

## CORE COURSES fall 2016

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- Graduate**
- 406-001 Basic Hebrew Grammar**      **TBA (6375) Dr. Robert DiVito**
- 420-001 Seminar: Dead Sea Scrolls**      **TTH 10:00-11:15 Dr. Robert DiVito (5581)**  
**combined with Theo 523-001 (5590)**
- COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The discovery in 1947 of the “Dead Sea Scrolls” at Khirbet Qumran in the Judean desert ranks as perhaps the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century, one which has revolutionized all aspects of research on the Bible and early Jewish history. Accordingly, this course is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the Scrolls and an overview of the current state of Qumran studies. The goal is to provide participants in the course with an opportunity to examine a significant number of the most important texts to have come to light over the last 50 years, on their own terms and in the context of the ancient Near East and Second Temple Judaism. The course will be divided into two parts: (a) an introduction to the field of research and (b) an examination of several major texts. In the first part of the course, where the format is largely lecture, the goal is to provide an overview of the field and of the discovery of the scrolls, the debate over the archaeology of the site of Qumran, the nature of the “library” discovered, key questions driving current scholarly debate, background for an initial reading of the texts, and strategies for analyzing the documents themselves. Topics include an overview of an historical context for the Scrolls in Second Temple Judaism, the discovery and identification of the texts in question, the archaeology of Qumran, the emerging biblical canon, and of course the identification and origins of the community thought to be responsible for the scrolls. The second part of the course will be devoted to a careful reading and analysis of major documents. Here the format will be a modification of the traditional seminar, with students working in pairs (if possible), presenting each text in accordance with the strategies outlined in the first part of the course, and responsible for the text’s discussion. The number of presentations for each “team” will depend, of course, upon the number of students and the number of texts we can reasonably study in the semester. Using his/her presentation as a point of departure, each student will then write a major paper, due at the end of the semester, devoted to the interpretation and analysis of a single text, or a passage or group of passages within it, or to the examination of a specific problem. Representative texts to be included here are The Damascus Document (CD), The Rule of the Community (1QS), the Commentary on Habakkuk (1QpHab), 11 QMelchizedek, (11QM), the “Son of God” fragment (4Q246), The Thanksgiving Hymns (Hodayot) (1QH), and the so-called halakhic letter, Some Works of the Torah (4QMMT).
- 420-002 Seminar: The Gospel of John**      **TTH 1:00-2:15 Dr. Urban von Wahlde (5582)**  
**combined with Theo 515-001 (5591)**
- COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The gospel of John has arguably exerted more influence on later Christian theology than any other gospel. In its own right, the gospel has the most fully developed Christology of the four canonical gospels. At the same time, the interpretation of the gospel of John is complicated by a variety of factors, including its complex literary history. Two approaches to the gospel have been developed in an attempt to deal with this literary history. In the first, scholarship has attempted to interpret the gospel in such a way as to avoid this issue by means of various methods generally known as “literary criticism.” This approach has gained considerable popularity and is represented in a number of commentaries. However, because it is recognized

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among scholars that a full appreciation of the gospel will not be achieved until we are able to explain the process of composition in some detail, we will also examine the Gospel from the point of view proposed by myself in my commentary for the *Eerdmans' Critical Commentary* series. In addition to the matter of method used in understanding the gospel, there are also a number of specific issues that have been "hot button" issues for the churches and for scholarship. As a result, we will also address some of these issues (such the unique Christology, possible anti-Judaism in the gospel, the history of the Johannine community as reflected in the gospel, the relation of the gospel to the Johannine epistles, etc.) The course will be based on the critical Greek text but an English translation will be supplied by the instructor.

### **424-001 The Synoptic Gospels: Luke Fridays 10:25-12:55 Dr. Edmondo Lupieri (5583)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce students to the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), with a special focus on the gospel of Luke (and Acts). After a general introduction to the synoptic literature, including an examination of the synoptic problem, the course will read the gospel of Luke "backwards," examining, first, the end of the Gospel and the beginning of Acts (the Passion narrative and Jesus's resurrection appearances), second, important narrative features, including some miracle stories, parables, and other words of Jesus, and finally the infancy narratives. Required Texts: Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003), ISBN: 9780802822215. Selections from this book will be assigned for students who have not yet read the volume for other courses. Daniel J. Scholz, *Jesus in the Gospels and Acts: Introducing the New Testament* (Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2013), ISBN: 9781599824765. Scot McKnight, *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1988), ISBN: 978-0801062353. Joel B. Green, *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), ISBN: 9780521469326. Any translation of the Bible (Old and New Testament).

### **430-001 The Dynamics of Salvation Th 4:15-6:45 Dr. Peter Bernardi, SJ (5584) combined with Theo 393-002 (5579)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** At the heart of Christian faith is the experience of salvation in Jesus Christ. Theology, which is "faith seeking understanding," endeavors to gain a deeper understanding of this experience in fidelity to Revelation and the Church's Tradition and in dialogue with contemporary experience and cultural context(s). Religious pluralism, gnosticisms, sacralized violence and human suffering raise urgent questions to which a course on the Christian dynamics of salvation (soteriology) should respond. These questions include: What is the meaning of the salvation mediated by Jesus Christ? Why are the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus considered saving events? In particular, by what sort of "necessity" is Jesus' violent death on the cross considered to be salvific? What is the "logic" of the cross? How is the "law" of the cross at odds with the recurrent attraction of "gnostic" modes of salvation? Does the "Atonement" paradigm still have "explanatory value" [Cahill]? How can Rene Girard's insights into the scapegoat mechanism contribute to a reformulation of the Atonement? How could a theology of the Atonement be related to the practices of restorative justice and reconciliation? How does Atonement theology relate to the experience of suffering and "redemptive suffering"? How does

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the Christian understanding of the dynamics of salvation relate to the world's religious and spiritual traditions? In sum, this course will study soteriological themes in the Scriptures that contain a variety of salvific metaphors; it will compare and contrast different soteriological "models" found in the Christian tradition; it will consider how Christian salvation relates to the world's religions; and as a complement to the theological readings, we will also study William Lynch's classic study of the literary imagination *Christ and Apollo* for the light it casts on the dynamics of salvation.

**459-001 001 Contemporary Theology: "Religious Practice in Comparative Perspective: Hinduism and Buddhism" Hinduism and Buddhism TTH 10:00-11:15 Dr. Hugh Nicholson (6256) combined with Theo 546-001 (5682)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines some of the major devotional, ritual, and meditative practices found in Hinduism and Buddhism, including various forms of yoga, Buddhist insight meditation, tantric practices, and Zen. The course will examine the theoretical presuppositions and historical development of each. Throughout we shall use a range of methods - historical, sociological, phenomenological, and cognitive -- that are commonly employed in the academic study of religion. The aims of the course are threefold. The first is to familiarize advanced theology students with a set of beliefs and practices which, for good or for ill, form an integral part of the hermeneutical situation in which theological reflection takes place today. The second aim is to familiarize students with the main methods that have been employed in the study of religion. The third aim is practical: to prepare theology graduate students for teaching courses on "world religions" or interreligious dialogue. **Required Texts:** TBA

**460-001 History of Christian Theology I: Ancient to Medieval M 4:15-6:45 TBA (5586) combined with Theo 317-001**

**477-001 Seminar in Christian Ethics: Fem/women Theology & Ethics Tu 4:15-6:45 Dr. Aana Vigen (5587) combined with Theo 570-002 (5595)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This graduate seminar will engage central themes in Christian theologies and ethics, focusing on perspectives found especially in white feminist and black feminist/womanist thought. However, it will also highlight select authors and issues from Latina/*mujerista*, Asian American, global, and secular feminist sources. We will read both classic texts along with more recent works as we observe the difference that gender and other components of social location (e.g. race, socio-economic class globalization) make to the theological and ethical enterprise. In short, this course begin by briefly introducing students to the history of feminist theological and ethical thought and will also explore contemporary, pressing issues in theology and ethics by listening to distinct and sometimes contrasting, feminist/womanist etc. voices. This graduate course is intended not only for formal theology students, but for any graduate student interested in the particular lenses that feminist analyses bring to questions of faith, of religious practice and organization, and to pressing social, economic, interpersonal, and political issues. All students need a keen interest in both theological and ethical concepts/issues in order to appreciate and learn from the course content.

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### **480-001 Seminar: Recognition & Responsibility M 10:25-12:55 Dr. Hille Haker (5588) combined with Theo 570-001 (5594)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, we will analyze two major concepts of ethics, which both have a range of meanings and are re-examined in contemporary philosophical and Christian ethics with emphasis on ‘recognition’ ethics. We will examine the newer discussion on the ethics of (social) recognition, by Axel Honneth’s re-reading of the Hegelian concept, Charles Taylor, Judith Butler, Paul Ricoeur, and others. Including some feminist readings that blur the lines between recognition and responsibility, Paul Ricoeur’s *Course on Recognition* will lead us in connecting recognition theory to responsibility. We will ask whether and how Christian (Social) Ethics should embrace both concepts, given its own tradition of ‘unconditioned recognition’ and the call for a ‘responsive responsibility.’

### **480-002 Seminar: Roman Catholic Moral Theology TTH 1:00-2:15 Dr. Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar (5589) combined Theo 393-001 (5578)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will address methods, themes and controversies of Roman Catholic moral theology. We will study some of the theories and categories that shape Catholic approaches to the moral life, including the nature of the human person, virtue, sin, natural law, conscience, moral norms, the role of Church teaching authority, and the use of scripture in ethics. Attention will be given to the historical development of moral theology, and to varied perspectives and current debates within moral theology. These methodological issues will be illustrated with respect to concrete questions in sexual ethics, family ethics, biomedical ethics, and political participation. **Required Text:** James Bretzke, *A Morally Complex World*; John Mahoney, *The Making of Moral Theology*; Jean Porter, *The Recovery of Virtue*. We will read several encyclical letters in full or in part (*Veritatis Splendor*, *Humanae Vitae*, and others), which will be available online. Other readings will be available on the web or on Sakai.

### **515-001 Seminar: The Gospel of John TTH 1:00-2:15 Dr. Urban von Wahlde (5591) combined with Theo 420-002 (5582)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The gospel of John has arguably exerted more influence on later Christian theology than any other gospel. In its own right, the gospel has the most fully developed Christology of the four canonical gospels. At the same time, the interpretation of the gospel of John is complicated by a variety of factors, including its complex literary history. Two approaches to the gospel have been developed in an attempt to deal with this literary history. In the first, scholarship has attempted to interpret the gospel in such a way as to avoid this issue by means of various methods generally known as “literary criticism.” This approach has gained considerable popularity and is represented in a number of commentaries. However, because it is recognized among scholars that a full appreciation of the gospel will not be achieved until we are able to explain the process of composition in some detail, we will also examine the Gospel from the point of view proposed by myself in my commentary for the *Eerdmans’ Critical Commentary* series. In addition to the matter of method used in understanding the gospel, there are also a number of specific issues that have been “hot button” issues for the churches and for scholarship. As a result, we will also address some of these issues (such the unique Christology, possible anti-Judaism in

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the gospel, the history of the Johannine community as reflected in the gospel, the relation of the gospel to the Johannine epistles, etc.) The course will be based on the critical Greek text but an English translation will be supplied by the instructor.

### **523-001 Seminar: Dead Sea Scrolls TTH 10:00-11:15 Dr. Robert DiVito (5590) combined with Theo 420-001 (5581)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The discovery in 1947 of the “Dead Sea Scrolls” at Khirbet Qumran in the Judean desert ranks as perhaps the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century, one which has revolutionized all aspects of research on the Bible and early Jewish history.

Accordingly, this course is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the Scrolls and an overview of the current state of Qumran studies. The goal is to provide participants in the course with an opportunity to examine a significant number of the most important texts to have come to light over the last 50 years, on their own terms and in the context of the ancient Near East and Second Temple Judaism. The course will be divided into two parts: (a) an introduction to the field of research and (b) an examination of several major texts. In the first part of the course, where the format is largely lecture, the goal is to provide an overview of the field and of the discovery of the scrolls, the debate over the archaeology of the site of Qumran, the nature of the “library” discovered, key questions driving current scholarly debate, background for an initial reading of the texts, and strategies for analyzing the documents themselves. Topics include an overview of an historical context for the Scrolls in Second Temple Judaism, the discovery and identification of the texts in question, the archaeology of Qumran, the emerging biblical canon, and of course the identification and origins of the community thought to be responsible for the scrolls. The second part of the course will be devoted to a careful reading and analysis of major documents. Here the format will be a modification of the traditional seminar, with students working in pairs (if possible), presenting each text in accordance with the strategies outlined in the first part of the course, and responsible for the text’s discussion. The number of presentations for each “team” will depend, of course, upon the number of students and the number of texts we can reasonably study in the semester. Using his/her presentation as a point of departure, each student will then write a major paper, due at the end of the semester, devoted to the interpretation and analysis of a single text, or a passage or group of passages within it, or to the examination of a specific problem.

**Required texts:** to be included here are The Damascus Document (CD), The Rule of the Community (1QS), the Commentary on Habakkuk (1QpHab), 11 QMelchizedek, (11QM), the “Son of God” fragment (4Q246), The Thanksgiving Hymns (Hodayot) (1QH), and the so-called halakhic letter, Some Works of the Torah (4QMMT).

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### **546-001 Contemporary Theology: "Religious Practice in Comparative Perspective: Hinduism and Buddhism" Hinduism and Buddhism TTH 10:00-11:15 Dr. Hugh Nicholson (5682) combined with Theo 440-001(6256)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines some of the major devotional, ritual, and meditative practices found in Hinduism and Buddhism, including various forms of yoga, Buddhist insight meditation, tantric practices, and Zen. The course will examine the theoretical presuppositions and historical development of each. Throughout we shall use a range of methods – historical, sociological, phenomenological, and cognitive -- that are commonly employed in the academic study of religion. The aims of the course are threefold. The first is to familiarize advanced theology students with a set of beliefs and practices which, for good or for ill, form an integral part of the hermeneutical situation in which theological reflection takes place today. The second aim is to familiarize students with the main methods that have been employed in the study of religion. The third aim is practical: to prepare theology graduate students for teaching courses on "world religions" or interreligious dialogue.

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### **570-002 Seminar: Fem/Women Theology & Ethics Tuesday 4:15-6:45 Dr. Aana Vigen (5595) combined with Theo 480-001 (5587)**

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**600-001 Dissertation Supervision**

**Dr. Robert DiVito (2522)**

**605-001 Master's Study**

**Dr. Robert DiVito (2523)**

**610-001 Doctoral Study**

**Dr. Robert DiVito (2524)**