Introduction to Theology and Theological Method **STH-D503**
Carla Mae Streeter, OP **3 Credits**
Summer, 2014

Description: A basic introduction to graduate theological study, the course will explore the meaning of theology in today's culture, methods of how theological reflection has been done historically, and is done today, and theology's major content areas with their major concerns. The systematic relationship of these areas will be explored as they form a theological whole for ministry. Areas explored include Spirituality, Anthropology (faith, the human person, religious experience, grace, morality, creation, sin, redemption), Christology, Mariology, the Doctrine of God (Trinity); the Church (tradition, magisterium, doctrine, dogma), its scriptures (revelation, inspiration, interpretation); its liturgy (sacramentality) and Eschatology.

Objectives:
1. To understand what theology is in a global, pluralist society.
2. To explore how the person functions theologically in today's context
3. To distinguish various theological methods or approaches
4. To clarify the meanings of basic beliefs theologically
5. To understand and interconnect the areas of theological study in a systematic whole for ministry

Procedures: The course will include both audio lecture and on-line discussion. Activities will include a brief introduction to scriptural exegesis, and research in a chosen doctrinal area engaged at the time of the Intensive.

Evaluation: Criteria for evaluation will include active participation as well as required on-line reading summaries, a one-page exegesis, and final paper

.

In light of each of the course objectives, work that gives evidence of an accurate and thoughtful understanding of the course material and makes solid contributions to the learning cohort ordinarily receives a grade in the "B" range. Evidence of mastery and creative integration, as well as initiative and original thinking, merits a grade in the "A" range. The final grade will be assigned according to the grading scale listed in the *Aquinas Institute of Theology Catalog*.

Required Texts:

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Any approved edition; may also be found online)

Bevans, Stephen B. *An Introduction to Theology in Global Perspective.* Maryknoll: Orbis, 2009.

Flannery, Austin. (ed). *Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents, Vol. I* . Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988, revised edition. (The Abbott edition is also acceptable.) **The conciliar documents**

can also be found on the World Wide Web at
http://www.mcgill.pvt.k12.al.us/jerryd/cathmob.htm

Gaillardetz, Richard. *By What Authority?A Primer on Scripture, the Magisterium, and the Sense of the Faithful.* Collegville: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Recommended Texts: For future reference use. **Sections used in this class will be found in on-line reserve.**

Cary, Phillip. *The History of Christian Theology*. Chantilly, VA: The Teaching Company, 2008. (CD) www.TEACH12.com

Ford, David F., ed. *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology in the Twentieth Century*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1997.

Komonchak, Joseph et al., eds. *The New Dictionary of Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Michael Glazier/Liturgical Press, 1987.

McBrien, Richard P. *Catholicism.* Study ed. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1994.

Neuner, J. and Jacques Dupuis. *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church.* 7th rev. and enl. ed. New York: Alba House, 2001.

O'Collins, Gerald and Edward Farrugia. *A Concise Dictionary of Theology.* NY: Paulist, 1991.

Schneiders, Sandra. *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1991.

Viladesau, Richard and Mark Massa., eds. *Foundations of Theological Study: A Sourcebook.* New York: Paulist, 1991.

LaCugna, Catherine M. *Freeing Theology: The Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective.* NY: Harper Collins, 1993.

Ormerod, Neil. *Grace and Disgrace: A Theology of Self-Esteem, Society and History.* Newtown, Australia: E.J. Dwyer, 1992. (Morehouse-Barlow in US). (Out of print – on reserve)

--- *Introducing Contemporary Theologies: The What and Who of Theology Today*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1997. (Out of print – on reserve)

Stackhouse, Reginald. *The End of the World? A New Look at an Old Belief.* New York/Mahwah: Paulist, 1997. (Out of print – on reserve)

Summer, 2014