

Francis R. Smith, S.J.  
Kenna 303 (554-4044)  
Jesuit Community (554-4124)  
Also: [fsmith@scu.edu](mailto:fsmith@scu.edu)

Office Hours:  
MWF after class

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is a foundational course (fundamental theology) in Catholic systematic theology. Systematic theology is the core of theology. The classic topics of systematic theology are God, Christ, and Church. Fundamental theology lays a basis for discussion of these questions by addressing key topics such as Creation, the God-world relationship, Revelation, Tradition, Scripture, Faith, Theology. In this course we also begin to discuss the first topic of systematic theology proper, namely, God. But since the Christian understanding of God is that God is triune, we will also touch on Christ and the Spirit (the principle that makes the Church the Church.)

**TEXTS:** Xerox readings available in the bookstore.

*The Church's Confession of Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults* (The German Adult Catechism), Ignatius/Communio, 1987 (CCF)

*The World Is Charged: The Transcendent With Us* (WC)

**CLASS PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS:** The course is divided into eight sections. For each section there are readings. (See attached breakdown.) After the **First**, **Fourth**, and **Eighth** sections, there will be an exam on the lectures and readings.

**Two Midterms and a Final.**

**Final Exam:** Wed March 9:10 am

The class proceeds by lecture, readings, and discussion. Class is important, so a student who is absent more than **three** classes (unexcused) cannot expect to receive higher than a **B**, more than **four** a **C**, more than **five** a **D**, more than **six** an **F**,

## TESP 50: Catholic Theology: Foundations Winter 2010

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, which fulfills the RTC 2 requirement for the core curriculum, is a foundational course (fundamental theology) in Catholic systematic theology. Systematic theology is the core of theology. The classic topics of systematic theology are God, Christ, and Church. Fundamental theology lays a basis for discussion of these questions by addressing key topics such as Creation, the God-world relationship, Revelation, Tradition, Scripture, Faith, Theology. In this course we also begin to discuss the first topic of systematic theology proper, namely, God. But since the Christian understanding of God is that God is triune, we will also touch on Christ and the Spirit (the principle that makes the Church the Church.)

### COURSE GOALS

1. Many SCU students have some exposure to Catholicism but need/want to understand it accurately and at a deeper level.
2. This course aims at a truly theological understanding which stretches the student beyond the normal level of ordinary faith understanding.
3. The course is "systematic" theology, that is, a set of theological concepts are established and then applied to the classic questions of "fundamental theology" and also to the questions of science and religion and religion and politics.

### DEPARTMENT GOALS

1. Students will master a coherent body of material in order to broaden and deepen the "database" that students use to think about religions, religious issues, and all the interdisciplinary connections.
2. Students will master a discrete body of material in its own terms, to draw on this new knowledge in addressing issues framed by other disciplines, and to be alert to the way knowledge is organized and appropriated.

The Religious Studies departmental learning goals are embedded in the course goals.

### CORE CURRICULUM LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

*This course fulfills Santa Clara's Core Requirement Religion, Theology, and Culture 2.*

Core Learning Goals: Habits of Mind and Heart: Complexity, Critical Thinking, Religious Reflection

Core Learning Objectives:

1. Be able to analyze complex and diverse religious phenomena (such as

architecture and art, music, ritual, scriptures, theological systems, and other cultural expressions of religious belief).

2. Be able to integrate and compare several different disciplinary approaches to a coherent set of religious phenomena.
3. Be able to clarify and express beliefs in light of their critical inquiry into the religious dimensions of human existence.

### ASSESSMENT & GRADING:

#### **First Exam (20%)**

The first quarter of the course involves a slow reading of the first chapter of the professor's book *The World is Charged* in which the fundamental concepts which will be and throughout the course are established.

A second set of readings gives necessary background.

#### **Midterm (20%)**

The second and third sections critically situate Catholicism in its long history, its theological mistakes, and theological successes. From these sections the course then asks: What is theology and what is good nonfundamentalist and theological method.

#### **Final (40%)**

This section asks what faith is and is it even possible today. Since Christianity has its origins in Judaism and its understanding of God as "transcendent" we explore the origin and nature of the Hebrew Bible, what it says and what it does not say (e.g. Genesis 1-11).

From that understanding of biblical writing, we move to the Christian gospels through the 200 year old "Search for the Historical Jesus."

#### **Class Participation (20%)**

Announced short quizzes preceded by class discussion of the readings are helpful in stimulating class discussions.

### POLICIES

#### Attendance

Regular attendance is required. If you must miss a class, you should inform the instructor in advance when possible, and you are responsible for making up missed work.

**Unexcused absences will significantly lower your class participation grade, and thus your final grade.**

#### Academic Honesty

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form (as described in the Student Conduct Code) will result in a failed grade for the project, and possibly for the course. All

allegations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the department chair and Office of Student Life. For a full presentation of University policies concerning plagiarism, see: <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/>

In order to avoid the sanctions applied to cases of academic dishonesty, please make sure that you properly cite all sources that you utilize in your writing, including works that are directly quoted or paraphrased, as well as works used as a source of information. This includes both print and online sources. Your paper submissions must consist of your own writing, and any direct quotations or paraphrasing from other works must be properly cited.

Disability Accommodations:

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disabilities Resources located on the second floor of Benson. Phone numbers are (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must register and provide documentation of a disability to Disabilities Resources prior to receiving academic accommodations.

CLASS TEXTS (REQUIRED)

- (1) Xerox readings available in the bookstore.
- (2) *The Church's Confession of Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults* (The German Adult Catechism), Ignatius/Communio, 1987 (CCF)
- (3) *The World Is Charged: The Transcendent With Us* (WC)

COURSE SCHEDULE

- (1) The God-World Mystery  
WC Chapter I, CCF 79-117, esp. 79-90, 96-106, 106-117

**EXAM**

- (2) The Catholic Tradition: to the Middle Ages  
WC Chapter 2, CCF 271-325, 327-352, esp. 271-276, 282-295, 327-339
- (3) The Catholic Tradition: to the Present  
WC Chapter 3, CCF 211-252, esp. 211-223, 223-230, 240-243
- (4) Theology  
WC Chapter 4, CCF 253-270, esp. 258-261

**EXAM**

- (5) Faith  
WC Chapter 5, CCF 183-210, as 183-187, 188-204, 205-210
- (6) The God Question Today

WC Chapter 6, CCF 15-51, 15-23, 23-33, 34-38, 39-51

(7) The God of Israel

WC Chapter 7, CCF 53-78, esp. 53-59, 66-74

(8) The Search for the Historical Jesus

WC Chapter 8, CCF 121-180, esp. 121-131, 153-161, 165-178

**FINAL EXAM**