

## STD 400i Introduction to Theology

Fall Semester 2021

### Course Outline

#### Class Start Date & End Date

Wednesday, September 8, 2021  
Monday, December 13, 2021

#### Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Online

**Instructors Name:** Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.  
**Office:** 2-06  
**Office Hours:** NA  
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**Zoom:** Mondays, 19:00 (7 PM) MT

#### Course Description

The nature of theology. The relationship between theology and the following: revelation (Scripture and Tradition); spirituality and liturgy, philosophy, and the human sciences. Faith and reason. The high points of theology throughout the history of the Church. The importance of theology for the Church. Theology and the teaching office of the Church. Theology and Church before and after Vatican II. Writing skills in theology.

#### Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course will cover key theological terms, concepts, issues, and methods. The course will foster the development of a thoughtful, critical mind—essential to doing theology as “faith seeking understanding”—in the context of the Church and world. The course will foster the practice of the research and technical skills necessary to do acceptable oral and written theological reflection and work. The course will demonstrate the importance of the discipline of theology by examining various theologians, as well as the specialized forms or branches of theology (e.g., systematic,

scriptural, historical, etc.). This objective aims to meet the Intellectual Information Program Goal of the M. Div. Program and the M.T.S. Program.

- b) **Cultural Context** - The course will promote an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world, by viewing theology as follows: in relationship to Scripture, Tradition, the teaching Magisterium of the Church, historical movements, ecumenism, interfaith relations, art, etc. This objective aims to meet the Cultural Context Goal of the M. Div. Program.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity through the integration of theology with spirituality so that the student may come to see discipleship in Jesus Christ as a dimension of public witness. This objective aims to meet the Personal and Spiritual Formation Goal of the M. Div. Program.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program will foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world by bringing to the fore key representative theologians and philosophers, as well as different types and methods of theology. The course will emphasize the importance of a personal synthesis and aid in the forming of one so that the student may develop an integrated approach to faith in Jesus Christ, the revelation of the triune God. The course will implement adult learning practices, such as assigned readings and group discussions. This objective aims to meet the Capacity for Ministerial Leadership Goal of the M. Div. Program.

#### **M.DIV. Program Students**

- e) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster sound knowledge of the revelation of God in creation, in Israel, and in the person of Jesus Christ as witnessed to by Scripture and the Church's Tradition.
- f) **Cultural Context** - The program shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world.
- g) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, as a personal response to being a disciple of Jesus Christ and as a dimension of public witness.
- h) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program shall foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.

#### **MTS Program Students**

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster a survey knowledge of theology in the following four areas; Foundational Theology, Sacred Scripture, Systematic Theology, and Moral/Spiritual Theology

## Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded on content (70%) and style (30%). For an “A” the written work must demonstrate a clear, discerning eye; and the prose must be clear, comprehensive, insightful, well organized, and contain few if any grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of A+ the work is of publishable quality. The difference between an A and an A- can be attributable to a stylistic deficiency, a deficiency in content, or both. For a “B+” or “B” the written work demonstrates a suitably clear presentation of the material and is adequately organized with a minimum number of grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of “B-” or less the writing is not clear nor are the ideas expressed or organized very well and there are numerous grammatical and/or spelling errors.

As regards the synopsis on *The Shape of Catholic Theology*, the aim of the assignment is to demonstrate a grasp of the thesis of the book through an exposition of the important points. You may want to summarize the chapters, or you may want to focus on those chapters you consider central to the thesis. Remember, you cannot summarize the content of the book, so you need to discern the most significant aspects. A critique of the book is welcome, but not obligatory. As for the critique, the first thing I look for is a comment on some of the following: is the book readable; are the ideas expressed clearly; is the topic adequately addressed; does the book miss something that, in your opinion, should have been covered? The second thing I look for is evidence of your own appropriation of the book. How did the book influence your life or work? Did the book do anything to advance your faith understanding?

## Textbooks

Aidan Nichols, O.P. *The Shape of Catholic Theology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1991.

John O'Malley, *What Happened at Vatican II*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press, 2008, pages 1-92.

## Recommended Reading

*Dei Filius*

*Dei Verbum*

*Deus Caritas Est*

*Lumen fidei*

*Ut unum sint*

*Nostra aetate*

*Dignitatis humanae*

*Unitatis redintegratio*

*Orientalium ecclesiarum*

## Course Requirements

For Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> read John O'Malley's *What Happened at Vatican II*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008, pages 1-92. For 10% of the final mark write a response of 4 pages (300 words per page on a 12 pt. font) to the following question: what was the main issue facing the Church in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century? **Submission due date: before 9:00 MT on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Late submissions are subject to a deduction of 10%.** Discussion Forum Questions: What are your images of God? Is God definable? Is it credible in today's world to believe that Jesus is one with the God of Israel? Your response (per submission and not per question) must be no less than 150 words. **You must respond to one other student's submission.** Zoom Meeting Question: What is your image or understanding of the Church before Vatican II?

For Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> before 9:00 MT and for 5% of the final mark write a summary of 2 pages (300 words per page on a 12 pt. font) of Hans Urs von Balthasar's "The Place of Theology," in *Explorations in Theology: Vol. 1: The Word Made Flesh*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1989, pages 149-160. **Late submissions are subject to a deduction of 10%.** Read my notes "What is Theology?" Zoom Meeting Question: How would you describe theology to a Christian who has never taken a course in theology?

For Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> read the first 10 articles of *Dei Verbum*. "Read my notes 'The Word of God and Scripture (and Tradition).'" The Discussion Forum question: What is the relationship between the first 10 articles of *Dei Verbum* and "The Word of God and Scripture (and Tradition)?" Zoom Meeting Question: Of the first 10 articles of *Dei Verbum*, what one struck you as the most novel?

For Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> read my notes "The Unity of Theology and Spirituality." The Discussion Forum question: Why is it necessary to maintain the unity of theology and spirituality and what happens when they are split? Zoom Meeting Question: How would you explain the Christian notion of spirituality to someone who claims to be spiritual but not religious?

For Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> read my notes "Tradition" and "Theology and The Teaching Authority of the Church," The Discussion Forum question: What is the relationship between Tradition and the Teaching Authority of the Church? Zoom Meeting Question: How do you see the relationship between Tradition and the Magisterium of the Church?

For Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> before 9:00 MT and for 45% of the final mark write a synopsis of 11 pages (300 words per page on a 12pt. font) of *The Shape of Catholic Theology* by Aidan Nichols. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical, 1991. Please keep your own critique of the book, if you have one, to the end of your synopsis and limit it to one page. **Late submissions will be docked 10%.** Zoom Meeting Question: What did you think of Nichols's book?

For Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> read my notes “Irenaeus,” my notes “Gregory of Nyssa,” and my notes “Bonaventure’s Life and Work” and “The Soul’s Journey into God.” The Discussion Forum question: What is common to the theologies of Irenaeus, Gregory of Nyssa, and Bonaventure and what is not? Zoom Meeting Question: What is the major concern of each of the three theologians?

For Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> before 9:00 MT and for 5% of the final mark write a response of 2 pages to the following question: what role did Ockham play in the establishment of individual rights? **No late submissions accepted.** Read Larry Siedentop’s *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism*. London: Penguin Books, 2014, 288-320, and my notes “Luther.” Discussion Forum question: Why did Luther seek a gracious God rather than a God of grace? Zoom Meeting Question: How was Luther influenced by William of Ockham?

Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup> read my notes “Henri de Lubac” and “Edith Stein.” The Discussion Forum question: What do the theologies of de Lubac and Stein have in common; and how do they differ? Zoom Meeting Question: Which theologian are you drawn to and why?

For Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> read my notes “Barth and Rahner.” The Discussion Forum question: What differences do you see in the theologies of Barth and Rahner? Zoom Meeting Question: How would you explain the claim that Barth’s Christology is from above and Rahner’s is from below?

For Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> before 9:00 MT and for 5% of the final mark write a summary of 2 pages (300 words per page on a 12pt. font) of the main points of *Unitatis redintegratio* (The Decree on Ecumenism). **No late submissions accepted.** Read *Nostra aetate* (The Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions). Zoom Meeting Question: Do other religions have anything to teach Christians about God and about loving one’s neighbor; and if so, what?

For Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> before 9:00 MT and for 22% of the final mark write a paper of 5 pages (300 words per page on a 12pt. font) on what you consider to be the essential components of a theology for our times. **No late submissions accepted.** Zoom Meeting—a discussion of your various theologies.

Participation in the discussion forum is worth 8% of the final mark, 1% for each of the eight questions. **Note: Submissions to the discussion forum must be made before Monday at 8:30 AM MT, except for the following Mondays (September 20, October 11, 25, November 8, December 6, 13) when there is no discussion forum. Submissions must be at least 150 words (per submission and not per question) and a minimum of 7 submissions must be made to qualify for participation status in the discussion forum. Students must respond to at least one**

**other response. No late submissions will be accepted. Those who participate fully (submission plus one or more responses to another submission) will receive a minimum grade of 90% or 7.2 of 8.**

**Every Monday at 19:00 (7 pm) Mountain Time we will gather for a Zoom meeting. It will provide students an opportunity to discuss the material of the previous week and to ask questions of the Professor pertaining to the topic at hand, as well as to related topics in systematic theology.**

### **Late Submission Policy.**

See Course Requirements.

### **Course Schedule**

September 13—O'Malley's *What Happened at Vatican II*, pages 1-92.

September 20—"What is Theology?" "The Place of Theology" from Balthasar's *Explorations in Theology Vol.1: The Word Made Flesh*.

September 27—*Dei Verbum* articles 1-10. "The Word of God and Scripture (and Tradition)."

October 4—"The Unity of Theology and Spirituality."

October 11—Thanksgiving Day Holiday

October 18—"Tradition" and "Theology and the Teaching Authority of the Church."

October 25— Aidan Nichols's *The Shape of Catholic Theology*.

November 1— Irenaeus, Gregory of Nyssa, and Bonaventure.

November 8—Reading Week

November 15—William of Ockham (from Larry Siedentop's *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism*, Penguin Books, 2014, 288-320) and Luther.

November 22—Henri de Lubac and Edith Stein.

November 29—Karl Barth and Karl Rahner.

December 6—*Unitatis redintegratio* (Decree on Ecumenism) and *Nostra aetate* (Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions).

December 13—A Theology for our Times.

## General Academic Information

### Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

### Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

### Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

### Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

*NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.*

### Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7



Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

### Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

#### **Regulations**

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

2. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
3. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
4. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

#### Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice



- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

### **Related Academic Matters**

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

### **Other Related Policies**

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

### **Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### **Student Accessibility Services:**

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email [zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu](mailto:zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu)

### **No Bibliography for STD 400i.**