Systematic Theology (THEO)

THEO 503 Foundations of Christian Spirituality (3)
This class explores the theological foundations and practice of Christian spirituality that lie at the heart of all Christian ministry, whether lay or ordained. We begin with what shapes Christian identity most fundamentally: the grace and covenant of Holy Baptism. Since baptism unites us with Christ in his death and resurrection, we will observe throughout the course how the pattern of the Paschal mystery is stamped on every aspect of Christian experience. For instance, we examine what it means to worship and to live eucharistically. We ponder the ways in which the seasons of the church year invite us to fuller participation in Christ. We look at what it means to live in the bonds of charity in community, whether in seminary or in the parish. We discuss some of the disciplines of Christian discipleship such as a rule of life. We learn how to prepare for and use the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And finally, we explore methods of prayer and meditation, developed over centuries in the Christian tradition, as the very life of the Trinity in us.

THEO 511 Systematic Theology I (3)
The basic course in Christian doctrine studies the process of doctrinal and dogmatic formulation. It examines the role played by Scripture, the ecumenical councils, and other sources in the history of Christian thought, as well as contemporary theological discussion. The doctrines of God, Creation, Christology, and Soteriology are the principal theological topics covered.

THEO 519 The Pastor in Literature (3)
This course explores the complexities of the pastoral vocation as dramatized in a broad span of literary works, primarily fiction. Addressing the imaginative expression of authors from different Christian traditions, it variously considers the pastor's sense of call, exercise of responsibility, family challenges, moral dilemmas, temptations, and moments of sheer grace. These matters are embedded, through literary art, in an array of historical, social, and cultural contexts which, in turn, shape vocation. Besides stimulating reflection on the pastoral calling, the close reading of texts should enhance students' exegetical skill, while fostering eloquence in both written and oral communication.

THEO 521 Systematic Theology II (3)
Ecclesiology is theological reflection on the nature, mission, and life of the church. It is therefore both a foundational and a practical discipline, which can generate the entire range of issues for constructive theology. The first half of the course examines the sacramental and communal ground and nature of the church, including both historical and contemporary sacramental theology. The second half of the course focuses on the life and mission of the church. It examines a variety of contemporary issues, which challenge the church's sense of both its identity and mission in the world today. These issues include conversion, globalization (including world mission), ecumenism, and liberation.

THEO 531 Theology of the Holy Spirit and the Spiritual Life (3)
Theology of the spiritual life is being excitingly re-grounded in a revived interest in the doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), itself part of a revival of Trinitarian theology. This course allows students to explore these interesting developments through consideration of important texts and sharing personal and pastoral experience.

THEO 533 Readings in Contemporary Anglican Theology (3)
Readings, lectures, and discussions will focus on the neo-evangelical theology taking root at Oxford, American feminist and liberation theology, African and Asian indigenous theologies, and postmodern radical orthodoxy centered at Cambridge.

THEO 540 Modern Spiritual Writers (3)
This course engages spiritual writers from the early twentieth century to the present day whose works enlarge the vision of God, disclose the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, and deepen life in the Spirit. It includes authors such as Evelyn Underhill, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Thomas Merton, C.S. Lewis, and Rowan Williams, among others. Only primary texts are used, and both reading and written assignments are designed to foster meditative reflection and prayerful appropriation of the spiritual wisdom of these writers. Through close reading, students should grow in their ability to exegete texts. They should also find encouragement and practical help for their spiritual practice as well as a wealth of insight that can sustain prayer, preaching, and pastoral care.

THEO 541 History of Christian Spirituality I (3)
This course is a reading seminar considering classic texts from Athanasius's *Life of Anthony* through Luther's *Theologia Germanica*.

THEO 542 History of Christian Spirituality II (3)
This course is a reading seminar considering classic texts (one per week) from Teresa of Avila to Martin Luther King Jr. and Simone Weil.

THEO 551 Major Thinkers in Theology (3)

THEO 552 God and Nature (3)
The objective of this course is to examine ways in which Christians have understood God in relation to the created order. We will focus specifically on the last five hundred years: how our conception of nature has shifted and, with it, our ways of conceiving of God. We will juxtapose this with modern cosmological "stories" and the challenges they present theologically. A field component will be an aspect of this course: students should be prepared to explore the Domain both in and out of class time.

THEO 553 *The Glass of Vision*: **Scripture, Metaphysics, and Poetry (3)**
This course will examine one of the most significant texts of 20th century Anglican theology: Austin Farrer's Bampton Lectures delivered in Oxford in 1948 and published as *The Glass of Vision*. According to Farrer, the general topic of the lectures is "the form of divine truth in the human mind," explored through engagements with three areas of inquiry: scripture, metaphysics, and poetry. Specific issues considered are the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of biblical inspiration and divine revelation, the character of human imagination, and the literary analysis of New Testament texts. We will also consider Farrer's critics and defenders, such as Helen Gardner, Frank Kermode, David Jasper, and David Brown. This course also has the attribute of ANGL.

THEO 554 The Creeds (3)
This seminar course will examine the basic doctrines of the Christian faith through careful readings of two texts on the creed(s): Berard Marthaler's *The Creed* and Rowan Williams' *Tokens of Trust*. The objective of the course is for students to understand and personally appropriate the core doctrines of the church, in terms of their historical roots, their doctrinal significance, and their systematic coherence.

THEO 555 Word, Spirit, and Incarnation (3)
This seminar course will examine the interplay of the Word and Spirit in the Christological mysteries from Annunciation to Second Coming. Authors to be considered will include Eugene Rogers, Elizabeth Johnson, Alasdair Heron, Kilian McDonnell, Kathryn Tanner, and John V. Taylor, and Eastern theologians such as Dumitru Staniloae and John Zizioulas. Grade will be based on class participation and a 20-page paper.

THEO 556 Reading Redemption: Anselm, Aquinas, and Ruether (3)
In this course we will dig deeply into traditional and contemporary ways of understanding redemption. We will begin with a thorough reading of Anselm's *Cur Deus Homo* and the notion of "satisfaction." We will then explore how Aquinas conveys the work of Christ in returning us to union with God. Finally, we will use Ruether's *Women and Redemption* to investigate modern feminist approaches to redemption in order to construct contemporary perspectives.

THEO 557 Classics of Medieval Spiritual Writers (3)
Most classic texts of Christian spirituality are actually works of spiritual guidance. Rooted in a profound experience of God, they move from prayer to pastoral art, seeking to guide others in the ways of grace through the written word. Over the centuries, Christians in a variety of circumstances have continued to draw wisdom and insight from these spiritual mentors of the past. Through a close reading of primary texts by authors such as Benedict ofNursia, Bernard of Clairvaux, Aelred of Rievaulx, Francis of Assisi, the author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and Julian of Norwich, the course samples diverse schools of Western Christian spirituality from the sixth through the fourteenth centuries. It examines enduring polarities in spiritual theology such as the affirmative and negative ways, contemplation and service, liberty and discipline. While reading these authors critically and in their own historical context, it also explores how their teaching could inform prayer, theological vision, pastoral oversight, and spiritual counsel.

THEO 558 'Jesus Died for our Sins': Problems with Atonement (3)
This course will begin with some recent criticisms, from feminists and pacifists, of Christian theologies of atonement as necessarily violent. It will then examine theological resources of the tradition in light of these concerns. These resources will include the New Testament (with a focus on Paul), Anselm's theory of satisfaction, and Aquinas' more systematic integration of previous views. The course will then return to modern alternatives that address the issue of violence in God's solution to the problem of sin. *Prerequisite or Corequisite: THEO 511.*

THEO 559 Readings in Contemporary Eco-Theology (3)
Seminar on contemporary writings in theology concerned with environmental issues. The major focus for 2015 is on David Clough, *On Animals*, and the impact on Christian Systematic Theology from taking seriously ethical claims concerning the humane treatment of animals.

THEO 560 Creation, Evolution, and God (3)
Since Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands over 175 years ago there has been much debate over whether the theory of evolution necessarily eliminates a belief in God. Even in theological circles ideas about God and how God creates and maintains the universe have been severely revised. This course will examine the Judeo-Christian understanding of creation, modern views of evolution, and current debates about God and creation, review developments of creation theology through the centuries and then move on to learn about the science of evolution. Theological sources will include the classical theism of Thomas Aquinas and the notion of emergent probability developed by Bernard Lonergan in our contemporary era.

THEO 561 Readings in Teilhard de Chardin (3)
This course will consist of reading the major works of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J (1881-1955). De Chardin was a Roman Catholic priest in the Society of Jesus. As well as being a priest, De Chardin was trained as a geologist and did extensive fieldwork in China over a 23 year period. He wrote extensively on theology and evolution. In this course both his scientific and his theological works will be addressed.

THEO 562 Writings of the Spiritual Quest (3)
Study of a broad range of imaginative writings, from ancient to modern, concerned with the human search for God, transcendence, and ultimate meaning. Literatures influenced by Jewish and Christian traditions figure prominently in the reading list but works inspired by Buddhism and Native American religion are included as well. Texts include writing by at least one medieval mystic and by authors such as George Herbert, Leo Tolstoy, Black Elk, Elie Wiesel, Flannery O'Connor, T.S. Eliot, and Marilynne Robinson.

THEO 564 The Parish Priest as Public Theologian (3)
This course deals with the place and role of the public theologian by looking at some of the historical and theological rationale, and practice of theology in the public sphere. Participants will discuss Karl Barth's thinking regarding spheres and the Kingdom of God, in addition to discussing the prophetic tradition, the Civil Rights Movement and liberation theology. Reinhold Niebuhr, Martin Luther, Jr., James Cone, Cornel West, Anne Lamott, Desmond Tutu, David Gitari and Oscar Romero will be the case studies of theologians in the public sphere.

THEO 565 The Ecumenical Imperative (3)
This course explores the theology and history of the ecumenical movement and within it locates the Anglican Communion and World Council of Churches. It engages the practice of ecumenism through the bilateral dialogues with Lutherans, Methodists, Roman Catholics, and the Orthodox Church as case studies with particular attention to the Episcopal Church's participation.

THEO 566 Religion and Environment Colloquium (0)
This required course for MA students in Religion and Environment allows students to integrate work done in college Environmental Studies courses with their theological coursework. For each college course, each student will present a synthesis of that course's content with content from their theological studies at least once a semester. The gathered cohort and faculty will discuss the work and offer suggestions and their own insights.

THEO 567 Introduction to Latino Theology and Spirituality (3)
This course provides an introduction to Latino theology and spirituality. It considers the historical context for the development of Latino theology in the United States, its contemporary sources and theological methods, and its implications for pastoral ministry. Drawing on a variety of ecumenical perspectives, it considers key issues and themes in Latino theology, such as *lo cotidiano* (the everyday lived experience), *mestizaje* (the mixing of cultures), and *acompañamiento* (accompaniment). Readings include texts from liberation theology, *mujerista* theology, and the work of several contemporary Roman Catholic and Protestant theologians. Spanish is helpful but not required.

THEO 568 The Story of Salvation (3)
In addition to its basic doctrines of God, Creation, and Christ, the Christian faith offers a story of salvation. It holds that following Creation there was some kind of "Fall" which required divine action to redeem, a redemption that culminates in a new Creation. This course will thus consider the doctrines of Fall, Anthropology, Atonement, Justification, and Sanctification, and explore how they lead naturally into various interpretations of the four "Last Things": Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. *Prerequisite: THEO 511.*

THEO 570 The Community of Grace (3)
In addition to its basic doctrines of God, Creation, and Christ, the Christian faith offers its adherents membership in a community of grace. It holds that following Christ's resurrection and ascension the Corpus Christi or "Body of Christ" continues to exist on earth in communal form. Furthermore, this community is created, nourished, and empowered by participating in the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist as well as by the sacramental rites of confirmation, matrimony, ordination, reconciliation, and unction. This course will thus offer a theological examination of classic and contemporary understandings of ecclesiology and sacramentology. *Prerequisite: THEO 511.*

THEO 571 Anglican Sacramental Theology in Ecumenical Perspective (3)
This course examines principal aspects of sacramental theology from an Anglican perspective focusing principally, but not exclusively, on the Eucharist. Developments of Anglican thought are compared and contrasted with parallel developments in other traditions, notably the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, and Wesleyan. The course moves toward a close reading of the official texts of the 20th/21st century bilateral agreements between the Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion and principal ecumenical partners.

THEO 572 Theologies of Liberation (3)
This course asks how experiences of oppression and marginalization impact our understanding of who God is as well as our imagination for faithful practice in the church and world. The course treats liberation theology as a movement that continues to bring about new theological methods and insights. Thus, the course begins with some of the foundational texts from Latin American, feminist, Black, and womanist theology before taking up more contemporary conversations, such as ecofeminist, queer, decolonial, and disability (crip) theologies. Liberation theologies from a variety of contexts throughout the world are also incorporated.

THEO 594 Directed Readings (1 to 4)
A systematic theology topic developed by the student and a School of Theology faculty member to meet an educational goal not met through existing courses.

THEO 595 Master of Sacred Theology Thesis (3 or 6)
S.T.M. students register for THEO 595 while writing their thesis.

THEO 598 Research Project (3)
M.A. students in the Bible, Church History, Theology, and Religion and Environment concentrations register for THEO 598 while pursuing their research project.

THEO 599 Thesis (3 or 6)
M.A. students in the Theology and Literature concentration register for THEO 599 while writing their thesis.

THEO 612 The Church in Society: Its Marks and Its Practices (3)
This course explores the church's identity by examining its engagement in the world through worship and witness. Students will be invited to consider central questions in the study of ecclesiology by surveying a variety of approaches in the theological disciplines, especially practical theology, political and liberation theologies, and liturgical studies. While the course compels serious consideration of various Christian denominational and confessional perspectives, students will be encouraged to articulate how these frameworks inform their consideration of the contemporary situation in which the church is called to minister.

THEO 625 Opening the Book of Nature (3)
Ancient Christian tradition maintained that God authored two books through which God continues to speak to us: the book of Scripture and the book of Nature. The "book of Nature" has been the subject of intense recent interest due to our growing awareness of human dependence on fragile ecosystems and the environmental crises of the past century. This course will begin with an experiential exploration of the spiritual character of Sewanee's natural setting, move to consider the biblical and theological witness to Creation and human responsibility for it, and conclude with the socio-economic implications for the way we live and work in the 21st century.

THEO 626 What Do Christians Know? Method and Knowledge in Christian Theology (3)
The course in Christian doctrine studies the process of doctrinal and dogmatic formulation. This course allows students to explore these interesting developments through consideration of important texts and sharing personal and pastoral experience.

THEO 627 Crisis Theology after Auschwitz (3)
The Twentieth Century experienced the greatest conflicts of human history. The period of "Total War" for the first half of the century, and the armistice subsequently, has had the greatest, unacknowledged, effect on the assumptions and aspirations of the Christian churches of the West. This is the time of "Crisis Theology: simply put, how is theology done after Auschwitz, or liturgy after Nuremberg? The writings, actions, and witness of significant actors in the World War, some more well-known than others, can give students a sense of the challenge, effectiveness, and worth of Christian theology today.

THEO 690 Readings in Theology (1 to 3)
This course addresses topics related to the field of theology and is offered depending on interest. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. Prerequisites vary by topic.

THEO 699 Doctor of Ministry Project (3 or 6)
D.Min. candidates register for THEO 699 while pursuing their research project.