

TESP 50 — Catholic Theology: Foundations

Spring Term 2015

MWF, 8:00 – 9:05 p.m.

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Course Description

This course in Catholic systematic theology fulfills the **Religion, Theology and Culture 2 (RTC 2)** requirement for Santa Clara University's Core Curriculum and is associated with the **Paradigmatic Shifts and the Nature of Human Knowing Pathway**. Systematic theology examines the *mystery* of God, Christ and the Church. In this course, methods of fundamental theology will be used to provide students with the intellectual tools to examine and to speak meaningfully about these realities.

Structured on the Apostles' Creed, TESP 50 theologically explores the essential faith assertions that Christians make of God who is Father, Son and Spirit. The course itself is divided into three parts: in Part One, Faith's Quest and the God-Question, consideration is given to Catholicism's understanding of "faith," creation, revelation and God; in Part Two, Christology—Encountering Jesus and His Ministry, inquiry is drawn to "God's project" as definitively disclosed in the person of Jesus; and in Part Three, The Paschal Mystery—Christian Faith and Life, attention is given to the resurrection of Jesus and manifestation of the Spirit's life and labor in and through the Church and Christian communities.

Through central creedal themes, a concise and serious examination of Catholic faith is offered. In this course particular attention is given to the revelation and *mystery* of Jesus Christ and to issues pertaining to contemporary Christological scholarship that have arisen from exegesis and historical criticism.

Students who seek RTC 2 credit for this course must have completed an RTC 1 course. Finally, for courses that serve as Pathways in our Core Curriculum, faculty has been asked to include the following two paragraphs in their syllabi.

Everything You Need To Know About Pathways

You can find information about Pathways on the Core Curriculum website <http://scu.edu/core> including specific Pathways, all courses associated with them, and the Reflection Essay prompt and rubric used to evaluate the final essay you will submit at <http://www.scu.edu/provost/ugst/core/pathways/managing-your-pathway-work/>

Required Texts

Joseph Ratzinger, *Introduction to Christianity* (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 2004), originally published as *Einführung in das Christentum* (Munich: Kösel-Verlag, 1968). Paperback edition: ISBN 978-1-58617-029-5; this text is also available on Kindle.

Gerhard Lohfink, *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was* (Collegeville, MN: A Michael Glazier Book, 2012), originally published as *Jesus von Nazaret. Was er wollte, wer er war* (Freiburg i.B.: Herder, 2011). Hardback edition: ISBN 978-0-8146-8058-2; this text is also available on Kindle.

Note: The required texts for this course will be supplemented by material that will be selected and prepared by the instructor and posted on *Camino*. Each student is also required to have a Bible. Copies of the Bible are available in the Campus Bookstore. There are various translations of the scriptures; however, the *NRSV*, that is, the *New Revised Standard Version*, is highly recommended.