

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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TITLE: Foundations of Theology

TERM: F YEAR: 20119 [September to December 2011]

PROFESSOR: Father Mark Robson

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____

UNLIMITED X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Theology has importance for the Church in every age so that it can respond to the plan of God "who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4). In times of great spiritual and cultural change, theology is all the more important. Yet it also is exposed to risks since it must strive to "abide" in the truth (cf. Jn 8:31), while at the same time taking into account the new problems which confront the human spirit. (Donum Veritatis 1)

This course introduces students to theology and those elements which are essential to Catholic theology. The primary focus of the course is the interplay between revelation and faith, and how these are expressed. Special consideration is given to the content and method of theology and the vocation of the theologian in the modern world.

COURSE OUTCOMES OR OBJECTIVES:

- The goal of the Course is to prepare students for future theological investigation in a responsible manner.
- Student will have examined and come to a deeper appreciation of basic concepts such as: Revelation, Faith, Tradition, Church Doctrine, Infallibility, and Biblical Inspiration.
- By understanding what theology is, and how theology proceeds, students will have the necessary tools to examine revelation and give a methodical explanation of its content.
- Exposure to various methodologies will engender both the development of a personal approach to theology and assist in identifying and appreciating other approaches to theology.

PREREQUISITES:

None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

J. NEUNER, J. DUPUIS, The Christian Faith, 7th ed., Alba House, 2001.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Three short papers (4-5 pages each) *and* Final Oral Exam.

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- AVERY DULLES, "Criteria of Catholic Theology," *Communio* 22 (1995), 303-315.
- CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, *Donum Veritatis*, On the Ecclesial Vocation of the Theologian, 1990.
- J.N.D. KELLY, Early Christian Doctrines, HarperCollins Publishing, 1978.
- JOHN PAUL II, *Fides et Ratio*, On the Relationship Between Faith and Reason, 1998.
- RENE LATOURELLE, Theology of Revelation, Alba House, January 2001.