THEOLOGY (THEO)

THEO 1000 Theological Questions — 4 credits
A class for first-time students of theology, this course is designed to familiarize them with the Christian tradition — its scripture, history and documents — as well as with the resources and methods of Christian theology. Taught every term, it provides a foundation of readings and skills to prepare students for further study of theology. The questions considered vary from instructor to instructor and from term to term. Offered in the College for Women and the College for Adults. Recommended for first-time students of theology. (2000 level theology courses are also recommended for first-time theology students.)

THEO 2000 Maiden - Mother - Crone: Life Stages and the Spiritual Journey — 4 credits
This course is an introductory theological reflection on spiritual life as it is experienced in events, stages and passages. Special emphasis is given to the challenges of Christian women’s spiritual development. Offered in the College for Women. Also offered as WOST 2000.

THEO 2040 The Sacramental Life — 3 credits
This course examines the relationship between illness, healing, and the Roman Catholic tradition of sacramental encounter. Course topics include Christian creedal statements, exploration of the spiritual disciplines within life and work, the relationship of spirituality to the healing arts, the meaning of and response to suffering, and the charism of healing. Offered in the College for Adults.

THEO 2040W The Sacramental Life — 3 credits
This course examines the relationship between illness, healing, and the Roman Catholic tradition of sacramental encounter. Course topics include Christian creedal statements, exploration of the spiritual disciplines within life and work, the relationship of spirituality to the healing arts, the meaning of and response to suffering, and the charism of healing. Offered in the College for Adults.

THEO 2050 Passion, Violence, Praise: Exploring the Old Testament — 4 credits
This is an introductory study of selected areas of the Old Testament in its original context. Emphasis is upon careful reading of the text in dialogue with modern approaches to scriptural study. As a beginning-level course, it requires no prior knowledge of the Bible. Offered in the College for Women and the College for Adults.

THEO 2060 Freedom, Justice, and Liberation Theology Today — 4 credits
Theology is rooted in human experiences of encountering God in this world, and the particular experiences of various oppressed communities have given rise to a rich body of theological reflection. The many varieties of liberation theology all focus attention on how theological ideas are not limited to the church or the classroom, but affect our lives, our commitments, and our choices in powerful ways. In this course, we will explore how liberation theology, which starts from the perspective of the oppressed, presents theological ideas about God, Jesus, community, motherhood, creation/the ecological crisis, and other topics. Each offering of this course will focus on a particular variety of liberation theology, such as Black and womanist theology; Latino/a and mujerista theology; Asian and minjung theology; African theologies; or Native American theology. Students may earn credit under this course number more than once for different liberation theologies. Also offered as CRST 2060. Offered in the College for Women.

THEO 2100 New Testament Studies — 4 credits
This is an introductory study of selected areas of the New Testament in its original context. Emphasis is upon careful reading of the text in dialogue with modern approaches to scriptural study. As a beginning-level course, it requires no prior knowledge of the Bible.

THEO 2120 Living Faith: Encountering the Holy in Everyday Experience — 4 credits
An introduction to the Christian faith with particular attention to the experience of women: faith as it is understood and as it is lived; faith and culture; faith and doubt. Also offered as WOST.

THEO 2200 Christian Ethics — 4 credits
This course is an introduction to the search for the norms of human conduct in the light of revelation. It involves a discussion of human nature, freedom, responsibility, conscience, sin, ethical norms and personal development in Christ. Application of Christian norms to selected ethical problems. Offered in the College for Women and the College for Adults.

THEO 2400 Jesus of Nazareth, Christ of Faith — 4 credits
This course is a study of who Jesus is and what Jesus does as Word, Son, Lord and Savior. It involves examining the images of Jesus in the New Testament, the development of doctrines about Jesus in the early Church, and contemporary models of Jesus’ identity and mission.

THEO 2500 Health, Illness and Healing: Theology for Health Care Professionals — 4 credits
This course is intended for students already working in health care professions. The course addresses fundamental questions of health and healthcare in the light of Christian theology—questions including the nature of health and the purposes of health care; Christian conceptions of persons as physical, psychological, social and spiritual wholes; the existence and meaning of suffering; and practices of love and justice as Christian responses to suffering. The course considers a diversity of theological perspectives on these topics and other selected ethical problems in the field of health care. It also invites students to articulate an understanding of their vocation as health care professionals in relation to their own theological convictions. Offered in the College for Adults.

THEO 2600 All are Welcome: Church as Beloved Community — 4 credits
How did the community of Jesus’ disciples become a Church of 2.2 billion people spread around the globe? What is the relationship between the Church as we know it here in the United States in the 21st century, and the Church as it exists in other parts of the world? Why is church membership declining precipitously in Europe and North America today, but rising just as sharply elsewhere? The course will look both to history and to contemporary accounts of faith communities for its answers. The history, contributions, and perspectives of Asian, African, African American and Latinx Christians will be a major focus of the course. Offered in the College for Women and the College for Adults.

THEO 2684 Directed Study — 4 credits
Directed study is provided for students whose unusual circumstances prohibit taking a regularly scheduled course but who need the material of that course to satisfy a requirement. Availability of this faculty-directed learning experience depends on faculty time and may be limited in any given term and restricted to certain courses.

Prerequisites: Faculty, department chair and dean approval.
THEO 2700 Exploring the Catholic Faith: Saints and Sinners, Candles and Crosses — 4 credits
What is distinctive about the Catholic understanding of the Christian faith? How do Catholics understand such things as the role of Mary, the saints, sacraments and sacramentals, sin and grace, and the authority of bishops and the pope in their faith and practice? This course will examine the beliefs and practices of Catholics in the context of the history of the Catholic Church, and will include an exploration of the arts and the Catholic imagination. Offered in the College for Women.

THEO 2750 Christian Spirituality — 4 credits
This course is an introduction to the Christian spiritual tradition, relying on the study of selected major primary sources. Descriptions of the movements of the inner life of believers will be critiqued in the light of contemporary spiritualities.

THEO 2800 Eat, Pray, Heal: Christian Sacramentality — 4 credits
This course examines the Christian community and sacraments as the means through which Christ communicates the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. Biblical and historical sources of sacramental theology are included, as well as sacraments and the contemporary Christian life.

THEO 2850 Social Justice: A Christian Perspective — 4 credits
This course explores the theological foundations of the Christian commitment to social justice, the contribution of Catholic social teaching and liberation theology. It also may include consideration of a variety of contemporary social issues, depending on the instructor and the term.

THEO 2994 Topics — 4 credits
The subject matter of the course is announced in the annual schedule of classes. Content varies, but will not duplicate existing courses. Offered in the College for Women.

Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 3020 Pastoral Theology — 4 credits
This class is an exploration of the discipline of pastoral theology as it relates to ministry in contemporary Church and society. Emphasis is placed on developing expertise in reflecting theologically upon one’s experience through the case-study method. Offered every other year in the evening; usually co-convened with THEO 6020. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisite: One course in theology.

THEO 3030 Educating for Life: Religious Education in Christian Communities — 4 credits
This course is an exploration of the Christian theological and historical foundations of religious education in contemporary Christian traditions. This course provides a balanced study of classic and contemporary religious education sources and theological reflection on personal experiences of religious education. It emphasizes baptism’s significant role for living and practicing the Christian faith, especially for those preparing to engage in formal or volunteer religious education ministry within Christian school and/or church structures.

Prerequisites: At least one previous theology course and consultation with course instructor.

THEO 3060 Issues in Pastoral Theology — 4 credits
This course is an examination of the concept of pastoral care as manifest in scripture, Church history and specific contemporary ministries. Such topics as grief, the recovery of chemically dependent people and the role of women in the Church are explored. You also reflect on your life's story as it relates to your understanding of ministry. Offered every other year in the evening; usually co-convened with THEO 6060.

Prerequisite: One course in theology.

THEO 3090 Passing on the Faith - The Ministry of Faith Formation — 4 credits
This course involves identification and examination of religious education processes, programs, and practices with special attention to a diversity of theological understandings among and across various age groups; teaching strategies and practical methods appropriate to various ages and groups; the divergent practices among various religious membership groups; and the philosophical and cultural differences of ethnic groups. This course engages students in limited field observation involving assessment, planning, identifying of resources, and evaluation of existing catechetical practices. Personal assessment of each student’s ministerial competency and individual goal setting will conclude the class.

Prerequisites: At least one previous theology course and consultation with course instructor.

THEO 3150 Christian Marriage — 4 credits
This course is a study of different types of marriage from historical and contemporary perspectives. It examines the theology of Christian marriage as relationship, contract and sacrament. Special attention is given to the sacrament of marriage in the Roman Catholic tradition. An examination of the spirituality of marriage throughout the stages of marriage and parenting is also involved.

Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 3360W War, Peace and the Apocalypse — 4 credits
This course is divided into two parts. The first part explores the Book of Revelation, also called “John’s Apocalypse,” in its original historical-cultural context. This part of the course lays the foundation for the study of apocalyptic theology and spirituality beyond the biblical texts. The second part continues with Revelation’s influence on apocalyptic thinking but broadens the focus to include the prevalence of apocalyptic movements in Western history. The course compares diverse apocalyptic narratives, ancient and modern, in order to understand better John’s Apocalypse and apocalyptic worldviews, language and theology.

Students discuss and analyze the artwork of Albrecht Durer; the appropriations of John’s Apocalypse by interesting groups (e.g., the Branch Davidians) and individuals (e.g., Anne Wentworth); apocalyptic images in modern music, media and film; apocalyptic language in political rhetoric; and the role of apocalypticism among the Maya and Hopi, and within Catholic Marian devotion and Islam.

Prerequisite: None. Note: This course does not meet the liberal arts and sciences core theology requirement for College for Adults students or for B.S. students in the College for Women. It will count towards the additional theology course for B.A. students in the College for Women, however.

THEO 3380 Women, Gender and the Bible — 4 credits
This course involves a close reading of biblical texts to see how women are portrayed in the Old and New Testaments, and how gender is used in images of God and community. Secondary texts that comment on these issues are studied with a special emphasis on how recent developments in feminist criticism have influenced interpretation of the Bible. Also offered as WOST 3380. Fulfills the core requirement for single theology course.

THEO 3390 The Bible Goes to the Movies — 4 credits
This is a study of how the Bible has been interpreted through film, involving the viewing and evaluation of film in relationship to relevant readings from the Bible. Careful reading and analysis of biblical texts is involved, as well as comparison of the Bible with the filmmaker’s reading and interpretation of texts.

Prerequisites: THEO 2050 or THEO 2100, or one theology course and permission of the instructor.
THEO 3450 Women in American Christianity — 4 credits
This is a theological study of the contributions of women to the various religious traditions found in America. The approach is ecumenical, with an emphasis on the roles of women in the Christian churches. Also offered as WOST 3451. Offered every other year.
Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 3752 Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism — 4 credits
This course engages the religious and spiritual pluralism of our contemporary world. Forty-five years ago, Catholicism’s Second Vatican Council said the church “rejects nothing of what is true and holy in the world’s religions,” adding its respect for Hinduism’s “exploration of the divine mystery” and Buddhism’s path toward “liberation and illumination.” Where do the relationships among Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism stand today? The overall purpose of the course is practical as much as academic/intellectual: How can our own understanding of God, spirituality and our own lives benefit from engagement with the ancient spiritual traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism? The course focuses on three related tasks: first, we want to ask about the nature of religion and spirituality in our fast-moving and diverse world; second, we want to learn about the religious traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism; and third, we want to ask about the relevance of these traditions for Christianity and for our own lives: How does one engage in authentic interreligious encounters in our day? The course will include some practical opportunities for engaging Hindu and Buddhist spiritual practices in the Twin Cities area.
Prerequisite: One course in theology.

THEO 3753W Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism — 4 credits
This course engages the religious and spiritual pluralism of our contemporary world. Forty-five years ago, Catholicism’s Second Vatican Council said the church “rejects nothing of what is true and holy in the world’s religions,” adding its respect for Hinduism’s “exploration of the divine mystery” and Buddhism’s path toward “liberation and illumination.” Where do the relationships among Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism stand today? The overall purpose of the course is practical as much as academic/intellectual: How can our own understanding of God, spirituality and our own lives benefit from engagement with the ancient spiritual traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism? The course focuses on three related tasks: first, we want to ask about the nature of religion and spirituality in our fast-moving and diverse world; second, we want to learn about the religious traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism; and third, we want to ask about the relevance of these traditions for Christianity and for our own lives: How does one engage in authentic interreligious encounters in our day? The course will include some practical opportunities for engaging Hindu and Buddhist spiritual practices in the Twin Cities area.
Prerequisite: One course in theology.

THEO 3750W Liturgical Theology: Celebration at the Center — 4 credits
This course explores the centuries-long conviction that worship is centrally important for the life of faith. Students will examine briefly the way that conviction has been manifest in the life of diverse religious traditions, but will focus especially on the role of worship - indeed, celebration - in Christian tradition. The course provides a theological account of the relationship between worship and a Christian community’s understanding of God, Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God, church, sacramentality, and the relationship between church and world. The role of worship in the moral and spiritual development of Christian persons and communities will be emphasized. The course also emphasizes the centrality of Eucharist in Catholic liturgical life, and will explore a contemporary theology of worship - especially Eucharist - in light of post-Vatican II liturgical principles, as well as feminist and liberation theologies.
Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 3670W The Quest for God in Contemporary Experience — 4 credits
This course is an exploration of how contemporary people search for God. Some of the issues and questions considered are those who search for God and do not find God; modern science and belief in God; evil and suffering as obstacles to finding God; human experiences of trust, love, meaning and freedom as signals of God’s existence; women’s experiences of God; experiencing God as Word and Holy Spirit. Offered every other year. Offered in the College for Women.
Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 3700W Human Sexuality: Theological and Spiritual Explorations — 4 credits
This course explores the theological and spiritual significance of human sexuality, especially in the context of Christian theology and practice. Diverse anthropological, biblical, historical, feminist, and theological perspectives on human sexuality are examined. Several Catholic moral teachings regarding human sexuality - birth regulation, sex within and outside of the context of marriage, and homosexuality - are discussed. The course provides an opportunity for exploring and articulating one’s own view of the connections between sexuality and spirituality. Also offered as WOST 3850.
Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 3752W Christianity, Judaism and Islam — 4 credits
This writing-intensive course traces Catholicism’s opening to Judaism and Islam that began in 1965 at the Second Vatican Council, and investigates the possibilities for inter-religious engagement and learning among the three faiths. It also provides an introduction to Judaism and Islam as living faith traditions, and offers practical opportunities for engagement with local Jewish and Muslim faith communities. It focuses special attention on the roles and activities of women in each of these faiths, especially women’s reforming activities within these religions and in the relationships among them. Also offered as WOST 3752.
Prerequisite: one theology course.

THEO 3930W Christian Women Mystics — 4 credits
This course is an examination of the lives and writing of selected Christian women mystics across the centuries. Their lives and works are studied within the ecclesiastical context of their times and with a view to their enduring meaning for today’s Christians. Also offered as WOST 3930.
Prerequisite: One theology course.

THEO 4552 Tutorial — 2 credits
This involves directed study of an announced topic, period or figure in theology. Up to five students may work under the direction of a faculty member. See department chair for further information.
Prerequisites: Two theology courses.

THEO 4554 Tutorial — 4 credits
This involves directed study of an announced topic, period or figure in theology. Up to five students may work under the direction of a faculty member. See department chair for further information.
Prerequisites: Two theology courses.
THEO 4684 Directed Study — 4 credits
Directed study is provided for students whose unusual circumstances prohibit taking a regularly scheduled course but who need the material of that course to satisfy a requirement. Availability of this faculty-directed learning experience depends on faculty time and may be limited in any given term and restricted to certain courses.
Prerequisites: Faculty, department chair and dean approval.

THEO 4752 Practicum - Letter Graded — 2 credits
A practicum allows students to gain credit for certain non-classroom experiences. Credit for the experience is requested before beginning the experience. Normally open to junior and senior students. Offered in the College for Women.
Prerequisites: Permission of the department chair and agreement of project supervisor.

THEO 4754 Practicum - Letter Graded — 4 credits
A practicum allows students to gain credit for certain non-classroom experiences. Normally open to junior and senior students. Offered in the College for Women.
Prerequisites: Permission of the department chair and agreement of project supervisor.

THEO 4762 Practicum - S/U Grading Only — 2 credits
A practicum allows students to gain credit for certain non-classroom experiences. It is normally open to pastoral ministry students to meet the field education requirement for the certificate. The coordinator of the Pastoral Ministry program supervises each student's work. Credit for the experience is requested before beginning the experience.
Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair.

THEO 4764 Practicum - S/U Grading Only — 4 credits
A practicum allows students to gain credit for certain non-classroom experiences. It is normally open to pastoral ministry students to meet the field education requirement for the certificate. The coordinator of the Pastoral Ministry program supervises each student's work. Credit for the experience is requested before beginning the experience. Offered in the College for Women and the College for Adults.
Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair.

THEO 4952 Independent Study — 2 credits
Independent study offers students the opportunity for specialized research not covered in a course offering, by the action project or thesis. Students work with a faculty advisor to develop a learning contract, which specifies the content and objectives of the study as well as the requirements and procedures for evaluation. The amount of credit earned for the study also is included in the learning contract.
Prerequisites: Permission of the faculty and department chair or program director.

THEO 4954 Independent Study — 4 credits
Independent study offers students the opportunity for specialized research not covered in a course offering, by the action project or thesis. Students work with a faculty advisor to develop a learning contract, which specifies the content and objectives of the study as well as the requirements and procedures for evaluation. The amount of credit earned for the study also is included in the learning contract.
Prerequisites: Permission of the faculty and department chair or program director.

THEO 4994 Topics — 4 credits
The subject matter of the course is announced in the annual schedule of classes. Content varies, but will not duplicate existing courses.
Prerequisite: One theology course.