

THEO 111 THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

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SPRING SEMESTER 2011
111-07 TR 10:00-11:15 a.m.
111-16 TR 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Office: 118 Hinkle Hall
Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00 p.m.

ONLINE COURSE WEBSITE

<http://www.jonathantan.org/111/>

Please bookmark and visit the online course website regularly for announcements, weekly course outlines, readings and assignments.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to provide an introduction to the study of theology and religion appropriate to the modern, pluralistic context of today's world, as well as to provide students with a foundation upon which their subsequent courses in theology and religion can build upon. As an Ethics/Religion & Society Elective, this course is structured to further the E/RS objectives of:

1. heightening awareness about the ethical and religious dimensions of socially significant issues;
2. enabling students to use philosophical and theological methods and principles effectively in the analysis of socially significant issues;
3. enabling students to understand and to evaluate the ethical and/or religious content of social significance in literary texts;
4. helping students integrate moral reflection and religious analysis into their study of a chosen major or minor; and
5. encouraging the development of a worldview that is oriented to responsible action.

II. COURSE PROCEDURES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Organizational Structure and Procedures of Class Discussion

Unless otherwise indicated in the Weekly Schedule/Readings, all class sessions will be held in the discussion format according to the following procedures:

- (i) The instructor will begin each class session by introducing the background, context, principal ideas or issues, key issues, and/or important events for class discussion on that day.
- (ii) For the remainder of the class, the instructor will moderate a discussion and analysis of the materials and relevant issues among the students.

2. Attendance and Participation

As the primary format of this course is discussion, it is imperative that students complete all reading assignments before class, as well as attend and participate at all class sessions. Students are expected to do all the required readings assigned for every class before coming to class on that day, and encouraged to read the readings marked "Additional Readings," which complement the required readings and provide additional discussion for those who are interested to explore further. **Class attendance is required of every student enrolled in this course.** A 1% point will be deducted for each class you miss without excuse. Excuses will be accepted only for grave emergency situations (e.g., major illness with proper written documentation, death in family) or university-approved activities off-campus (e.g., varsity sports) and only at the instructor's discretion. Every two late arrivals will count as an unexcused absence and a 1% point will be deducted accordingly. Please note that **any student with six or more unexcused absences will receive a grade of F for this course.**

3. **Examinations**

Three examinations, covering materials in the textbook and classes. All examinations must be taken on the assigned date and time. As a rule, substitute examinations will not be given. Exceptions may be made for grave emergency reasons (e.g., major illness with proper written documentation, or death in family) or university-approved activities off-campus (e.g., varsity sports), but only if:

- (i) the request was made before the examination, and
- (ii) at the professor's sole discretion.

4. **Tutoring/Learning Assistance**

Xavier University's Learning Assistance Center provides one-on-one and group tutoring, assistance with general study skills, e.g., reading, note taking, time management, organization, learning styles and test taking, as well as services to students with disabilities. For more information, please contact Stephanie Mosier by phone at 756-3214 or by e-mail at mosier@xavier.edu. Referral by the instructor is also available on request.

5. **Prohibition against the Use of Electronic Devices**

Please turn off all cellphones, smartphones, pagers, laptops, notebook and netbook computers, tablet PCs, PDAs, and other electronic devices when class is in session. Laptops, netbooks, notebook computers, and tablet PCs may not be used in this class. A first-time offender will receive a one-time warning and the confiscation of the electronic device in question for the duration of the class. Thereafter, subsequent violations will result in the loss of all extra credit privileges for this course, as well as the reduction of the student's final grade for this course by 5% for each violation.

6. **Academic Honesty**

According to the provisions on Academic Honesty in Xavier University's Undergraduate Academic Policies and Regulations:

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon the integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include ... cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests ...

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own.

Please be warned that there is a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty in this course. The instructor expects all work that appears under the student's name to be that student's own, and will follow up on evidence that a student has contravened the university's regulations on academic honesty. If an incident of academic dishonesty is established, the student will automatically receive a grade of F for the entire course, in addition to a letter of warning from the Dean and details of the offense being noted down in the student's record file.

III. GRADE COMPUTATION

Midterm Grade:	Examination #1 (50%) Attendance and in-class Discussion (50%) <u>less:</u> absences/deductions (if any)
Final Grade:	Examination #1 (25%) Examination #2 (25%) Examination #3 (25%) Attendance and in-class Discussion (25%) <u>less:</u> absences/deductions (if any)

The following information is available online:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: <http://www.jonathantan.org/111/>

GRADING POLICY: <http://www.xavier.edu/theology/Grading-Policy.cfm>

CLASS SCHEDULE/READINGS: <http://www.jonathantan.org/111/>