

THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES GRADUATE COURSES

2023-24 and 2024-25



AT A GLANCE

MA GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Scripture & Revelation | 5100
- Theological Methods | 5300
- One course in Ethics & Justice
- One course in Religions
- Six Electives or Concentration
- Final Portfolio

ADDITIONAL CONCENTRATIONS

- Chaplaincy
- Pastoral Ministry
- Theological Education

During the academic year, classes meet once a week in the evenings. A HyFlex model allows students to choose to participate on campus or via Zoom. Fall semester runs from late August to mid-December. Spring semester runs from mid-January to early May. Summer session courses vary from two to five weeks.



**ALL COURSES AVAILABLE
ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE**

SUMMER 2023

TEACHING THEOLOGY | TRS 5380

Introduction to pedagogy for theological educators. Topics include the nature and goals of theological education, the vocation of the theology teacher, the sociological research relevant to religious education, the developmental needs of adolescents and young adults, diversity in the classroom, and concrete pedagogical strategies. Special attention given to practical implementation of the learning goals of the U.S. Catholic Bishops High School Curriculum Framework. (July 10-21, 2023)

FALL 2023

SCRIPTURE AND REVELATION | TRS 5100

Approaching the Bible as "revelatory text," students are introduced to different scholarly approaches to biblical interpretation--including historical, form, source, and redaction criticism, literary, rhetorical, and contemporary, contextual approaches. Students explore the ways in which these critical methods can, in various ways, confront, challenge, enhance, and/or expand canonical/confessional readings of the Bible from the perspective of Christian faith.

ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY | TRS 5444

An elaboration of the mystical/Sufi tradition of Islam and the emergence of Islamic spirituality. Detailed study of the Qur'anic verses and paradigms from the sayings of the Prophet that constitute the main sources for the spiritual dimensions of Islam, as well as an examination of the writings of historical and contemporary Muslim mystical figures.

CROSS-CULTURAL ETHICS | TRS 5550

Considers several models and contextual issues of fundamental Christian ethics in various parts of the world in order to map how cultures and their respective ethoses intersect in the construction of ethical paradigms which in turn can both foster and/or hinder cross-cultural analysis, respect and collaboration. Two historical novels set respectively in Africa (Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*) and Asia (Endo, *Deep River*) will be read, along with works on cultural anthropology, fundamental Christian ethics, a methodological reflection on the American ethical cultural tradition and a work on theological inculturation in the African, Latin American, or Asian context.

SPRING 2024

THE FAITHFUL: BEING CATHOLIC IN AMERICA | TRS 5230

A case-based examination of lived experiences of Catholicism in the United States, from colonial times to the present day, exploring a variety of responses to the question of how to be Catholic in America. How have American Catholics negotiated their various identity claims in order to inhabit their Catholic identity in meaningful ways? Where have their identity claims merged, where have they come into conflict, and how have those conflicts and confluences shaped the experiences of American Catholics and the expression of an American Catholicism, if there is such a thing?

CHRIST AND THE PASCAL MYSTERY | TRS 5320

Studies the principal developments in theological reflection on the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ in the New Testament and in later church tradition; consideration of how contemporary Christology is both affected by and responds to crucial concerns of today's culture.

THE RABBIS ON SEX AND GENDER | TRS 5416

Explores the legal and narrative sections from Talmudic tractate Kiddushin utilizing a wide variety of reading strategies (e.g., legal, text-and-form-critical methods, Feminist criticism, and Queer theory).

SUMMER 2024

SPECIAL TOPICS IN NEW TESTAMENT | TRS 5199

FALL 2024

THEOLOGICAL METHODS | TRS 5300

Consideration of key theological concepts (e.g., revelation, faith, scripture, tradition, community, context) and how they play out in several contemporary theological methodologies. Beginning with the assumption that all theology is contextual, the course locates individual thinkers within their different historical and cultural worlds—inviting students to reflect on what it means to do theology out of their own unique commitments, contexts, and life experiences.

SPECIAL TOPICS: THE QUR'AN | TRS 5499

Explores the history and theology of the Qur'an, with attention to the ways in which the Muslim holy book has influenced Islamic belief, law, art, practice, and spirituality. Explores both classical and modern commentaries, as well as the place of the Qur'an within contemporary interreligious dialogue.

CATHOLIC MORAL THEOLOGY | TRS 5530

Study of Roman Catholic fundamental moral theology, focusing on both traditional and contemporary understandings of principal themes such as: the nature, history, and methods of fundamental moral theology; the moral person and moral community; conscience, moral norms and the Natural Law; evaluating moral acts; sin (personal and social); conversion and reconciliation; role of church teaching (magisterium) and tradition in select contemporary issues in the areas of sexual ethics, health care and bioethics, and social ethics, including Faithful Citizenship in the political arena.

SPRING 2025

ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY | TRS 5240

Examines significant factors that contributed to the development of early Christian myths, discourses, rituals, and social practices, as groups and agents within the movement selected, adopted, and modified cultural elements associated with Israel and Judea, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, and Rome, assembling those elements into new configurations to meet individual and group needs. Topics include Jewish apocalypticism and messianism, mystery religions, healing and exorcism, views of the afterlife, descents into the underworld, ascents to heaven, and magic.

CHURCH AND SACRAMENT | TRS 5340

Explores the church as "sacrament of salvation" through an examination of the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), the sacraments of healing (Penance, Anointing of the Sick), and sacraments at the service of communion (Matrimony, Holy Orders). Topics include images, models, and marks of the church, as well as the historical, liturgical, and theological development of the seven sacraments.

ABRAHAM: FATHER OF MANY NATIONS | TRS 5110

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all see Abraham as in some way their founder or ancestor. Course engages in close readings of Genesis 12-25, which tell the story of this Patriarch, to understand how Abraham was understood in Ancient Israel. Examines texts from rabbinic literature, the New Testament, and the Qur'an to explore the ways in which three later traditions map onto Abraham their own visions of what it means to be a religious person.