

D. Anderson
SSI 01
Am

RE
Course#280 Foundations of Christian Theology

Summer Session I-2001

Goal:

To 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.

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

Grading:

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 20% mid-course exam | 20% class presence & participation |
| 20% final exam | 40% course paper |

[Course Paper: submission of four separate 1-2 page papers. Each paper should select a different theological concept surveyed during the course and articulate the significance of that concept on the basis of one's personal processing of the relevant material. All papers are due at the end of the course]

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Presentation</u> |
|-------------|------------|--------------|--|
| 5/21 | M | 1 | Course Introduction |
| 5/22 | T | 2 | Experience, God & Theology I [Lane: Intro & Ch 1] |
| 5/23 | W | 3 | Experience, God & Theology II |
| 5/24 | Th | 4 | The Nature of Revelation I [Lane: Ch 2] |
| 5/25 | F | 5 | The Nature of Revelation II |
| 5/28 | M | | No Class (Memorial Day Observance) |
| 5/29 | T | 6 | The Activity of Faith I [Lane: Ch 3] |
| 5/30 | W | 7 | The Activity of Faith II |
| 5/31 | Th | 8 | Anthropological Aspects of Faith |
| 6/1 | F | 9 | Theological Aspects of Faith |
| 6/4 | M | 10 | Faith: Old Testament Perspective I |
| 6/5 | T | 11 | Faith: Old Testament Perspective II |
| 6/6 | W | 12 | Faith: New Testament Perspective I |
| 6/7 | Th | 13 | Faith: New Testament Perspective II |
| 6/8 | F | 14 | Review Class |
| 6/11 | M | | No Class (Kamehameha Day Observance) |
| 6/12 | T | 15 | Mid-Course Exam |
| 6/13 | W | 16 | Dimensions of Revelation I |
| 6/14 | Th | 17 | Dimensions of Revelation II |
| 6/15 | F | 18 | Dimensions of Revelation III |
| 6/18 | M | 19 | Foundations of Church I |
| 6/19 | T | 20 | Foundations of Church II |
| 6/20 | W | 21 | Church as Sacrament & Mission |
| 6/21 | Th | 22 | Confession/Theology/Dogma/Doctrine |
| 6/22 | F | 23 | Sacraments/Worship/Prayer/Spirituality |
| 6/25 | M | 24 | The Mystery of Salvation I: A World of Grace |
| 6/26 | T | 25 | The Mystery of Salvation II: Religions in Dialogue |
| 6/27 | W | 26 | Ethics: Values/Virtues/Ideals |
| 6/28 | Th | 27 | Course Overview |
| 6/29 | F | 28 | Final Exam |

Course Text: The Experience of God [An Invitation to Do Theology] by Dermot A. Lane

Course Schedule: may be amended as deemed necessary

Teacher: David Anderson [Department of Humanities/Religious Studies]

Chaminade: ext #867 / Home Phone: 947-8922

Reading Assignments: text as indicated & as per handouts in class

- Allen, Diogenes. Christian Belief in a Postmodern World (The Full Wealth of Conviction).
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Minneapolis, MN.: Augsburg Fortress, 1997.
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- Fox, Matthew. Original Blessing (A Primer in Creation Spirituality).
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- Geffre, Claude. The Risk of Interpretation (On Being Faithful to the Christian Tradition in A Non-Christian Age). Mahwah, NJ.: Paulist Press, 1987.
- Gillespie, V. Bailey. The Experience of Faith.
Birmingham, AL.: Religious Education Press, 1988.
- Grenz, Stanley J. Reason For Hope (The Systematic Theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg).
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- Gula, Richard M. Reason Informed By Faith (Foundations of Catholic Morality).
Mahwah, NJ.: Paulist Press, 1989.
- Haight, Roger. Jesus – Symbol of God.
Maryknoll, NY.: Orbis Books, 1999.
- Dynamics of Theology.
Mahwah, NJ.: Paulist Press, 1990.
- An Alternative Vision (An Interpretation of Liberation Theology).
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- Haight, John F. Mystery and Promise (A Theology of Revelation).
Collegeville, MN.: The Liturgical Press, 1993.
- What Is Religion? (An Introduction).
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- Hill, Brennan R., et al. Faith, Religion and Theology (A Contemporary Introduction).
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- Lyden, John. Enduring Issues in Religion.
San Diego, CA.: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1995.
- Macquarrie, John. Twentieth Century Religious Thought.
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