Elisabeth Bayley, PhD Cand., and Colby Dickinson, PhD Cand.

3 Credits

# **Description:**

This introduction to the discipline of systematic theology leads students through an examination of fundamental issues such as faith, revelation, scripture, tradition, doctrine and dogma, doctrinal hermeneutics, and theological method. The course also introduces students to selected classical, modern, and contemporary theologians along with the different methodologies they use. The course aims to create a foundation for further course work in systematic theology, and to assist the student in developing a basic theoretical framework essential for investigating theological issues critically to formulate appropriate pastoral responses.

# **Objectives:**

- 1. To understand the sources of theology and issues pertaining to theological methodology: viz., "How does one 'do' theology?"
- 2. To examine the key areas of fundamental theology
- 3. To introduce the student to the theological project of St. Thomas Aquinas as well as some contemporary methods for engaging in theological inquiry
- 4. To enable the student to address current religious issues in ways that are theologically sound and pastorally meaningful

#### **Procedures:**

The hybrid course will consist of online discussions and face-to-face intensive instruction (June 14–15, 9-4:30pm, and June 16, 9-12pm). Participants will be responsible for required readings, online class discussions, a 15-minute presentation during the mandatory attendance/participation intensive, a final oral exam due August 3rd, and a final research project that will be due August 10th.

#### **Evaluation:**

- Final Exam (oral) [25%]
- Research Project [30%]
- Class Presentations [25%]
- Participation [20%]

### **Required Texts**:

Aguinas, Thomas, Selected Writings, ed. Ralph McInerny. New York: Penguin, 1998.

McGrath, Alister, *Theology: The Basics*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

McGrath, Alister, Theology: The Basic Readings. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012...

# **Recommended Texts:**

Evans, G. R., ed., *The Medieval Theologians*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

Evans, G. R., ed., *The First Christian Theologians: An Introduction to Theology in the Early Church*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.

# **Recommended Texts**: (Continued)

Ford, David F., *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology* since 1918, 3rd ed., Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.

Ford, David F. and Mike Higton, eds., *The Modern Theologians Reader*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Kerr, Fergus, Twentieth-Century Catholic Theologians: From Neoscholasticism to Nuptial Mysticism, Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

Lane, Tony, A Concise History of Christian Thought, rev. ed., London: T&T Clark, 2006.

Livingston, James C., *Modern Christian Thought: The Enlightenment and the Nineteenth Century*, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1997.

Livingston, James C. and Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, *Modern Christian Thought: The Twentieth Century*, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2000.

Pelikan, Jaroslav, *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine, 5 vols.*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-1991.