

Fundamental Theology Syllabus, Fall 2018:

Course Description

This course in fundamental theology will introduce students to the complex issues surrounding the interchange between faith and reason. This course will use a combination of primary and secondary sources. The goal of this course is to help students to solidify their intellectual foundation for the work of theological study. Many people in our world today approach theology from an emotive or even fundamentalistic approach. The Catholic tradition has always understood that the gift of human reason can be used to study revealed truth. Faith and reason are not opposed, but work in concert to arrive at the truth. This can be a challenging course because of the use of philosophy and human reason. This course will help students in the work of evangelization by giving them a solid grasp of the problem of modern faith, with a special emphasis on preaching the gospel in our modern times.

Course goals:

- To provide students a foundation for Christian theology using the gift of reason.
- To assist students in their preaching and teaching by highlighting modern issues that can cause difficulties.
- To provide students with an opportunity to engage in serious theological thinking, reasoning, and writing.

Materials for Fundamental Theology:

Required

- Guy Mansini. *Fundamental Theology*. Catholic University of America Press, Washington, DC, 2018. ISBN: 9780813229850
- John Paul II: *Fides et Ratio*:
http://www.catholic-pages.com/documents/fides_et_ratio.pdf
- Joseph Ratzinger. *Introduction to Christianity*. Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2004. ISBN: 0739456253
- Josef Pieper. *Problems of Modern Faith*. Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago, 1985 Pages 1-12 (scan provided)
- Required for MA students:
- St. Thomas *Summa Theologica*: http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/1225-1274,_Thomas_Aquinas,_Summa_Theologiae-Prima_Pars_Edente,_EN.pdf

Course Layout

Module	Topic of Discussion Online Lecture	Student Assignment			
		Readings from Textbook or Online Sources (include URL for sources)	Student Assignment – Written document upload or Activity journal entry	Online Forum Discussion	Online Quiz (one or two quizzes during the semester)
1	Introduction: the problem of faith today	Pieper: 1-11 Ratzinger: 39-81	2 Page answer to the question: Without having taken this class, what do you think fundamental theology is?	Teleconference Call	
2	Relation between faith and reason	<i>Fides et Ratio</i> paragraphs 1-48			
3	Revelation pt. 1: <i>Dei Verbum</i>	<i>Dei Verbum</i>			
4	Revelation pt. 2	Mansini 1-42			
5	Tradition	Mansini 43-54		Teleconference Call	
6	Scripture pt. 1: hermeneutics and canon	Mansini 55-78			Quiz over Modules 1-5

7	Scripture pt. 2: inspiration and inerrancy	Mansini 78-110 <i>Dei Verbum 11-13</i>	2 Pages: explain the 4 senses of Scripture		
8	Church and Dogma	Mansini 111-140			
9	Praeambula Fidei	Mansini 141-183	2 pages: pick one scripture passage and use the 4 senses of scripture to give interpretation.		
10	Credibility	Mansini 184-212			Quiz over modules 6-9
11	Faith	Mansini 213-243		Teleconference Call	
12	Theology	Mansini 244-272			
MA 1	Cardinal Ratzinger	Introduction to Christianity: Part One: God, chs 1-5	Conduct theological analysis. Topics to be approved by instructor.		
MA 2	St. Thomas	Q's 1 and 2 pages 1-18	Conduct theological analysis. Topics to be approved by instructor.		
Final Exam			Final Paper Uploaded: Conduct theological analysis. Topics to be approved by instructor.		Online Test: take home essay test

Assignments: (in addition to forum questions)

1. Module 1: write two pages (double spaced) answering the question: without having taken this class, how would you define “fundamental theology”?
2. Module 7: write two pages (double spaced) describing each of the 4 senses of Scripture.
3. Module 9: write a two page scripture reflection on one passage of your choice, be sure to use each of the 4 senses of scripture.
4. Final Paper: conduct a theological analysis of some topic covered in this class. 3-5 pages. Topics to be approved by the instructor.

MAPS Students:

1. Complete assignments 1,2,3.
2. Complete 2 theological analyses, one on the *Summa*, one on *Introduction to Christianity*. 5-7 pages each. Topics to be approved by the instructor. Secondary research required.

Quizzes:

- Quiz during module 6 covering modules 1-5
- Quiz during module 10 covering modules 6-9

Final exam:

- Take home (open resource) essay final exam.

Grades breakdown:

Forum: 20%

3 reflection papers: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Final Paper: 20%

Final Exam: 20%