



COURSE SYLLABUS

Term: Spring 2017 (2016-2)

THEO 131A—Theological Foundations
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Instructor Information:

Instructor Name	Dr. Kevin P. Considine
Office Number:	512
Phone Number:	219-473-4353
Email:	kconsidine@ccsj.edu
Hours Available:	MW—12pm to 2pm; T/TH—2pm to 4pm; or, schedule an appointment

Instructor Background:

Ph.D. Theology, Loyola University Chicago;
M.A. Theology, Catholic Theological Union;
B.A. English, Vanderbilt University

Course Information:

Course Time:	MW 10:15am to 11:45am
Classroom:	209
Prerequisites:	THEO 110
Required Books and Materials:	<i>What is Christianity? A Dynamic Introduction.</i> By Dennis Doyle. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0809149933

Learning Outcomes/ Competencies:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss Roman Catholicism's professed understanding of its essential beliefs and the theologies that undergird them.
2. Explain how the Roman Catholic tradition understands the distinction and relationship between Faith and Reason.

3. Understand theology as a method of inquiry.
4. Explain Roman Catholicism's professed understandings of the Bible, Revelation, the doctrine of the Trinity, and the Church.
5. Articulate the Catholic theology of human nature and human destiny.
6. Understand the relationship between science and Christian faith.
7. Describe in general terms how the Roman Catholic Church has understood the historical Jesus and subsequent Christologies.
8. Demonstrate the ability to engage in respectful dialogue with members of other faith traditions.
9. Evaluate her or his own beliefs vis-à-vis core beliefs associated with Roman Catholicism.

Course Description: In this course, students gain a broad overview of the academic study of Christian theology and its articulation within the Catholic tradition. Topics include the human search for meaning; human nature and human destiny; the nature of God; faith and reason; divine revelation; biblical interpretation; the person of Jesus Christ and the Trinity; worship; theology of Church; and sacramental spirituality for a post-modern world.

Learning Strategies: Blackboard, Group Discussions, Collaborative Learning, Lecturing, Reading, Paper Writing, Research, Oral Examination, Journal Writing

Experiential Learning Opportunities: To be determined

Assessments:		
Major Assignments:	Twelve Response Reflections	120 pts (10 pts/ea)
	Religious Experience Essay	40 pts
	Final Exams (Written/ Oral).	110 pts (40/70)
	Final Paper	70 pts
	Eight Quizzes	80 pts
	Pre-Test	10 pts
	<u>Total</u>	<u>470 pts</u>

****NOTE/DISCLAIMER: ORAL FINAL EXAM:** You must pass the oral final exam in order to pass the course, achieving a score of (75%) or higher. ***If you fail the exam, you fail the course.*** In the past, I have offered retakes. I will no longer do this. You will have one opportunity.

Class Participation You cannot succeed if you do not participate.

Grading Scale:

100 – 92: A	91 – 90: A-	
89 – 88: B+	87 – 82: B	81 – 80: B-
79 – 78: C+	77 – 72: C	71 – 70: C-
69 – 68: D+	67 – 62: D	61 – 60: D-
59 and below	F	

I reserve the right to change this schedule to meet the needs of the class.

<u>Date</u> <i>Blackboard deadlines in italics</i>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u> to be completed before class or by the deadline listed
January 9 th	Who are we and what are we doing here?	Music and Religious Experience
January 11 th	Experience of God in Christianity and World Religions	Read “Chapter One: Introduction” Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity
January 16 th	Martin Luther King, Jr. observance—no classes	
January 18 th	Section One: Scripture	<u>Religious Experience Essay Due</u>
January 23 rd		Read “Chapter 2: The Bible”
January 25 th		Read “Chapter 3: Hebrew Scriptures” Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity
January 30 th		Read “Chapter 4: New Testament”
February 1 st		Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity
February 6 th	Section Two: Tradition	Read “Chapter 5: Christian Tradition”
February 8 th		Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity
February 13 th		Read “Chapter 6: Christian Doctrine”
February 15 th		Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity
February 20 th		Read “Chapter 7: Church Divisions and Ecumenism”

February 22nd

Midterm Assessment

Feb 27th to
March 3rd
March 6th

SPRING BREAK!!

Stay Safe and Have Fun

**Section Three:
Sacraments**

Read “Chapter 8: Sacramental Consciousness”

March 8th

Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity

March 13th

Read “Chapter 9: Sacraments of Initiation”

March 15th

Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity

March 20th

Read “Chapter 10: Sacraments of Commitment and Healing”

March 22nd

Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity

March 27th

**Section Four: Christian
Life**

Read “Chapter 11: Love as the Greatest Commandment”

March 29th

Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity

April 3rd

Read “Chapter 12: Commandments, Virtues, Pacifist Activism”

April 5th

*Humanities Week:
Activity TBA*

Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity

April 10th

Read “Chapter 13: Catholic Social Teaching”

April 12th

Quiz/Response/Discussion/Activity

April 17th, 19th
Exam Day

**Feedback, Final exams,
paper writing**

1. Sign up for a time to take your oral final exams, and keep your commitment.
2. Take the written final exam in Blackboard.
3. Write your final paper.
4. Complete Course Evaluation

Selected Assignments: Detailed Guidelines

I. Experience of God Essay

This is a 2-3 page essay that discusses a personal experience of God or “something more”. For this essay, your experience can be *traditional* or *nontraditional*.

Traditional—Your experience happened within an organized religious gathering or spiritual practice. For example, some people describe encountering God or “something more” in the following experiences : Christian Sunday worship, sacraments, ritual, prayer, Bible study and activism; Muslim Friday prayer, fasting during Ramadan, and studying the Qur’an; Jewish observance of the Sabbath, prayer, studying the Torah, observing High Holy Days; Buddhist meditation, temple visitations, and Scripture study; these examples are only a few.

Nontraditional—Your experience does **NOT** have to be connected to any organized religion or spiritual practice. For example, some people have described experiences of God or “something more” in the following: being in nature, attending a concert or show, visiting Ground Zero in Manhattan, serving others, playing music or practicing some kind of art form, attending a sporting event with 50,000 people, playing a sport, finding intimacy and self-giving love in a personal relationship; these are only a few examples.

GUIDELINES: The point is to reflect upon your life, identify an experience that you would call “connected to God or “something more”, narrate it and draw the reader into the story using details and clear writing, and then reflect upon and analyze this experience. It should be a minimum of two pages, double-spaced, 10 or 12 pt font. Use the following format for this essay:

- 1.) **NARRATION (15 points):** Tell the story of your experience in a clear and detailed way. Some guiding questions: Where were you? Why were you there? Who were you with? What happened? How did you feel? Was this a “traditional” or “non-traditional” experience (or a mixture)? How so?
- 2.) **REFLECTION (10 points):** Think about your story. Why, in your opinion, is this an experience of the divine? Why do you think that God, or “something more” was present? Is God always present?
- 3.) **INTEGRATION (10 points):** What is your own religious background/affiliation? Whether or not you consider yourself religious or not, in what religious tradition (or lack thereof) were you raised? Does your experience make sense within this tradition? Why or why not?

II. ORAL FINAL EXAM: a 15-minute interview with me, in my office.

Exam policies: You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course. If you fail the exam, you fail the course. No make-ups will be given unless there is some extremely extenuating circumstance that you can document.

You must be in my office at your scheduled exam time. If you are late you will not be able to take the exam. If you miss your scheduled exam time, it is your responsibility to contact me to request a make-up appointment after grades are due. You will take an F for the semester and receive a grade change after you make it up. You will lose 5 points from your exam grade.

Once exams begin, I will be running a tight schedule and it will be difficult for me to be available. Please be understanding. Get any grade questions resolved and make-up work completed before exams. Once exams start, it will not be accepted.

AT YOUR EXAM: Dress formally and modestly as you would for a job interview. This is serious. You need to be prepared for formal occasions. No T-shirts, sweats, hats, jeans, or shorts. No zippered jackets or tops. Guys, wear a shirt with a collar, and shave, unless you normally wear a beard.

Responsibilities

Attending Class

You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. However, we do not want to penalize students for participating in college-sponsored events. When you miss class because of a college event, you must give notice of your absence in advance, and you are responsible for all missed work. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have **more** responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.

Therefore, if a student is absent **six (6) times or more** the student will be subjected to a grade of F or FW per policy stated under the Withdrawal from Classes section on this syllabus.

Turning In Your Work

You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work on the day it is due.

ALL WORK IS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS. IT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED EITHER 1.) TO MY EMAIL ACCOUNT OR 2.) ON PAPER. LATE WORK WILL HAVE POINTS DEDUCTED FOR EACH DAY LATE

I RESERVE THE RIGHT NOT TO ACCEPT LATE WORK.

Using Electronic Devices

Electronic devices can only be used in class for course-related purposes. If you text or access the Internet for other purposes, you may be asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent.

Participating in

You must be on time, stay for the whole class and speak up in a way

Class that shows you have done the assigned reading. If you are not prepared for class discussion, you may be asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent.

Doing Your Own Work If you turn in work that is not your own, you are subject to judicial review, and these procedures can be found in the College Catalog and the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.

Using standard citation guidelines, such as MLA or APA format, to document sources avoids plagiarism. The Library has reference copies of each of these manuals, and there are brief checklists in your Student Handbook and Planner.

PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.

Withdrawing from Class After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the CCSJ Course Catalog.

Resources

Student Success Center: The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library.

Disability Services: Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.

CCSJ Alerts: Calumet College of St. Joseph’s emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College’s website at: <http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html>.

In addition, you can check other media for important information, such as school closings:

Internet: <http://www.ccsj.edu>

Radio: WAKE – 1500 AM, WGN – 720 AM, WIJE – 105.5 FM, WLS – 890 AM, WZVN – 107.1 FM, WBBM NEWS RADIO 78

TV Channels: 2, 5, 7, 9, 32

Emergency Procedures

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Call 911 and report incident.
2. Do not move the patient unless safety dictates.
3. Have someone direct emergency personnel to patient.
4. If trained: Use pressure to stop bleeding.
5. Provide basic life support as needed.

FIRE

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Pull alarm (located by EXIT doors).
2. Leave the building.
3. Call 911 from a safe distance, and give the following information:
 - Location of the fire within the building.
 - A description of the fire and how it started (if known)

BUILDING EVACUATION

1. All building evacuations will occur when an alarm sounds and/or upon notification by security/safety personnel. **DO NOT ACTIVATE ALARM IN THE EVENT OF A BOMB THREAT.**
2. If necessary or if directed to do so by a designated emergency official, activate the building alarm.
3. When the building evacuation alarm is activated during an emergency, leave by the nearest marked exit and alert others to do the same.
4. Assist the disabled in exiting the building! Remember that the elevators are reserved for persons who are disabled. **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATORS IN CASE OF FIRE. DO NOT PANIC.**
5. Once outside, proceed to a clear area that is at least 500 feet away from the building. Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrant areas and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel. The assembly point is the sidewalk in front of the college on New York Avenue.
6. **DO NOT RETURN** to the evacuated building unless told to do so by College official or emergency responders.

IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY AND ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE:

Stay calm, and take steps to protect yourself. If there is a working telephone, call 911 and tell the emergency dispatcher where you are **or** where you will be moving. If you must move,

1. Move to an exterior enclosed stairwell.
2. Request persons exiting by way of the stairway to notify the Fire Department of your location.
3. As soon as practical, move onto the stairway and await emergency personnel.
4. Prepare for emergencies by learning the locations of exit corridors and enclosed stairwells. Inform professors, and/or classmates of best methods of assistance during an emergency.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL/RELEASE

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Call 911 and report incident.
2. Secure the area.
3. Assist the injured.
4. Evacuate if necessary.

TORNADO

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Avoid automobiles and open areas.
2. Move to a basement or corridor.
3. Stay away from windows.
4. Do not call 911 unless you require emergency assistance.

SHELTER IN PLACE

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Stay inside a building.
2. Seek inside shelter if outside.
3. Seal off openings to your room if possible.
4. Remain in place until you are told that it is safe to leave.

BOMB THREATS

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Call 911 and report incident.
2. If a suspicious object is observed (e.g. a bag or package left unattended):
 - Don't touch it!
 - Evacuate the area.

TERRORISM AND ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS

EMERGENCY ACTION

1. Call 911 and report intruder.

RUN, HIDE OR FIGHT TIPS:

1. **Prepare** – frequent training drills to prepare the most effectively.
2. **Run and take others with you** – learn to stay in groups if possible.
3. **Leave the cellphone.**
4. **Can't run? Hide** – lock the door and lock or block the door to prevent the shooter from coming inside the room.
5. **Silence your cellphone** -- use landline phone line.
6. **Why the landline?** It allows emergency responders to know your physical location.
7. **Fight** – learn to “fight for your life” by utilizing everything you can use as a weapon.
8. **Forget about getting shot – fight!** You want to buy time to distract the shooter to allow time for emergency responders to arrive.
9. **Aim high** – attack the shooter in the upper half of the body: the face, hands, shoulder, neck.
10. **Fight as a group** – the more people come together, the better the chance to take down the shooter.

11. Whatever you do, do something – “react immediately” is the better option to reduce traumatic incidents.