

SYT 240i Theological Anthropology

Winter Semester 2021

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

NA

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Course Description

The Christian understanding of evolution and of the human person; a study of the origin, the structure and the condition of the person in the world; the relationship of the person to God, to others and to the environment. Sin and the origin of evil. The role of grace and love. Hope and the final end of the person.

Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course will nurture a learning environment wherein the student will come to an understanding of the glory of creation, of humanity as the pinnacle of that creation, of Jesus Christ as the epitome of it, and of the role that sin has played and does play in the denigration of all that God has bestowed upon humanity. To examine the roles that grace (lived faith), hope, and love (expressed as freedom) play in the overcoming of sin and evil.
- b) **Cultural Context** - The course shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of our world, beginning with creation, the origins of humanity, sin, ecology, and freedom, as well as the way they relate to what science has unearthed, for example, what we have learned of our universe since the Big Bang.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The course shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, focusing on the personal response of one who is a disciple of Jesus Christ, with the aim of giving public witness to the world. The importance of maintaining the unity between theology and spirituality will be seen in the need to give expression to the freedom bestowed by Christ that comes through the gift of faith. Only in the expression of

faith as a lived reality can progress be made in loving as Christ has loved as well as remaining steadfast in the struggle against sin and evil.

- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The course shall foster and implement adult learning principles and techniques such as guided reading and pertinent questions for the discussion forum. The course is set up to enhance students' capacity for ministerial leadership by bringing them to a deeper awareness of the pastoral and social implications of such topics as creation in the image of God, the effects of sin, the roles played by grace and freedom, the importance of safeguarding the environment, as well as the importance of fostering the virtue of hope.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded on content (60%) and style (40%). 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. The difference between an A and an A- is usually attributable to errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. For a "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 "C+" 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 synopses on *The Christian Vision of Humanity* and *Jesus the Wisdom of God*, the aim of the two assignments 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. You are invited to share your thoughts on how the book did or did not advance your faith understanding. **This is not obligatory; it is optional.** The same holds for the following two questions. Did the book contribute to your spiritual growth? Did the book influence your life or work? These last two questions are **optional**.

Textbooks

John R. Sachs, S.J. *The Christian Vision of Humanity: Basic Christian Anthropology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1991.

Denis Edwards. *Jesus the Wisdom of God*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 1995.

Recommended Reading

Caritas in veritate

Spe salvi

Course Requirements

For Tuesday, January 12th read the notes on "Introduction" and "Creation." Discussion forum question: How would you argue for our Triune God as the creator of this world of ours?

For Tuesday, January 19th read articles 1-39 of *Gaudium et spes* and for 7% of the final mark write a response of 2 pages to the following question: What is the image of humanity that is found in those 39 articles? **Late submissions will be deducted 10%.** Read my notes on "The Origins of Humanity."

Discussion Forum Question: How would you reconcile evolution with what the Bible says about the origins of humanity?

For Tuesday, January 26th read my notes on “Original or Originating Sin.” Discussion Forum Question: How would you explain original sin to a Christian neophyte?

For Tuesday, February 2nd and 25% of the final mark write a synopsis of 5 pages (300 words per page on a 12 pt font) of *The Christian Vision of Humanity: Basic Christian Anthropology* by John R. Sachs S.J. **Late submissions will be deducted 10%.**

For Tuesday, February 9th read my notes on “Ecology” and for 10% of the final mark write a synopsis of 3 pages on the ecological message found in *Laudato Si’* by Pope Francis. **Late submissions will be deducted 10%.**

February 15-19—Reading Break

For Tuesday, February 23rd read my notes on “Grace (Faith) from and in Jesus Christ.” Discussion Forum Question: How do you see the relationship between faith and grace?

For Tuesday, March 2nd read my notes on “Infinite and Finite Freedom.” Discussion Forum Question: How do you understand the relationship between Infinite and finite freedom?

For Tuesday, March 9th read and for 25% of the final mark write a synopsis of 5 pages of *Jesus the Wisdom of God: An Ecological Theology* by Denis Edwards. **Late submissions will be deducted 10%.**

For Tuesday, March 16th read *Mulieris dignitatem*. Discussion Forum Question: Do you think that the encyclical speaks to the issues of our day? Why or why not?

For Tuesday, March 23rd read my notes on “Death and Judgment”. Discussion Forum Question: What is your takeaway from the notes “Death and Judgment?”

For Tuesday, March 30th read my notes on “Heaven and Hell.” Discussion Forum Question: Does Hell’s eternity sound/ring true to you. Why or why not?

For Tuesday, April 6th, read my notes on “Hope.” Discussion Forum Question: What is the relationship between hope and faith?

For Tuesday, April 13th read my notes on the resurrection of the body and for 15% of the final mark write a response of 4 pages to the following question: A student or parishioner asks you to explain what “resurrection of the body” means. What would you tell them? **No late submissions accepted!**

For 18% of the final mark—participation in the discussion forum. **Note: Submissions to the discussion forum must be made before Tuesday at 23:59, except for those weeks where there is no discussion forum. A minimum of 7 submissions of at least 150 words per submission 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. Full participation in the Discussion Forum will earn a grade of 15.5 of 18 or 86%. Every Wednesday 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. Participation in the zoom meetings is obligatory, except for those evenings when a rare conflict arises or in case of sickness, death in the family, and other extraordinary reasons.

Late Submission Policy.

Please see Course Requirements

Course Schedule

Introduction

II. Creation

III. The Origins of Humanity

IV. Original or Originating Sin

V. Ecology

VI. Grace (Faith) from and in Jesus Christ

VII. Infinite and Finite Freedom

VIII. Death and the Human Person

IX. Heaven and Hell

X. Hope

XI. Eschatology and Resurrection of the Body

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 Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

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

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
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

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
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:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. 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 Student Handbook 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

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)