

Theology

Jason King, **Chairperson**

Emmanuel Afunugo; Kimberly Baker; Patrick Cronauer, O.S.B.; Rabbi Jason Edelstein; Campion Gavaler, O.S.B.; Thomas Hart, O.S.B.; Elliott Maloney, O.S.B.; Christopher McMahon; Fr. Nathan Munsch, O.S.B.

Adjunct Faculty: John Aupperle; Benedict Janecko, O.S.B.; Patricia Sharbaugh; Katrina Wojtunik

The mission of the Theology Department is to follow the rich Benedictine intellectual tradition in preparing students to seriously consider the spiritual dimension of life, thought and study through the discipline of theology.

The department recognizes that "Theology plays a particularly important role in the search for a synthesis of knowledge as well as . . . dialogue between faith and reason. It serves all other disciplines in their search for meaning, not only by helping them to investigate how their discoveries will affect individuals and society but also by bringing a perspective and an orientation not contained within their own methodologies. In turn, interaction with these other disciplines and their discoveries enriches theology, offering it a better understanding of the world today, and making theological research more relevant to current needs." (Pope John Paul II, *On Catholic Universities*, § 19)

The Theology department at St. Vincent College does theology from a Catholic perspective, as explicated by the Second Vatican Council.

The Department of Theology offers a major and a minor:

- A Bachelor of Arts in Theology
- A minor in Theology

The Theology department meets its missions by having its majors and minors achieve the following goals:

- 1) Interpret the Bible through scholarly methods utilized by the discipline
- 2) Understand and contextualize the major doctrines of Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular
- 3) Draw out ethical implications of the Catholic intellectual tradition
- 4) Engage in mutually enriching dialogue with other intellectual and religious traditions
- 5) Recognize Benedictine contributions to the Catholic theological tradition.

Theology Core

The department believes that the study of theology is an integral part of a liberal arts education and understands that: "While each discipline is taught systematically and according to its own methods, interdisciplinary studies, assisted by a careful and thorough study of philosophy and theology, enable students to acquire an organic vision of reality and to develop a continuing desire for intellectual progress." (Pope John Paul II, *On Catholic Universities*, § 20) Thus, all students take three courses (9 credits) in theology as part of the Core Curriculum. It is required that all students begin with TH 119, Exploring Religious Meaning, normally in their freshman year. Students must then take a 200-level theology course and a 300-level theology course. Upon completion of these courses students will have met the college Theology core goals:

- Understand the meaning of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and the various methods necessary for further study. (Achieved in TH 119)
- Understand the relevance of the Judeo-Christian tradition to contemporary issues such as social justice, racism, and personal fulfillment. (Achieved by any 200-level theology course.)
- Understand the ecumenical Catholic approach, as articulated by the Second Vatican Council, to the true and holy as expressed in other religious traditions. (Achieved by any 300-level theology course.)

Theology Major Requirements: (30 credits)

The basic requirements are below. Majors wishing to focus on ministry, graduate schools, or teaching high school need further courses chosen in conjunction with the chair of the department.

TH 119	Exploring Religious Meaning
TH 300	Systematics I
TH 301	Systematics II
TH 499	Theology Capstone
One course in scripture (TH 201-249)	
One course in moral theology (TH 250-299)	
One course in doctrines (TH 300-349)	
One course in religious traditions (TH 350-399)	
Two Electives	
Exit Interview: 0 credits	

Theology Minor Requirements (18 Credits)

TH 119	Exploring Religious Meaning
TH 300	Systematics I
TH 301	Systematics II
Three other theology courses.	

Typical First-Year Schedule

Fall Semester

TH 119	Exploring Religious Meaning	3
PY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
MA 104	Elementary Functions	3
	Foreign Language (intermediate level)	3
	Natural Science (Tier 1)	4

All students will take one course designated as a First-Year Seminar (typically this will be TH 119) which will satisfy a Core Curriculum requirement.

Spring Semester

One course in scripture (TH 201-249)		3
or		
One course in doctrines (TH 300-349)		3
History Course		3
EL 102	Language and Rhetoric	
	Foreign Language (intermediate or advanced level)	3
	Natural Science (Tier 2)	4

Course Descriptions

TH 119 Exploring Religious Meaning

The objective of the course is to explore the meaning of the Judeo-Christian tradition primarily through the study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, with an appreciation of the various critical methods necessary for further study. Offered every semester. Three credits.

TH 201 The Primary History of Ancient Israel

An introduction to the study of biblical literature. The course will focus on the primary history of Israel from its beginnings to the eighth century B.C.E., as found in the books of Genesis through 1 Kings. Offered every fall semester. Three credits.

TH 204 Psalms & Wisdom Literature

This course explores the Wisdom books of the Old Testament (including the deuterocanonical ones) and the book of Psalms. Ancient Near East influences are noted. This course explores how the Wisdom books prepare for the revelation of Jesus as the "Wisdom of God" and the role the Psalms play in the life and worship of ancient Israel, Jesus, the early Church, monks and the laity. Offered every semester. Three credits.

TH 205 Prophets

This course will offer an overview of biblical prophecy, focusing on the Former, Latter, and Minor Prophets and how these individuals functioned in their societies. Special attention will be given to the historical settings of the prophets, their desire for social justice and the modern day implications of their works. Offered alternating spring semesters. Three credits.

TH 212 The Synoptic Gospels

A deeper look into the methods of Gospel criticism including an historical approach to the life of Jesus. An introduction to the background and theology of each of the three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Three credits.

TH 214 Johannine Literature

An introduction to the historical context, literary analysis and theological themes of the Gospel and Letters of John, and an interpretation of the apocalyptic message of the Book of Revelation. Three credits.

TH 215 Epistles of Saint Paul

A study of the background and arguments of the Pauline writings. Reading and interpretation of the major epistles, especially as they regard Christian living. Three credits.

TH 218 Apocalyptic Literature

A survey of Jewish and Christian literature including a history of the apocalyptic movement in biblical times, the Old Testament books of Ezekiel and Daniel, the "Little Apocalypses" of the Synoptic Gospels and the Book of Revelation. Three credits.

TH 220 Old Testament Topics

A more concise examination of one particular Old Testament text or theme. Three credits.

TH 221 New Testament Topics

A more concise examination of one particular New Testament text or theme. Three credits.

TH 250 Introduction to Moral Theology

This course is to introduce students to the basic concepts of Catholic moral theology: natural law, conscience and decision making, and the virtues. Three credits.

TH 255 Religion and Politics

This course will study the Catholic Church social doctrine as it relates to issues of politics. It will also focus on the thought of John Courtney Murray, the influence of his thought at the Second Vatican Council and contemporary responses to this school of thought. Three credits.

TH 265 God, Work, and Money

Purpose of the course is an exploration of the Catholic Church's social doctrine on and contemporary theological discussions of poverty, work, and economics. Three credits.

TH 270 Catholic Marriage

The purpose of the course is to explore the theological foundations and implications of marriage and family. Offered every fall semester. Three credits.

TH 275 Catholic Sexual Ethics

This course will present the understanding of human sexuality and of sexual morality as it has been developed in the continuing Catholic Tradition. This course will explore the broad meaning of human sexuality and the differences in male and female sexuality and the significance of these differences. Furthermore, we will examine the development of the Catholic Tradition regarding sexual morality, beginning with the Scriptures, continuing with the

Fathers and medieval theologians. The course will also examine the debates over contraception, the response of the magisterium to these debates in *Humane Vitae* and the reaction to this magisterial document. Offered every spring semester. Three credits.

TH 280 Catholic Bioethics

This course is to introduce students to how Catholic beliefs provide a framework for assessing bioethical issues, including health, health care, death, suffering, and medicine. Offered every semester. Three credits.

TH 300 Systematics I

The purpose of the course is to provide students with a critical and systematic overview of the central tenets of Christian faith from the Roman Catholic perspective and the perspective of contemporary theology as it seeks to engage a pluralistic world. Prerequisite: TH 119 Exploring Religious Meaning. Offered every fall semester. Three credits.

TH 301 Systematics II

This course introduces students to contemporary developments in theology with particular attention given to grace and ecclesiology. In addition, the course will consider how the pastoral life of the Church both expresses and shapes theological principles. Prerequisite: Systematics I or permission of chair. Offered every spring semester. Three credits.

TH 310 Theology of Early Christianity

This course will trace the history and thought of the first 500 years of Christianity. Topics of study include Christians' tenuous relationship with Roman society, Church order and practice, and the development of doctrine. Three credits.

TH 312 Christian Martyrdom

This course will explore the witness of Christian martyrs from the early Christian period to contemporary times. The study will include consideration of varying definitions of martyrdom, accounts of martyrdom, and the context in which martyrdom occurs. Three credits.

TH 320 Theology of Medieval Christianity

This course will trace the history and thought of Christianity in the medieval time period (800-1500). Topics of study will include the development of doctrine, theological method, and the emergence of new religious orders. Three credits.

TH 325 Vatican II History and Theology

This course provides students with a historical and theological overview of the Second Vatican Council as well as an examination of the council's major documents. The perspective taken is that Vatican II represents an important moment in the development of the Catholic tradition, representing both theological innovation as well as signaling fundamental continuity in the life of the Church. Three credits.

TH 330 Catholic Sacraments

The Sacraments of the Christian tradition will be studied from a historical perspective. In addition, they will be seen in relation to the social sciences. Finally, the Sacraments will be considered in light of personal, communal, ecclesiastical and global spirituality. Three credits.

TH 332 Ecclesiology

A theological study of the teaching of the Catholic Church concerning the origin and meaning of the Church of Jesus Christ. Primary emphasis is placed upon biblical testimony and the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. The study also includes an overview of the Church in history as well as contemporary issues. Three credits.

TH 334 Christology

A biblical study of the life and teaching of Jesus. An examination of various portraits of Jesus from earliest Christianity through the Middle Ages to contemporary images. Three credits.

TH 340 Basics of Catholic Faith

Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this course addresses the most basic elements that together make up the living reality of Catholic faith: Gospel, Jesus of Nazareth, Church, Jewish roots, liturgy, doctrine, Christian moral life, tradition, and the Kingdom of God. Offered every semester. Three credits.

TH 342 The Benedictine Heritage

An interpretation of the past, present and future significance of the peculiar Christian lifestyle known as Benedictine monasticism. A study of the Rule of Benedict of Nursia which attempts to translate the great Christian ideals of love of God and love of neighbor into a life of common worship and community service. This has resulted in a reorientation of the values of individuals and groups with lasting spiritual and cultural significance. Offered every semester. Three credits.

TH 344 Classics in Catholic Theology

The course will focus on five major periods in the history of Roman Catholic theology: the Patristic Period, the Middle Ages, the Counter Reformation, the Modern Period, and the Contemporary or "Postmodern" Period. The course will focus on one major work from an author associated with each of the five aforementioned periods. Offered alternating fall semesters. Three credits.

TH 345 Christian Spiritual Writings

This course will survey a selection of Christian spiritual texts from the early Church period to contemporary writings. Students will learn to read primary texts theologically by attending to doctrinal, spiritual, and pastoral issues. Three credits.

TH 348 Film, Fiction, and Faith

This course examines both the distinctive ways film and literary fiction explore the basic tenets of the Christian faith and the way Christian theology understands film and literary fiction. Three credits.

TH 349 Topics in Theology

A more concise examination of one particular topic in Theology. Three credits.

TH 350 Holocaust Questions

An inquiry concerning the "kingdom of death," and the religious and moral issues attending the building of that kingdom. Hitler's war against the Jews assaulted the fundamental values of Biblical religion. This course will confront the implications for contemporary humanity of the shaking of these foundations. Three credits.

TH 355 History of Jewish Thought

This course is a study of the evolution of Jewish thought as it interacted with and grew from the varied environments in which the Jews found themselves from the biblical period to the present day. Three credits.

TH 360 Protestant Traditions

A course dealing with the foundations which the Reformation Period laid for Protestantism in Europe. Luther and basic Protestant tenets will be explored as well as the Wesleyan movement in England and 19th-century American revivalism. Offered every semester. Three credits.

TH 362 Religion in America

A study of the American experience from the colonial period to the present from the perspective of religion and its relation to the individual and society. Three credits.

TH 365 Twentieth Century Protestant Thought

The course begins with a brief discussion of late nineteenth foundational thinking. The impact of Karl Barth and Paul Tillich will be explored followed by the thinking of the German martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The social impact of Reinhold and Richard Niebuhr explores twentieth century issues of economic and political concern. Racial justice in the writing of Martin Luther King and James Cone will be coupled with feminist theologians such as Rosemary Reuther. The course concludes with an examination of the return of the evangelical theology of Bernard Ramm and Carl Henry. It is understood that other theologians will be a part of this study. Three credits.

TH 366 Religious Beliefs of Abraham Lincoln

A study of Abraham Lincoln's unique and strong faith; his religious convictions in relationship to the context of his childhood, his presidency, nineteenth-century America, and their effect upon the age in which we live. Three credits.

TH 370 Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

A survey of the Orthodox Christian faith focusing on the fundamental beliefs of the Church including: the nature and meaning of the Church, the primary sources of faith, the liturgical and sacramental life, the nature and role of iconography and ecclesiastical architecture and hymnography. This course will compare and contrast elements of the traditions of the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. Three credits.

TH 376 Orthodox Christian Spirituality

A reflection on the Christian life within the context of Orthodox Christianity in dialogue with the Roman Catholic tradition. This course will introduce the student to the lives and writings of the saints, martyrs and mystics of the early and contemporary church, both East and West. Particular attention will be paid to the notion of "theosis" or "deification" of the human person understood as the ultimate goal of life lived in communion with God. Three credits.

TH 380 World Religions

A survey of the world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, as well as Shintoism, Confucianism and Taoism. Included will be the religious practices, customs and beliefs of each tradition. This course also addresses Catholic responses to the significance and meaning of the diversity of world religions. Three credits.

TH 385 Buddhism

This course is intended to give the student an overview of The Buddhist Tradition. It will examine the life of Siddhartha Gautama the historical Buddha. The basic views and beliefs of Buddhism along with the variations of the three traditions of Buddhism will be discussed. This course will also examine the life of the current Dalai Lama, emphasizing his life as well as his thinking for the twenty first century. Comparisons with The Christian Tradition will be explored. Three credits.

TH 400 Methods of Religious Education

A study of the key documents concerning Catechesis in the church that come from the Vatican and the USCCB. It discusses some basic elements of Religious Education from elementary age students through adults, works on Liturgical and sacramental preparation, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, retreat planning, elementary and high school teaching, and Campus Ministry. Offered alternating spring semesters. Three credits.

TH 499 Theology Capstone

This seminar course requires majors to complete a research project under the direction of the faculty member. This research will build upon work done in Systematics I & II. Prerequisites: TH 300 Systematics I & TH 301 Systematics II. Offered fall semester.

TH 550 Cooperative Education: Religious Education Internship

In conjunction with the chairperson, the student pursues an internship which enables the student to implement various teaching skills. It is expected that the student can utilize acquired academic knowledge and manifest leadership abilities in a religious education setting. Offered every semester. One to three credits.

Undeclared

Alice J. Kaylor, *Coordinator*

Doreen Blandino; Nathan M. Cochran, O.S.B.; Thaddeus Coreno, David W. Grumbine, Timothy Kelly; Gabriel R. Pellathy; Sandra Quinlivan, Nathan Richardson, Nancy A. Rottler, John J. Smetanka, Peggy Smith, Theresa Torisky

Many first-year college students are unsure about a specific course of studies or a possible career, and they might want to explore several options in college. Saint Vincent College recognizes that high school seniors might not be prepared to make a definite choice about an academic major and consequently offers the undeclared major for those students who have not yet arrived at a definite choice concerning their future.

The undeclared major is transitional in nature, but advising and supervision provide the framework found in any traditional major. On arrival at Saint Vincent, the undeclared student will be assigned an experienced and trained academic advisor from the college faculty who will assist the student in selecting courses from the Core Curriculum of the College which fit individual interests and expose the student to various academic courses and career options. The advisor will continue to monitor the student's progress, help with future course selection, and ultimately assist the undeclared major in the selection of a traditional academic major. In order to complete requirements for the selected major, the student will declare a major no later than the spring semester of the sophomore year.

In addition to the academic advisor, the Career Center at Saint Vincent College also helps the undeclared major select the right major and career. The Career Center administers a battery of personal inventory tests which assess a student's skills, interests, and potential. The Career Center also sponsors career seminars, assists in the preparation of resumes, maintains placement files, coordinates internships and on-campus recruiting, and maintains an up-to-date library of career resources.

Typical First-Year Schedule:*

	Fall	Spring
Language and Rhetoric OR Exploring Religious Meaning	3	3
Mathematics	3	
History or Social Sciences	3	3
Modern Language		3
Natural Sciences		4
Modern Language	3	
	15	16

All students will take one designated as a First-Year Seminar which will satisfy a Core Curriculum requirement.

**Course selection will depend upon the individual interests of the student. For example, a student considering a major in the social sciences will enroll in the introductory level course for the major; i.e. SO 101 Introduction to Sociology or PY 100 Introduction to Psychology in the fall semester.*