PH/RS 225A – Foundations of Theology

***DONNELLY COLLEGE***

Term

Day/Time

Room

Credit Hours: 3

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Name:

Office:

Office hours:

Telephone:

E-mail address:

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the science of Theology. The human relationship with God in the context of the Church will be emphasized, presenting concepts and methods for understanding Christian Faith. A survey of Catholic Theology will be presented in the context of Sacred Scripture and Tradition and in relationship to other Ecclesial Communities. Topics include: Revelation, the Old and New testaments, the Person of Jesus, the nature and mission of the Church, the relationship between Catholicism and other Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Islam.

**PREREQUISITES:**

PH 210 or PH 213 (May be taken concurrently)

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & SUPPLIES:**

*The Didache Bible.* San Francisco: Ignatius Pres. 2015.

*Theology for Beginners.* F.J. Sheed. Brooklyn, NY: Angelico Press. 2011

**PHILOSOPHY OF GENERAL EDUCATION:**

Donnelly College has consistently maintained a strong commitment to the liberal arts and sciences as a foundation for a complete education.  The faculty strongly believes that the liberal arts and sciences provide the context through which students can engage with the larger questions about students’ place in the world and their pursuit of truth.  Therefore, the College’s general education requirements are designed to ensure that liberal arts and sciences graduates develop a breadth of content knowledge and the skills and abilities which will enable them to become educated participants in a diverse global community.

**DONNELLY COLLEGE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. **Communication Skills:**Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.
2. **Technology and Information Literacy Skills:**Students will demonstrate proficiency in information literacy skills.
3. **Symbolic Problem Solving:**Students will demonstrate competency in qualitative and quantitative problem solving.
4. **Analytical Thinking:**Students will employ reflective thinking to evaluate diverse ideas in the search for truth.
5. **Personal and Interpersonal Skills:**Students will develop an understanding across cultural differences locally, nationally, and internationally.
6. **Academic Inquiry:**Students will engage independently and effectively in lifelong learning.
7. **Values:**Students will demonstrate moral and ethical behavior in keeping with our Catholic identity.

**LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

In addition to the general education learning outcomes, upon successful completion of the Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts degree, the graduate should be able to demonstrate:

1. Proficiency and creativity in written and verbal communication.

2. Effective use of current technology in support of academic work.

3. Proficient use of qualitative and quantitative methods in problem solving.

4. Critical and Analytical thinking across a range of disciplines.

5. A commitment to ethics and integrity in academic and professional relationships, within the community and the environment.

6a. The ability to conduct research using sources, strategies, and approaches across disciplines. (AA)

6b. The use of the scientific method. (AS)

**PH/RS 225: FOUNDATIONS OF THEOLOGY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will have the ability to identify and explain various theological terms.

2. Students will have the ability to use our online platform for discussion, note-taking, sharing of ideas and submission of assignments.

3. Students will have the ability to describe the person of Jesus in the context of the Church’s understanding of the same.

4. Students will have the ability to describe the early beginnings and present continuity of the Church and to distinguish and explain essential elements of the Church (Sacraments, Moral teaching, etc.)

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| **Donnelly College**  **Learning Outcomes** | **Program Learning Outcomes** | **Student Learning Outcomes** | **Application and Assessment** |
| Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking. | Proficiency and creativity in written and verbal communication. | Students will have the ability to identify and explain various theological terms. | Quizzes and Essay Exams |
| Students will demonstrate proficiency in information literacy skills. | Effective use of current technology in support of academic work. | Students will have the ability to use our online platform for discussion, note-taking, sharing of ideas and submission of assignments | Students will turn in an essay and reflection paper on Canvas. |
| Students will demonstrate competency in qualitative and quantitative problem solving. | Proficient use of qualitative and quantitative methods in problem solving. |  |  |
| Students will employ reflective thinking to evaluate diverse ideas in the search for truth. | Critical and Analytical thinking across a range of disciplines. | Students will have the ability to describe the person of Jesus in the context of the Church’s understanding of the same. | Students will write a reflection paper on Immaculee Ilibagiza. DCLO’s #1 and #4 |
| Students will develop an understanding across cultural differences locally, nationally, and internationally. | A commitment to ethics and integrity in academic and professional relationships, within the community and the environment. | Students will have the ability to describe the person of Jesus in the context of the Church’s understanding of the same. | Class participation |
| Students will engage independently and effectively in lifelong learning. | The ability to conduct research using sources, strategies, and approaches across disciplines. (AA) | Students will have the ability to describe the person of Jesus in the context of the Church’s understanding of the same. | Students will write an essay on their experience away from social media. |
| Students will demonstrate moral and ethical behavior in keeping with our Catholic identity. | Students will demonstrate a commitment to ethics and integrity in academic and professional relationships, within the community and the environment. | Students will have the ability to describe the person of Jesus in the context of the Church’s understanding of the same. | Quizzes and Exams |

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Attendance and class participation                                                                   10%

Quizzes (4x) 20%

Mid-Term Essay Exam 25%

Social Media Sabbatical and Essay 10%

Immaculée Reflection Paper 10%

Final Essay Exam                                                                      25%

**GRADING POLICY**

Attendance and class participation 100 points

Quizzes (4x) 200 points (50 each)

Mid-Term Essay Exam 250 points

Social Media Sabbatical and Essay 100 points

Immaculee Reflection Paper 100 points

Final Essay Exam 250 points

TOTAL   1000 points

**Attendance and class participation**

Students are required to come to class and participate in discussion. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of attendance and participation points (5 points per unexcused absence). Students are expected to read the assigned text ahead of class time, have a hard copy in hand, and be ready to discuss when called upon. Lack of participation due to any of the reasons listed will result in loss of participation points. Students who use technology in the classroom (e.g. laptops, cellphones, recording devices, etc.) will be marked as absent. **Students must attend office hours at least once during the semester** (25 points)

**Quizzes**

Four quizzes will be administered in class throughout the semester. The quizzes will consist of short answer, multiple choice, true/false and short essay questions seeking to evaluate the student’s comprehension of the reading, lectures, and classroom discussion.

**Social Media Sabbatical and Essay**

The definition of addiction is to be physically and mentally dependent upon a particular substance and unable to stop taking it without adverse effects. Whether we admit it or not most of us are addicted to our smart phones and specifically to the social media we consume on them. We habitually reach for our phones every few minutes without reason other than to check what might have happened in those few short minutes. We may even know that the effect of such addiction is detrimental to our physical, mental and spiritual health, and yet, we are not able to stop ourselves. Indeed, we may not even desire to do so (two things quite common for addicts). One well documented impact of social media is the increase in anxiety and depression for those who consume it (or rather, are consumed by it) and at the same time, the estrangement and loss of real, deep, and embodied relationships with others, with friends, family, and God.

Key to any relationship is listening. How frustrating it is to be talking to someone only to see they are glued to their phone and scrolling social media. Indeed, how can we hear others if we do not listen? Even more, how can we hear God if we do not listen? Jesus said, "Those who have ears to ear, let them hear."

For this assignment take a **24-hour sabbatical from social media and during that time spend at least 30 minutes alone apart from your phone or a screen of any kind**. You could go on a walk, sit on a park bench, climb a tree, listen to the wind blowing, pray to God, write in a journal, or do anything that helps you contemplate life, the world and the One who made and sustains all things.

At the end of the 24 hours, **write 700+ words (double spaced, Times New Roman) reflecting upon your experience**. What was it like? What did you do in those 30 minutes and in those 24 hours with your extra time? Did you miss social media? Do you think any different of social media now compared to before?

**Immaculée Reflection Paper**

Losing her home and nearly her entire family to the brutalities of genocide, Immaculée Ilibagiza is a witness of faith in God amidst unimaginable trial and pain. Even more, after suffering discrimination of the highest degree, she responded to her persecutors with forgiveness, offering them mercy rather than retributive justice. In a reflection paper of **700+ words (double spaced, Times New Roman)** respond to one of the following prompts as it relates to the life of Immaculée Ilibagiza. Her book *Left to Tell* is on reserve in the Donnelly library.

* The theologian David Bentley Hart, himself a Christian, has said that more than philosophical arguments against the existence of God the greatest apology for God’s non-existence is the existence of evil. Yet, in the face of evil Immaculée Ilibagiza’s faith grew stronger, and rather than wither in the flames of suffering her faith was refined into a firm burning love for God. How was suffering at the hands of evil a catalyst for faith in the life of Immaculée? What does this say about the experience of suffering and its relationship to faith in God? Relate your answers to the passion and suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross which standing at center of Christianity.
* In the Christian tradition mercy and justice are corelates. Justice is to give a person or thing what is its due. Mercy is the fullness of justice or better yet goes beyond justice by giving more than what is due; specifically, mercy forgives a debt that is due under the law of justice. As a Tutsi, Immaculée Ilibagiza suffered countless injustices but instead of demanding justice for her enemies she offered them mercy. Why did she do this? What compelled her to do so and what was the result? Was it the right thing to do? Relate the tribal division of Rwanda and Immaculée’s response it to contemporary challenges in the United States.
* Pope Benedict XVI has said that the greatest witness to the Christian faith is the life of the saints. By this he means that a life lived in total devotion to God and love for others draws people towards Jesus Christ and argues for the truth of Christianity more than anything else. Is this true? Does the beauty of holiness evoke love of God? If so, is it true of Immaculée Ilibagiza of whom some have said she is a living saint. Does her life make Christianity more plausible? Why or why not?

**Mid-Term and Final Essay Exams**

Two essay exams – a mid-term and final – will be administered during the semester. The exams will consist of a series of essay questions requiring students to draw upon the major themes of the course. The essays will necessitate not only the recollection and recapitulation of basic facts from the lectures and readings but also the integration of ideas into a coherent response in essay form. The goal of the essay exams is to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the most fundamental ideas in the course in a form which allows for greater depth of thought, insight and expression.

There are NO makeup assignments or exams unless I am notified concerning your petition to make up the assignment.

*Behavioral expectations to meet the requirements:*

* Checking Canvas at least twice a week.
* Reading and comprehension of all assigned texts.
* More than six (6) absences and you will be withdrawn.
* Use of technology (e.g. laptops, cell phones, recording devices, etc.) in the classroom will result in being marked absent.
* Honesty and integrity in all work. Cheating in any form is not tolerated. Any assignment plagiarized or copied from another source results in a 0 for the assignment. The second offense will result in an F for the course.

CANVAS: All course materials, grades, and communication with the instructor will be conducted in the Canvas online learning platform. Students are expected to check their accounts on a regular basis (2X a week minimum).

Note: All communications regarding this course will be made via your Donnelly College email account. If you have questions about using Canvas, check the Online Student Guide available at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701-canvas-student-guide-table-of-contents> For any technical problems, call the assistance line at 1-855-593-5537.  This line is available 24/7.

**GRADING SCALE:**

**Grades will be assigned according to the following scale.**

**A: 90%-100%         900 – 1000**

**B: 80%-89%           800 – 899**

**C: 70%-79%           700 – 799**

**D: 60%-69%           600 – 699**

**F: Below 60%         ≤ 599**

**TECHNOLOGY POLICY:**There is to be no use of technology, such as, laptops, cellphones or recording devices, in the classroom, unless authorized (see below: ACCOMODATIONS).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**Academic integrity is always to be maintained to insure genuine educational growth. Cheating and plagiarism in all forms, therefore, will be subject to disciplinary action. Serious infractions will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee~~,~~ appointed by the appropriate dean. Appropriate sanctions will be imposed.

**PLAGIARISM:**Plagiarism – the appropriation or imitation of the language or ideas of another person and presenting them as one’s original work – sometimes occurs through carelessness or ignorance. Students who are uncertain about proper documentation of sources should consult their instructors.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Donnelly College will make every attempt to provide equal access for persons with disabilities.  Students in need of accommodations must request them in writing from the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

**CIVILITY & DECORUM:**As noted in its Code of Conduct, Donnelly College is committed to maintaining an overall atmosphere of civility and respect.  Civility and decorum both inside and outside the classroom are fundamental foundations of the values at Donnelly College.  Classroom discussions and interactions outside the classroom will at all times be focused on the learning process and should always be respectful of both students and faculty.  In open discussions of ideas and issues, disagreements should focus on ideas and facts.  Name calling and assaults (either in person or on-line) will not be tolerated.  Should any problems occur, the instructor should be notified immediately.  Those who do not comply with civility and decorum requirements may be subject to a grade reduction and/or other sanctions up to and including dismissal from Donnelly College.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**More than six (6) absences and you will be withdrawn.*All students will be asked to self-report if they must quarantine or have been exposed to COVID-19 by filling out the COVID-19 Incident Report Form*

**EMPOWER:**Attendance, mid-term and Final grades will all be recorded in the Empower system. Students should go to Empower for official information about attendance and grades.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSES OR FROM SCHOOL:**It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from class. If a student decides to withdraw from a class, ideally, they should see an advisor and the financial aid staff before taking the withdrawal form to the Registrar's office for processing.  However, any verifiable contact (e-mail, fax, phone, mail, etc.) with authorized college personnel expressing the student's intent to withdraw from a class will be honored.

If students withdraw before they have earned their financial aid, they will owe Donnelly College a debt for the unearned portion of the financial aid as well as for any unpaid balances (subject to the College's refund policy). Not attending class is not a withdrawal from class.

Donnelly College reserves the right to withdraw a student from class(es) if the student does not meet their financial obligations, including two missing or incomplete payments, or loss of financial aid. Faculty may initiate an administrative withdrawal on the basis of non-attendance. In extreme circumstances (i.e. a disciplinary problem), the Vice President of Academic Affairs may initiate an administrative withdrawal. The student remains responsible for the tuition owed in this instance.

The deadlines for withdrawing from classes are as follows:

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| 14 to 16 weeks | 3 weeks before the end of the class |
| 6 to 8 weeks | 7 weekdays before the end of class |
| 4 to 5 weeks | 4 weekdays before the end of class |
| Less than 4 weeks | Withdrawals are not allowed |

Withdrawal deadline dates will be published in the academic calendar.

**TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR:**

The schedule is subject to change based on the progress or needs of the class.

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| **Class Meeting** | **Classroom Topics** | **Assignments** |
| *Week 1*  8/16  8/18 | Introduction  Why study theology? | Read: *Theology for Beginners* (TB), 1-8; Newman, “Theology a Branch of Knowledge” |
| *Week 2*  8/23  8/25 | What is theology?  What do we mean when we say “God”? | Read: Newman, “Bearing of Theology on Other Knowledge”  Read: Hart, *The Experience of God*, 1-10, 28-41 |
| *Week 3*  8/30  9/1 | Deep calls to deep  Mythopoetic Inspiration and Natural  Revelation | Read: TB, 9-28; De Lubac, *The Discovery of God*  Read: Bouyer, *The Invisible Father*  **Quiz #1 (in class)** |
| *Week 4*  9/6  9/8 | *No Class*  The Word of God and Revelation | Read: *Dei Verbum* |
| *Week 5*  9/13  9/15 | Trinity | Read: TB, 29-60 |
| *Week 6*  9/20  9/22 | Creation | Read: TB, 61-70; Genesis 1  **Quiz #2 (in class)** |
| *Week 7*  9/27  9/29 | The Human Person | Read: TB, 73-94; Genesis 2 |
| *Week 8*  10/4  10/6 | The Fall  **Mid-Term Essay Exam** | Read: TB, 95-106; Genesis 3-11 |
| *Week 9*  10/11  10/13 | Redemption Prefigured | Read: Genesis 12-15  Read: Exodus 1-20  **Write: Social Media Sabbatical and Essay** |
| *Week 10*  10/18  10/20 | Jesus Christ: The Redeemer | Read: John 1-11  Read: John 12-21 |
| *Week 11*  10/25  10/27 | Redemption Fulfilled | Read: TB, 107-134  Read: Hani, “The Divine Liturgy: The Sacrifice” |
| *Week 12*  11/1  11/3 | The Church | Read: TB, 135-160; Acts 1-3  **Quiz #3 (in class)** |
| *Week 13*  11/8  11/10 | Mary  Immaculée Ilibagiza | Read: TB, 161-170; Luke 1-2; Rev. 12 |
| *Week 14*  11/15  11/17 | Moral Life  Spiritual Life | Read: TB, 171-181; Epistle of James  **Write: Immaculée Reflection Paper** |
| *Week 15*  11/22  11/24 | Social Life and the Common Good  *No Class* | Read: First Epistle of John, 1-5; Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 1-20, 68-79 |
| *Week 16*  11/29  12/1 | Sacramental Life  Liturgical Life | Read: TB, 183-208; John 6  Read: Ratzinger, *The Spirit of the Liturgy* |
| *Week 17*  12/6    12/8 | Eschatology and the Afterlife  **Final Essay Exam** | Read: TB, 209-227; Revelation 19-20  **Quiz #4 (in class)**  **Congratulations on completing the course!** |
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**GOOD FAITH AGREEMENT**

“I pledge to monitor myself for the symptoms of COVID-19 and to observe the 3 “Ws” while on campus: Wash my hands, watch my distance and wear a mask. I will look out for others and encourage them to stay committed to keeping everyone healthy and I will participate in contract tracing to preserve the wellness of the Donnelly Community.”

Signature: