

W09 RGT1101HF Foundations of Theology
Course Syllabus
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Course Description

This course invites the student to develop a methodological understanding of the praxis of theological reflection. The course introduces Bernard Lonergan's *Method in Theology* as a framework within which to consider foundational topics such as the relation of religious narrative, revelation, tradition, development, doctrine, faith, reason and authority.

Students may purchase *Method* at Crux Discount Theological Books, 5 Hoskin Avenue (in basement of Wycliffe College, 416-599-2749). A course reader of additional readings will be available for sale at cost after the second class.

Learning Objectives

Unit One: Beyond Encounter – Interpreting Religious Narratives

- (1) reflect intentionally on their encounter with four religious “texts;”
- (2) identify and articulate their intellectual and affective responses to these texts;
- (3) distinguish the text as data for interpretation and the text as hypothetically interpreted;
- (4) identify the key elements of several approaches to interpreting texts.
- (5) differentiate primary and secondary sources;
- (6) access and assess relevant secondary literature to assist in their interpretation of texts;
- (7) apply some elements of two or more approaches to interpreting texts;
- (8) make some preliminary assessments of distinct approaches to interpreting texts;
- (9) identify and evaluate the horizon within which they encounter and interpret texts;
- (10) distinguish spiritual, theological and methodological reflection.

Unit Two: What is Theology?

- (1) identify the principle terms and relations of Lonergan's cognitional theory, including its affective and spiritual dimensions;
- (2) identify the principle terms and relations of Lonergan's social anthropology, including the structure of the human good and the dimensions of meaning;
- (3) identify the principle terms and relations of Lonergan's religious anthropology, including the notion of conversion, the distinction of faith and belief, and the differentiation and interrelation of inner and outer word;
- (4) contrast an aspect of Lonergan's cognitional theory, social anthropology or religious anthropology with the approach of another theologian;
- (5) evaluate critically Lonergan's account of human consciousness in relation to their own cognitive, affective and religious experience;
- (6) give some voice to their own approach to theological reflection.
- (7) analyze and interrelate the anthropological and theological issues at stake in the development and permanence of doctrine;
- (8) develop a synthetic approach to relating their own voice as theologians to the word spoken by the tradition;

Unit Three: Foundational Topics

- (1) identify the key moments and elements of the development of church doctrine on Revelation, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, authority and the relation of faith and reason;
- (2) identify and interrelate the key elements of a theology of the historical development of doctrine;
- (3) appreciate the significance of historical consciousness for the development of a dynamic ecclesiology.
- (4) distinguish and interrelate the doctrinal and systematic functions of theology;
- (5) re-interpret contemporary religious, cultural, social and ecological struggle within an historical ecclesiology.

Course Itinerary

Unit One: Beyond Encounter – Responding/Interpreting Religious Narratives

Sep 15 - Session 1: Eight Century Religious Codex – *The Lindisfarne Gospels*

Sep 22 - Session 2: Sixteenth Century Feminine Narrative – *The Life of Teresa of Avila*

Sep 29 - Session 3: Sixteenth Century Masculine Narrative – The Autobiography of Ignatius of Loyola

Transitional Class

Oct 06 - Session 4: Twentieth Century Media Narrative – *The Decalogue* of Krzysztof Kieslowski –
Introducing Bernard Lonergan's *Method in Theology*

Unit Two: What is Theology?

Oct 13 - Session 5: Mediation in History

Oct 20 - Session 6: Meaning

Reading Week – Oct 21: No Class

Nov 03 - Session 7: Religion / Conversion

Nov 10 - Session 8: Foundations / Hermeneutics

Unit Three: Foundational Topics

Nov 17 - Session 9: Revelation and Tradition

Nov 24 - Session 10: Doctrine and Development

Dec 01 - Session 11: Faith and Reason

Dec 08 - Session 12: Dialectic of Authority

Class Preparation and Optional Bulletin Board Participation

Weekly reading assignments should be completed prior to each class. Students may submit questions based on the readings to the online course bulletin board by noon the Monday prior to the 4:30 pm class on Tuesday. Students may comment on other students' question by the Friday following class. Students are not allowed to make more than three postings in any given week. The professor is not able to participate in the bulletin board exchanges on a regular basis.

Due dates for Written Assignments and Online Quizzes

Unit 1: Beyond Encounter

Session 01: No Writing or Quiz Due

Session 02: 1 Page Written Assignment

Session 03: 1 Page Written Assignment

Session 04: 1 Page Written Assignment

Unit 2: What is Theology?

Session 05: 1 Page Written Assignment

Session 06: Online Quiz

Reading Week – Oct 21: No Class

Session 07: Online Quiz

Session 08: No Writing or Quiz Due

Unit 3: Foundational Topics

Session 09: 2 Page Written Assignment

Session 10: No Writing or Quiz Due

Session 11: No Writing or Quiz Due

Session 12: Online Quiz

Exam Week: 2 Page Written Assignment (due Dec 15, hand in at Regis Student Services)

Detailed instructions for each assignment and criteria for grading are found in the *Schedule of Objectives, Readings and Assignments* for each unit, which are available on the course website.

Please, papers should be type-written, doubled spaced, left-justified, and have one inch margins on all sides and no more than 12 characters per inch (ie, a standard font, size 10-12 is acceptable). Do not exceed the page limit. Extensions for assignments are to be negotiated with the professor prior to the due-date. All sources must be documented in accord with accepted academic practice such as that described in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 5th Edition, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. An excellent guide to style is presented in Joseph M. Williams, *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. For additional writing assistance, consult <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/>

Grading

The semester score will be allocated as follows: three online quizzes (5% each, 15% total), four 1 page papers (10% each, 40% total), two 2 page papers (20% each, 40% total), class preparation (5%).

Accessibility Services

The University of Toronto offers many supports for students who experience obstacles pursuing their education goals. Information about these supports is available at www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/A-Z.aspx. Please register at Accessibility Services and let the course instructor know in a timely manner if you require some additional supports to succeed in the course.

Preparation for First Class

Please “turn” the pages of the Lindisfarne Gospels, available at the British Library Website (look at the bottom left of the page, “Pinnacle of Anglo Saxon Art”): <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/tp/digitisation1.html>. You will require a computer with Shockwave and a high speed connection. Try one of the campus libraries if this is not possible at home. The exercise will be reviewed in class for those who cannot access the required technology. Allow 20-30 minutes for a leisurely experience of the “Illuminated Word.” As you turn the pages, pay attention to your affective and intellectual responses. How do you feel and what do you think? Why do you respond as you do?

Course Website and E-Mail Communication

Are you ready to manage the learning technology required by this course?

In order to enjoy the learning opportunities offered by this course, and not get too focused on the learning technology that is assumed from the beginning, you will need to be able to manage the following:

- 1) PC Windows or Mac Safari computing environment
- 2) Web browser such as Explorer or Firefox
- 3) Logging onto UofT resources with your UTORid and password

- 4) Receive and send email on the University of Toronto's @utoronto.ca system
- 5) Download course materials from Blackboard
- 6) Post and read contributions to the course bulletin board (through Blackboard)
- 7) Take quizzes and surveys on Blackboard
- 8) Check assigned grades for completed work on Blackboard

Instructions for some of these activities are posted below. For additional help, please attend the Blackboard session on the academic orientation day, which will be held on Thursday September 4.

Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website

Like many other courses, RGT1101H uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the RGT1101H website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the U of T portal login page at portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and Password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and Password, you'll find the link to RGT1101H course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

Email communication with the course Instructor

At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information via email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system.

You can check your UofT email account in two ways:

1. The UofT home page <http://www.utoronto.ca/> (Choose "quick links" - choose "myutoronto.ca" - enter your UTORid and Password – choose "webmail")
2. Via Outlook, Mozilla etc. Visit the helpdesk at the information commons for help with the set up.

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a hotmail, gmail, yahoo mail or other types of accounts is not advisable. In many cases, hotmail/gmail/yahoo automatically filters email from any utoronto.ca address into the junk mail folder. Therefore emails from your course instructor will end up in your junk mail folder.

You are responsible for:

1. Ensuring you have a valid UofT email address that is properly entered in the ROSI system
2. Checking your UofT email account on a regular basis.

Getting Ready to Manage the Learning Technology Required in this Course

Many participants in RGT1101HF are first time Regis students. Please take the following steps to manage the technology required in this and many other courses:

- o Get your **TCard** (the official identification card at the University of Toronto)
Website: <http://www.utoronto.ca/tcard/>
(ask: tcard.office@utoronto.ca, or 416-946-8047)
- o Get your **UTORid** (University of Toronto identification) to access UofT computer services
Website: http://www.utorauth.utoronto.ca/?page=get_utorid
(ask: help.desk@utoronto.ca)
- o Get your **UTORMail** (University of Toronto email)
Website: <http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>
(ask: information.common@utoronto.ca)
Inform regis.registrar@utoronto.ca and regis.library@utoronto.ca after you have done so.