Theodora Stremlau, OP

Tuesdays 1:00-3:30

3 Credits

## **Description:**

This course traces the historical development of vowed religious life in the Catholic Church and explores the meaning of the vowed life in the contemporary world. It is particularly intended for those in initial formation for religious life.

## **Main Objectives:**

- 1. To understand vowed life as a way of discipleship within the universal call of all Christians to holiness.
- 2. To understand the vowed life as a charism within the life of the church that has a cultural context and continues to evolve through history.
- 3. To frame and engage the critical questions of religious life in terms of the post-modern ecclesial and societal context.

## **Procedures and Evaluation:**

The course will consist of lectures and discussion. Students taking the course for credit will be responsible for required readings, weekly written work, participation in class discussions, and a final synthesis paper. Auditors will be expected to read the assignments and take part in the discussions.

## **Required Texts:**

- 1. Pope John Paul II. The Consecrated Life.
- 2. Chittister, Joan, OSB. Fire in These Ashes. Sheed & Ward, 1995.
- 3. Lozano, John M. Life as Parable. Paulist Press, 1986.
- 4. Merkle, Judith A. A Different Touch: A Study of Vows in Religious Life. Liturgical Press, 1998.