

THL 124.062 – Catholic Theological Foundations

Sister Marie Kolbe Zamora OSF, S.T.D.

General Course Information	Professor Contact Information
Fall 2018	Office: GEC 112
3 Credits	Phone: (920) 686 – 6228
THL 124.062 Saturdays, 22, 29 September; 6, 13, 20 October 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.	E-mail: MarieKolbe.Zamora@sl.edu
Green Bay Diocesan Campus	Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

Rooted in the Scriptures and the Nicene Creed, this course provides a systematic introduction to the theological concepts and language employed throughout the history of Christian theology: faith and reason, revelation, creation, original sin, Christ and Salvation, Trinity, Mary. Special emphasis is given to the original holiness of the human person as articulated in Genesis 1 and 2. Offered every Fall semester.

Required Resource:

DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE!!!:

- <http://oxforddictionaries.com/>
- *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 4th edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company 2001.

Required Texts:

Barron, Robert, *And Now I See. A Theology of Transformation*, New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1998.

Merton, Thomas, *No Man Is an Island*, Mariner Books, 2002.

Bible - Preferred Translation:

COOGAN, M.D., BRETTLER, M.Z., NEWSOME, C.A., PERKINS, P., *The New Oxford Annotated with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*, College Edition, Oxford University Press, 2010. [ISBN-10: 0195289609; ISBN-13: 978-0195289602].

Helpful Insight:

Theology is not a discipline that one can “do” alone at one’s desk, though time alone at one’s desk is necessary. Time spent preparing at home will enable all of us to arrive in class ready with questions to bounce off of one another. Hopefully we can all be good “conversation partners” to one another.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

Objective	Assessment
1. Acquire (define) a basic theological vocabulary necessary for upper level courses. (THL_1.a)	Study Questions Take Home Quizzes
2. Demonstrate beginning mastery of the skills required to complete academic / theological research. (THL_1.a, THL_2.a)	Study Questions Dialectical Research Method Literary Analysis of Genesis 1 - 3
3. Identify authentic sources for Catholic theological study and acquire basic competency in using the instruments (both hard copy and on-line versions) fundamental to this (and future) course(s): the Bible, the documents of Ecumenical Councils, especially Vatican II, Papal Encyclicals and other Magisterial documents. (THL_1.b, THL_2.b)	Study Questions Take Home Quizzes Final Exam
4. Articulate the essential Christian (Catholic) belief regarding God, the human person (creation) and the Church that constitute the living faith tradition of the Catholic Church. (THL_2.a)	Study Questions Take Home Quizzes Dialectical Research Method
5. Identify the Franciscan appreciation for God's goodness and value for all of creation present in various Old Testament Texts, particularly Genesis 1-2. (THL_4.b, THL_4.c; GELO 1, 4)	Merton Forum Posts Literary Analysis of Genesis 1 - 3 Final Exam: Franciscan Worldview
6. Distinguish and appraise the relationship between theology as an intellectual discipline and the life of discipleship / between knowing theology and thinking theologically. (THL_4.a; GELO 2)	Thinking Theologically Merton Forum Posts
7. Prepare a commentary on the Nicene Creed that appraises the relationship between a) Christological doctrine b) Trinitarian doctrine (Father and Holy Spirit) and c) Marian doctrine. (THL_1.a, THL_1.b, THL_2.b, THL_4.a; GELO 1)	Final Exam: Commentary on the Nicene Creed

Course Requirements / Assessments:

Students are responsible for the following Assessments. In each case, please consult the “Jumbo Doc” for specific guidelines and due dates.

- 1) **Thinking Theologically About Myself and the Culture:** After preparing a “Secular History”, each student will prepare 2 artifacts in which they reflect theologically on a cultural artifact (William Faulkner’s “The Bear”) and **themselves** (My Personal Sacred History) as well as a number of realities from medieval / contemporary culture.
- 2) **SQ (Study Questions):** Each student will answer study questions connected to 5 particular activities in class or reading / viewing related to class.
- 3) **Take Home Quizzes:** Students will complete 3 take home quizzes meant to help them review material either covered in class OR to prepare them for material that *will be covered in class*.
- 4) **Dialectical Research Method:** Each student will complete 1 DRM based on Chapter 3 of Robert Barron’s book *And Now I See*.
- 5) **Thomas Merton Forum Posts:** Students will participate in 4 forum posts to joule. Each student is required to **begin** 1 conversation thread (**active participation**) and **comment on 3 threads** initiated by other students (**passive participation**).
- 6) **Literary Analysis of Genesis / Original Justice Essay:** Each student will submit an essay in which you provide a literary analysis of Genesis 1 – 3 based on the content covered in class.
- 7) **Final Exam:** The Final Exam, which will be an oral exam, includes three parts:
 - a) **Franciscan World View / Evangelization / Missionary Discipleship**
 - b) **Nicene Creed Analysis for Final Exam:** Each student will prepare charts that in which they:
 - i) name each area of dogmatic theology we have studied,
 - ii) define each area of dogmatic theology that we have studied,
 - iii) identifies the appropriate text from the Nicene Creed that corresponds to each area of dogmatic theology,
 - iv) explains the fundamental content within each area of dogmatic theology that we have studied and
 - c) **Ranks the areas of Dogmatic Theology**

Course Format and Assessment:¹ *Emmaus course participants - Please read the footnote before reading this and getting nervous!!!*

As a Liberal Arts elective, this course gives students the opportunity to experience the contribution that Theology as a discipline makes to the intellectual and cultural heritage that is embraced in the Liberal Arts. Emphasis is given to helping students become strong academic and critical readers and writers, thus helping all of their upper level courses across the curriculum. To this end, the **Dialectical Research Method** will provide students with a structure and a method to help them comprehend what they read **across the curriculum**, and give them the opportunity to ask questions beyond their reading in any field.

As an introductory course in Theology, this course gives students the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge, vocabulary and skills for their successful performance in future, upper-level Theology courses as well as courses across the curriculum. Emphasis is therefore given to students learning key doctrinal / theological vocabulary and general concepts that characterize the Catholic Church's rich theological tradition. As opportunities present themselves, this course helps students grow in their understanding of the relationship between Catholic Christianity and Christianity "at large".

The **Quizzes** and **Study Questions** serve as an important assessment to ensure your gradual acquisition of the knowledge that will be examined at the end of the Semester. In addition to learning theology, this course helps students begin to think theologically about themselves, others, the world around them and God and apply theological concepts to themselves and the world around them. The **Secular / Sacred Histories** are the first attempt at this kind of thinking and is strengthened through the opportunity to research other facts / artifacts from medieval and contemporary culture. This course also contributes to the acquisition of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition by giving students the opportunity to engage Genesis 1 and 2 for themselves. The conversation around this important biblical text 1) helps students understand that a Franciscan Liberal Arts education helps them understand themselves in relationship to themselves, others, the world and God and 2) give them the opportunity to grasp the Franciscan commitment to "Goodness" as fundamental to our understanding of the human person, human life and our relationships with one another and with all of creation. The **Literary Analysis of Genesis 1 – 3** helps students synthesize these aspects of the course.

Finally, this class attempts to create space where persons belonging to diverse Christian / religious affiliations can enter into dialogue with them. The term "Catholic" meant

¹ This would need to be edited just a bit for Emmaus course participants. In the interest, however, of getting this into everyone's hands sooner than later, I am leaving it as is for now.

“universal” long before it was used to identify one Christian denomination among many Christian denominations. The **Commentary on the Nicene Creed** that students prepare for the final exam is an opportunity for this kind of dialogue precisely because this creed was promulgated *long before the disunity among Christians* that we live today. In other words, when Christians talk about the **Nicene Creed**, we are talking about something that is and continues to be a **source of Christian unity**.

SMKZ Policy Regarding Late Work

Deadlines for work that is due are posted on the course calendar. Work that is due will be collected at the beginning of class. Late work is not usually an issue with Emmaus course participants and so I will leave it at that.

Helpful On-Line Resources

For incredibly clear presentations of much of the material that we will be covering in class along with a glossary of terms, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, available in our library (on reserve) and online at <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM>

For the constitutions, decrees and declarations of the *Vatican Council II*, see http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm.

You will also find at this site an online bible and all of the papal encyclicals etc . . . to which we will be referring throughout this course. For a general dictionary of Catholic Theology, see:

- <http://www.catholicreference.net/>
- <http://www.therealpresence.org/dictionary/adict.htm>

For a general outline of Bible history, see:

- <http://www.abiblestudy.com/>
- <http://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/where-is-purgatory-in-the-bible>

Resources for those who are interested in getting a practical, dynamic look at what it means to be a Catholic:

- <http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/>

Various College Policies:

ADA Accommodations / Handicapping Condition

In accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Silver Lake College of the Holy Family is committed to providing learning opportunities for all qualified students so they may achieve their academic potential. Students seeking reasonable accommodations need to request the appropriate forms from the Director of the Student Success Center at Silver Lake College of the Holy Family. Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations, as arranged through the Center for Academic Success, ext. 115, will be provided for any student with a documented disability. It is the student's responsibility to request the appropriate forms and complete Silver Lake College of the Holy Family eligibility determination requirements before reasonable accommodations for qualified disabilities are made. In compliance with section 504, these adjustments are defined as modifications adaptations which will afford them equal opportunity to achieve equal results as those without handicap. (Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Section 504; PL 92-112, Subpart E, Section 84)

Incompletes:

Incompletes are granted at the discretion of the instructor if a student is unable to complete the final exam or other course work prior to the end of the course. Incomplete are granted only when the following criteria are met: 1) There are unanticipated but accepted circumstances 2) The students makes a written request to the instructor prior to the end of the course using the "Request for Incomplete" Form All incompletes must be removed within one month of the ending date of the course. Successful completion of the course is determined by the instructor. If a grade is not filed, a grade of F will be recorded. An incomplete in student teaching not removed by the date designated by the Certifying Officer of the Institution automatically becomes a failure. A fee is charged to the student for removal of an incomplete.

Academic Integrity

Students must be guided by a sense of personal integrity and institutional obligation in honestly completing academic assignments. Students who cheat or plagiarize jeopardize their integrity and violate their institutional obligation. Cheating is the act of being fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest in the completion of course work or in willingly helping others to dishonestly complete work. Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as one's own. The procedure for handling cheating / plagiarism can be found in the Silver Lake College of the Holy Family Academic Bulletin

Absence:

Attendance must be taken and maintained on Joule in order to comply with Federal law that requires the College to verify class attendance for all students who are receiving Federal Aid. Work that is missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Work that is missed because of a documented excused absence can be made up. School related events (athletics, concerts etc . . .) are excused absences. Extended absences or absences that are due to serious circumstances must be cleared as excused by the Registrar and / or the Academic Dean.

Keeping of Student Work

The Instructor may, with the permission of the student, keep certain assignments that the student has submitted without the students' name for assessment purposes.

Grade Scale:

The grading scale has been established as follows:

A	97 – 100%	<i>Superior</i>
A-	94 – 96.99%	
B+	92 – 93.99%	
B	89 – 91.99%	
B-	87 – 88.99%	
C+	84 – 86.99%	
C	80 – 83.99%	
C-	77 – 79.99%	<i>Not making satisfactory academic progress</i>
D+	75 – 76.99%	
D	72 – 74.99%	
D-	70 – 71.99%	
F	Below 70%	<i>Failure</i>

Select Supplemental Bibliography and Recommended Resources:

Primary Sources

VATICAN I, *Dei Filius, Dogmatic Constitution on the Catholic Faith* (available online)

VATICAN II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*. (available online)

-----, *Lumen Gentium: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*. (available online)

-----, *Dei Verbum: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*. (available online)

-----, *Gaudium et Spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*. (available online)

-----, *Christus Dominus, Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church*. (available online)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Vatican City : Libreria Editrice Vaticana ; Washington, D.C. : United States Catholic Conference, c2000. (available online)

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, *Dominus Iesus*, 6 August 2000 (available online)

JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter *Redemptoris Missio*, 7 December 1990 (available online)

-----, Address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, "Truth Cannot Contradict Truth" (22 October

1996), *L'Osservatore Romano* (English), 30 October 1996. Available online at:

http://www.newadvent.org/library/docs_jp02tc.htm

Secondary Sources

BENEDICT XVI, *The Yes of Jesus Christ: Spiritual Exercises in Faith, Hope and Love*, New York: Crossroad, 2005.

Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church; a Compendium of texts referred to in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1994.

CORY, CATHERINE A., DAVID T. LANDRY, ed., *The Christian Theological Tradition*, 3rd edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000.

FORD, J.T., *Glossary of Theological Terms*, Winona MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2006.

HALL, CHRISTOPHER A., *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers*, Downer's Grove, Illinois, 2002.

HARDON, JOHN A., *Catholic Understanding of the Bible*, Inter mirifica, 1997 (available online:
http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Sacred_Scripture/Sacred_Scripture_015.pdf

MCGRATH, A., *Historical Theology: an Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*, Oxford 1998. ISBN: 0631208445

O'COLLINS, GERALD, *A Concise Dictionary of Catholic Theology*, New York: Paulist Press, 1991.

O'COLLINS, G. – FARRUGIA, M., *Catholicism: the Story of Catholic Christianity*, Oxford 2003. ISBN: 0199259941

RATZINGER, J., *In the Beginning: A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall*, Huntington Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, c. 1990.

VILADESAU, R., MASSA, M. eds., *Foundations of Theological Study*, Mahway, NJ: Paulist Press, 1991. ISBN: 0809132818

Selected Bibliography of Interest to this Course:

Students will choose one book from among the following options to read throughout the semester. BARRON, ROBERT E., *And now I see . . . : A Theology of Transformation*, New York: Crossroad Pub., 1998. **ISBN: 0824517539; ISBN-13: 978-0824517533**

BENEDICT XVI, *Credo for Today: what Christians Believe*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2009. **ISBN: 1586172476**

BONHOEFFER, D., *The Cost of Discipleship*, New York: Touchstone, 1995. **ISBN-10: 0684815001, ISBN-13: 978-0684815008.**

HALL, CHRISTOPHER A., *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers*, Downer's Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic 2002. **ISBN-10: 0830826866; ISBN-13: 978-0830826865**

O'MALLEY, W. J., *God: The Oldest Question. A Fresh Look at Belief and Unbelief– and Why the Choice Matters*, Chicago, Ill: Loyola Press, 2000. **ISBN-10: 0829415157; ISBN-13: 978-0829415155**

-----, *Meeting the Living God*, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1998. **ISBN-10: 0809195763; ISBN-13: 978-0809195763**

-----, *Help my Unbelief*, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Book, 2008. **ISBN-10: 1570758034; ISBN-13: 978-1570758034**. Because this book is very short, it will need to be accompanied by another book for a student to successfully complete the Reader Response requirement.

PEARCE, JOSEPH, *Race with the Devil: My Journey from Racial Hatred to Rational Love*, Charlotte, NC: St. Benedict Press, 2013. **ISBN-10: 161890065X; ISBN-13: 978-1618900654**

RAUSCH, T.P., *The College Student's Introduction to Catholic Theology*, Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993. **ISBN: 978-0-8146-5841-3**

SCHRECK, A., *Catholic and Christian: An Explanation of Commonly Misunderstood Catholic Beliefs*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2004. **ISBN-10: 0867165995; ISBN-13: 978-0867165999**.

SHEED, F.J., *Theology for Beginners*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1982. **ISBN-10: 0892831243; ISBN-13: 978-0892831241**. OR Angelico Press, 2013. **ISBN-10: 1887593926; ISBN-13: 978-1887593922**

Assessment Information:

THL Objective ID's:

- THL_1.a,
- THL_1.b,
- THL_2.b,
- THL_4.a,
- THL_4.b,
- THL4.c

GELOs

1. Students analyze and interpret texts and data, articulating the differences and connections they discover, while recognizing the historical and social forces that shape the production of knowledge.
2. Students conduct ethical, effective research by asking questions and solving problems, collaborating across their social networks, and communicating their findings with clarity and precision in order to create positive social change.
3. Students recognize human and cultural diversity and the interconnectedness of societies worldwide.
4. Students synthesize elements of the Franciscan Tradition and Worldview into their own lives and disciplinary contexts.