & assigned reading
- 2) research & reading of extra materials relevant to the course content
- 3) attentive & participative presence to foster a learning attitude & aptitude

Important Notes:

Course Text: The Experience of God by Dermot Lane
Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1981

Grading Method: 20% class presence & participation
40% mid-course examinations
20% final exam
20% course paper

Class Schedule: subject presentations may be amended as deemed necessary

Student Assignment: 5 page/typed/double-spaced paper on selected topic
relevant to the themes of this Foundations course

Make-up Exams: administered orally only after submitting an official excuse
for failure to be present at time of written exam

Class Deportment: students are asked to be in class at the start time with only
appropriate course material at desktop / all cellphones are
to be on silent mode / no getting up or walking about during
classtime / no leaving class without permission

Final Exam: scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2001 from 10:30-12:30

Teacher: available during posted office hours & at other times by appointment
[Homephone: 947-8922 / Humanities Office: ext #867]

* Thank you for your cooperation on all of the above matters *

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Course Material</u>
8/27	M	1	Introduction
8/29	W	2	Experience, God & Theology (I) [text: Intro & Ch 1]
8/31	F	3	Experience, God & Theology (II)
9/3	M		No Class (Labor Day)
9/5	W	4	Experience, God & Theology (III)
9/7	F	5	The Nature of Revelation (I) [text: Ch 2]
9/10	M	6	The Nature of Revelation (II)
9/12	W	7	The Nature of Revelation (III)
9/14	F	8	The Activity of Faith (I) [text: Ch 3]
9/17	M	9	The Activity of Faith (II)
9/19	W	10	The Activity of Faith (III)
9/21	F	11	Anthropological Aspects of Faith
9/24	M	12	Atheism as Alternative [handout]
9/26	W	13	Theological Aspects of Faith
9/28	F	14	Revelation & Faith: Old Testament Perspectives (I) [handout]
10/1	M	15	Revelation & Faith: Old Testament Perspectives (II)
10/3	W	16	Revelation & Faith: New Testament Perspectives (I) [handout]
10/5	F	17	Revelation & Faith: New Testament Perspectives (II)
10/8	M		No Class (Discovers' Day)
10/10	W	18	Review
10/12	F	19	Mid-Course Exam I
10/15	M	20	Foundations of Church (I) [handout]
10/17	W	21	Foundations of Church (II)
10/19	F	22	Church as Sacrament & Mission [handout]
10/22	M	23	Discussion
10/24	W	24	Confessing Faith & Theology
10/26	F	25	Doctrine & Dogma [handout]
10/29	M	26	Faith as Worship & Liturgy
10/31	W	27	Faith as Spirituality in Practice
11/2	F	28	The Mystery of Salvation (I) [handout]
11/5	M	29	The Mystery of Salvation (II)
11/7	W	30	The Mystery of Salvation (III)
11/9	F	31	The Age of Ecumenism
11/12	M		No Class (Veterans' Day)
11/14	W	32	A World of Grace [handout]
11/16	F	33	Christian Ethics: Values, Virtues & Ideals (I) [handout]
11/19	M	34	Christian Ethics: Values, Virtues & Ideals (II)
11/21	W	35	Christian Ethics: Values, Virtues & Ideals (III)
11/23	F		No Class (Thanksgiving Recess)
11/26	M	36	Review
11/28	W	37	Mid-Course Exam II
11/30	F	38	Documents of Faith: Vatican II to the Present (I) [handout]
12/3	M	39	Documents of Faith: Vatican II to the Present (II)
12/5	W	40	Church Magisterium & Resources for Living Faith
12/7	F	41	Conclusion: Overview/Summary/Evaluation