

Summer 2024 Theology Graduate Course Descriptions

**Please check the Master Schedule to confirm course day/times*

THL 8390: Ethics of Higher Education (Beyer)

Tuesday/Thursdays 2-5:30pm Online – Synchronous

This course heeds James F. Keenan's indictment of higher education in his recent book *University Ethics*. Keenan correctly observes "the American University does not hold its employees to professional ethical standards because it has not created a culture of ethical consciousness and accountability..." As Keenan contends, university professors are among the few professionals that lack a code of ethics. However, the modern university must contend with myriad, complex ethical issues. This course will address some of these issues, such as the corporatization of university, worker justice on campuses (with particular attention to the casualization of the academic workforce), access and affordability, promoting inclusion and equality for minoritized university members, socially responsible investment of university resources and environmental stewardship. We will read recent work that addresses these issues from various disciplinary perspectives. We will also undertake analysis through the normative lens of the Christian tradition. We will reflect on what it means to assume responsible membership in the academy as teachers and scholars in the current milieu of higher education. Keenan's seminal book, along with other recent work by Christian ethicists, will guide our reflections.

A degree from Villanova's doctoral program in theology should help "reclaim the relationship between critical education and social change," rather than generate "gated intellectuals," as critical pedagogy expert Henry Giroux puts it. As a Catholic institution of higher learning, Villanova University bears this obligation. As St. John Paul II states in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* Catholic universities "must be a living institutional witness to Christ." This must entail "a study of serious contemporary problems in areas such as the dignity of human life, the promotion of justice for all, the quality of personal and family life, the protection of nature, the search for peace and political stability, a more just sharing in the world's resources, and a new economic and political order that will better serve the human community at a national and international level." This course focuses on how institutional policies and practices advance this aspect of the university's mission.

Area: Ethics

THL 8510: Devotional Poetry (Tim Jackson)

Monday/Wednesday 9-12-30pm Online Synchronous

An examination of "poetry expressing religious worship or prayer" (Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms), from the 17th century to contemporary times. Poets include George Herbert, John Donne, Phillis Wheatley, Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Denise Levertov, and Mark Jarman.

This is a discussion-based course informed by short lectures and exercises attentive to diverse learning styles, interdisciplinary inquiry, and online resources.

Note: This is a Master's-level graduate course. Doctoral students enrolled in this course are asked to meet with me during the first week of classes to discuss their needs and goals for the course.

Area: Spirituality

THL 8640: Living South Asian Religions (San Chirico)

Tuesdays/Thursdays Multimodal - 50% online 11-1:00pm

An examination of the way adherents live and have lived their religions in South Asia and in diaspora through lectures, texts, discussion, film, music, and site visitations. We will explore Hindu traditions, Sikhism, Islam, and Christianity, and their inter-relations, as well as broader issues involved in the study of religion. An underlying assumption of the course is that in South Asia religio-cultural boundaries are porous. Interaction and exchange have been ongoing long before categories like "religion" or "Hinduism" or "Christianity" existed.

Area: Spirituality

THL 8290: THM: Theologies of Modernity (Hughes)

T/W/TH Online - Mixed of Synchronous and Asynchronous 1:30 - 3:30pm

Good theology – whether contextual, systematic, historical, moral, or spiritual—has to begin from knowing where one is in time and space. If we're doing "modern" theology or "postmodern" theology, it does us well to think about what it is to be "modern" or "postmodern." But to do so is already to start thinking theologically – "modernity" and "postmodernity" are always theologically-inflected terms, even as they are historical terms. This course will be an exploration of "modernity" in the perspectives of history and theology. We will explore classic accounts of the modern that are theologically self-conscious, including McIntyre, Milbank, Taylor, and Illich, as well as other more particular interventions. The task will be to uncover and explore the theological text/subtext of these "big picture" accounts – what are the basic theological premises? What are the theological implications? The course will be partially synchronous, meeting via zoom TWR, with asynchronous work built around it.

Area: Systematic and Constructive Theology

Language Courses:

Register for language courses using [this form](#)

HUM 8001 - 001: Biblical Hebrew Workshop

Days: MTWRF 2:00 pm - 04:30 pm in Online SYN.
Summer Session I: 5/29/24 - 6/26/24
CRN: 10984

FFS 8000 – 025: French for Research

Days: MTWR 9:15 am - 01:00 pm in Online SYN.
Summer Session II: 7/1/24 - 7/29/24
CRN: 11092