

# RELIGIOUS AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (THEO)

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## **THEO 10000 - Search for Faith (3)**

This course invites students to understand and use theological language to address challenges to faith offered by the human struggle to answer questions about identity, community, life and death, meaning, and God. Christian attempts to answer these questions will be explored in comparison to other world views.

Attributes: Theology 10000 Level Gen Ed

## **THEO 10600 - Introduction to Christian Theology (3)**

This course invites students to understand and use theological language to examine Christian faith claims about God, Jesus, Church, sacraments and liturgy, sin, and salvation. The evolution of Christian thought is treated, and special emphasis is placed on issues affecting twenty-first century Christianity

Attributes: Theology 10000 Level Gen Ed

## **THEO 20100 - Modern Christian Spirituality (3)**

A study of modern Christian understandings of experiences of God in the world and their relation to the Catholic religious tradition, particularly the tradition's call to love. Non-religious experiences of a spiritual dimension to human existence will also be explored.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Peace Studies, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

## **THEO 20200 - Introduction to Judaism (3)**

This course provides an overarching introduction to Judaism as global tradition, considering various forms of Judaism through their major texts, prophetic stories, ideas, practices, and expressions. The course focuses on Judaism as living tradition and will engage with diverse contemporary practices of Jewish communities around the world.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

## **THEO 20500 - The Catholic Church (3)**

The nature and the function of the Roman Catholic Church are discussed, with a consideration of how the Church functions both in itself and in relation to other religious traditions.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

## **THEO 21400 - Introduction to Christian Ethics (3)**

This course is an introduction to the study of fundamental moral theology. Emphasizing Catholic tradition in dialogue with other sources of wisdom, the course reflects on values and methods by which humans develop as moral persons. This course fulfills the General Education Catholic and Lasallian Heritage requirement for Christian Ethics and is a Mission-related course.

Attributes: Intro to Ethics Gen Ed

## **THEO 21700 - Writing in Theology (1)**

A one-credit online tutorial in the genres of writing in the discipline of Theology providing reinforcement of skills pertaining to forms of writing and research appropriate to theological inquiry, including the Turabian/ University of Chicago style. Students complete exercises enabling them to build skills toward a fifteen-page research paper in an upper-level, 3-credit Theology course. Together with an upper-level Theology course containing a research component and THEO 31700 (Research in Theology), this course fulfills the Advanced Writing requirement for Theology majors. Topics and methods deployed to assess a given topic will vary from semester to semester and from student to student.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 11100 ) and (THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100)

## **THEO 22300 - Hebrew Bible (3)**

This course seeks to understand the Jewish scriptures and closely related texts in their historical settings as well as in their subsequent role as canonical texts for Judaism.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

## **THEO 22500 - New Testament and Early Christian Literature (3)**

This course seeks to understand the Christian scriptures and closely related texts in their historical settings as well as in their subsequent role as canonical texts for Christianity.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

## **THEO 22700 - Catholic Sacraments (3)**

This course offers a scriptural, theological, and liturgical study of the nature of sacraments as foundational channels to life in Christ. Attention will be given to the practice of sacraments within the contemporary Church.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Catholic & Lasallian Principle, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

## **THEO 23500 - Sexuality, Spirituality, and Relationships (3)**

Students will explore fundamental aspects of the Christian moral theological tradition with regard to marriage, relationships, and sexuality, assessing this tradition on its own merits and in relation to contemporary cultural contexts and questions.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

## **THEO 23600 - Women and Religion (3)**

This course focuses on the lived religious experiences of women as subjects and agents in selected religious traditions, including Christianity. The course introduces students to relevant scholarship on women, gender, sexuality, and religion, including feminist and intersectional methodologies used in the interpretation of sacred texts, the reconstruction of theological ideas, and the history of women in religion(s).

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed, Women's Studies

## **THEO 23800 - American Catholic Experiences (3)**

Students study the sociological, cultural and theological history of the Catholic Church in the United States, from colonial to modern times.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 24000 - Methods in Religious Studies (3)**

This course introduces students to classical and contemporary theories about religion, as well as methods in the interdisciplinary field of religious studies. Students will engage with approaches to the study of religion through comparative, historical, sociological, anthropological, textual, or other disciplinary lenses in order to explore the intersections of religion with varied aspects of culture.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 25000 - Foundations of Peace and Justice Studies (3)**

This course provides an overview of peace studies which examines human conflict and its peaceful transformation. Drawing from Catholic social teaching's imperatives, the emphasis will be on acquiring a justpeace lens in order to do social analysis through service learning and civic engagement.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Peace Studies, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26200 - The Qur'an and the Bible (3)**

This course provides an introduction to the themes of the Qur'an and the Bible, their roles within Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, their meanings to Muslims, Jews, and Christians, their relationships to each other, and their relevance to American history and American life. In addition to seeking a variety of insights into religion's capacity to give life meaning, students will hone their critical skills of reading, thinking, and formulating arguments. Study and examination take place with an eye toward practical application in both religious and secular environments.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26400 - Religion and Popular Culture (3)**

This course examines intersections of religion and popular culture, including the lived religious experiences of everyday people, as well as the expression and reception of religious content through the arts and various forms of media. Special attention will be given to the dialogue between Catholicism/Christianity and culture, although course content may explore other religious traditions.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26500 - Religion and Science Fiction (3)**

Students will engage religious and theological questions and scriptural themes through the examination of selected works of science fiction and fantasy, which may include novels, short stories, and works of film and/or television.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26600 - Theological Perspectives in Bioethics (3)**

This course examines the most influential narratives, including Catholic Christian views of God and of human beings, shaping the meaning and experience of our health, our lives, and our deaths. Religious, medical, and other cultural worldviews will be compared and contrasted as offering differing ways of framing and addressing bioethical questions, including but not limited to: Is life the most sacred value? Is there a right to die? How should communities anticipate and care for the needs of the most vulnerable?

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26700 - Practicing Faithful Justice (3)**

This course will explore justice as understood through the lens of Christian social teachings. Engaged with the community through service learning, the course examines social realities and practical responses to address a variety of concerns affecting today marginalized and oppressed persons and communities.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Catholic & Lasallian Principle, Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Peace Studies, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26800 - Christian Social Teaching (3)**

This course considers how Christians are called to act in a world challenged by racism, poverty, consumerism and other complex, modern problems. Particular attention is given to the Roman Catholic perspective as expressed in Scripture, Church doctrine and papal teaching.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Civic Engagement Gen Ed, Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Peace Studies, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 26801 - Christian Social Teaching Travel Study (3)**

This course considers how Christians are called to act in a world challenged by racism, poverty, consumerism and other complex, modern problems. Particular attention is given to placing the Roman Catholic perspective (as expressed in Scripture, Church doctrine, and papal teaching) in its global contexts through travel study enrichment.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Globalization Gen Ed, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 27000 - Faith and the Arts (3)**

This course explores the ways in which religious faith and belief are expressed through Christian art and architecture. This course is offered both as a traditional semester-long study-abroad course and may also be offered as an accelerated travel-study course.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Globalization Gen Ed, Spanish Culture, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 27001 - Faith & the Arts: Chicago (3)**

This course explores the ways in which Christian religious faith, especially the Catholic faith, is expressed through the visual arts in global communities. The theatres, museums, concert halls and churches of Chicago and elsewhere may be used as resources for the class.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 27200 - In the Beginning: Origin Stories in Religion and Science (3)**

This course thinks about origins in both scientific and religious narratives, focusing on (for example) Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Western scientific tradition. By looking at these various narratives together, we will explore the relationships between the categories of science and religion, as well as the cultural and ethical dimensions of origin stories.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 28000 - Jesus in Film (3)**

This course centers on various ways to understand Christology, as well as the person and significance of Jesus of Nazareth through film. Biblical, classical and modern teachings are studied.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 28100 - Global Christianity (3)**

During the last three centuries, the size, global distribution and ethnic composition of world Christianity have been transformed. Most Christians now reside in the developing world, and the total number of Christians in Africa, Asia and Latin America increases daily while the Christian communities in so-called 'developed' nations are growing smaller. This course will examine the history of missionary efforts during colonization as well as the indigenous movements and Vatican II reforms that reshaped the understanding and practices of mission and inculturation of Christianity around the world.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Globalization Gen Ed, Latiné Studies, Peace Studies, Spanish Culture, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 28300 - Islam in America (3)**

This course explores what it means to be Muslim in America, and how the practices and understandings of Islam have been shaped in American contexts. It examines the varied experiences of the diverse racial, cultural, and ethnic groups that constitute the Muslim community in America in order to think about race and religion in the US.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 28400 - Introduction to Islam (3)**

This course provides a basic introduction to Islam, including topics such as: the origins of Islam, the prophecy of Muhammad, the Qur'an, and the five pillars of Islamic belief and practice. The course focuses on Islam as living tradition and will engage with diverse contemporary practices of Muslim communities around the world.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Globalization Gen Ed, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 28500 - Theologies of Liberation (3)**

This course focuses on theologies generated from Latin American, African-American, feminist and other perspectives, assessing the challenges and changes that marginalized perspectives bring to the traditional understanding of such theological topics as God, creation, human beings, salvation and the Holy Spirit.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Latiné Studies, Peace Studies, Spanish Culture

**THEO 29700 - Methods of Interfaith Dialogue (3)**

This course aims to root participants in compassion through recognition of intersections and interactions among religions and worldviews. Together, we will grow our appreciative knowledge of diverse religious traditions (i.e., interfaith literacy); identify and critically reflect on our own convictions, values, and actions based on faith or other ethical frameworks; and practice methods designed to enrich interfaith dialogue and action (such as deep listening, dialogue, and cooperation).

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 29800 - World Religions (3)**

This course compares the teachings of Christianity with the teachings and practices of selected non-Christian religions, possibly including Native-American religious traditions, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The aims of the course are to clarify similarities and differences between Christianity and other religions, to reflect on the problem posed by religious pluralism in modern culture, and to develop a Christian theology of world religions.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100

Attributes: Arabic Culture, Chinese Culture, Globalization Gen Ed, Peace Studies, Theology 20000 Lvl Gen Ed

**THEO 30000 - Lasallian Community and Social Action (3)**

Participants in this course will strive to actualize Lasallian mission values through conversion that stirs action for the common good. Students will employ compassionate practices, community engagement and academic exploration to grow social justice. Dynamic examples of faith-in-action and peace-building will prompt students to discover their own voices and vocations through which they may live out Lasallian association.

Attributes: Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Peace Studies

**THEO 30100 - Liturgy and Prayer (3)**

This course consists of three components: investigation of the Church liturgical year as a basis for communal prayer, the study of principles for communal prayer and prayer leadership, and practical experiences in which students will develop and lead prayer. Students will explore prayer forms and prayer styles in a variety of settings needed for effective pastoral leadership. In addition, students will study and create scriptural reflections which offer spiritual applications appropriate for communal prayer.

**THEO 30200 - Theology of Pastoral Ministry (3)**

This course is foundational for students seeking to minister within the church, in education, and related social or non-profit agencies. The biblical, theological, historical, and spiritual foundations for ministry will be explored in order to root pastoral care within the contemporary world. Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills through practical activities.

**THEO 31600 - A History of Christian Thought (3)**

Students consider the intellectual history of Christian theology, examining people and their ideas, from the birth of Jesus to the modern era.

**THEO 31700 - Research in Theology (1)**

A study of research methods and resources, this course teaches students the art of rhetoric as it pertains to research in the discipline of Theology. The topic of the course varies from year to year, focusing on a significant practice or idea, important figure, or significant movement or school of thought in the history of Christian Theology. Together with THEO 21700 and an upper-level Theology course with a research paper requirement (minimum 15 pages), this course fulfills the Advanced Writing requirement for Theology majors. This class is a prerequisite for the required upper-division course with a research paper component and may be taken prior to or simultaneously with such a course.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 11100) and (THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or THEO T0100)

**THEO 34900 - Islamic and Jewish Philosophies (3)**

This course provides an introduction to philosophy in Islamic and Jewish traditions, placing Jewish and Muslim philosophical texts and thinkers in conversation with one another. What is the nature of a human being? What are the limits of rationality? How are philosophical, spiritual, and mystical ways of knowing related? What role ought philosophy and religion play in society? Through in-depth study of treatises and allegorical texts, students will engage questions such as these from both Islamic and Jewish perspectives.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600 or PHIL 11000

**THEO 38500 - Retreat and Volunteer Service Facilitation (RVSF) (3)**

In this course, students will learn to construct and facilitate retreats and volunteer service experiences. Students will examine the impact retreat and volunteer experiences have on one's personal development, self-esteem, and sense of well-being, and explore how these programs build community among students, faculty, and staff. The course includes a community-based immersive experience (for example, at Part of the Solution (POTS) in Bronx, NY, or other community partners). For LIFT participants, this course will be taken in conjunction with the practicum THEO 30000 Lasallian Community and Social Action.  
Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

**THEO 39700 - Theology Workshop (1)**

This course allows students to focus on particular dimensions of theological study. Some workshops are devoted solely to service-learning. Topics will vary.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 (may be taken concurrently) or THEO 10600 (may be taken concurrently) or THEO T0100  
Attributes: Peace Studies, Workshop/Seminar

**THEO 39701 - Wksp: Focusing the Just Peace Lens (1)**

In the midst of the Peace and Justice Studies minor, which is housed in the theology department, preferably taken between THEO 25000 Foundations of Peace Studies, and THEO 45000 Peace Studies Capstone, students will be engaged in the art of the Pastoral or Praxis Circle which is a four-part methodology involving experience, analysis, reflection, and action plans in response to conflict or injustice. Participants will share learning thus far related to Peace and Justice Studies with peers and instructors, experience Peace Circle, learn from community Restorative Justice practitioners, and deepen their exploration of Catholic Social Teaching, as studied in THEO 25000, THEO 26700 and/or THEO 26800. The primary purpose of the workshop is to reinforce knowledge and apply skills related to restorative justice as one manifestation of the just peace lens. Designed for Peace and Justice Studies Minors; open to any Lewis University undergraduate student. (Pre-requisites: 10000-level theology).  
Attributes: Workshop/Seminar

**THEO 39705 - Wksp: Civil Rights (1)**

In the midst of the Peace and Justice Studies program, which is housed in the theology department, students will be engaged in the art of deep reflection via various methods, particularly the Peace Circle, which strive to create safe space for storytelling and human connection. Designed for Peace & Justice Studies Minors; open to any Lewis University undergraduate student. (Pre-requisites: 10000-level theology; highly recommended pre-requisites: THEO 25000, THEO 26700 or THEO 26800.)

**THEO 39708 - Workshop: Peace Circles as Restorative Practice (2)**

Participants in this workshop will be engaged in the art and process of keeping Peace Circles. This training will empower students to 'keep' Circles in order to create safe space for meaningful storytelling, repair, and human connection. Peace Circles will be positioned within the principles and practices of restorative and transformative justice. We hope to imagine together ways to dismantle unjust systems and practices and concurrently build bridges at Lewis and beyond toward healing, radical hospitality and thriving community.

**THEO 39900 - Tutorial (3)**

These courses are designed through the collaboration of a student and the Theology Department to address the needs of the student in his or her plan of study within the discipline.

**THEO 40200 - Pastoral Ministry Practicum (3-6)**

This capstone course will offer pastoral ministry students an opportunity to gain experience in a ministerial setting while being supervised onsite and mentored by a faculty member. Through experience, additional reading, synthesis of prior theological study, and structured reflection, course participants prepare for employment as ministerial professionals. Should be taken in the final year of theological study.  
Prerequisite: THEO 30200 (may be taken concurrently)

**THEO 41500 - Theology and Religious Studies Seminar (3)**

This course provides a capstone seminar experience for Theology Studies students to integrate what they have learned in their major studies as well as their general education coursework. Students will consider how their studies in theology have shaped their development as critical and creative thinkers. They will engage questions that integrate the depth and breadth of their educational experiences in order to articulate a personal and professional trajectory.

**THEO 42000 - Special Topics in Theology (3)**

This series of courses provides the opportunity for students to explore various topics and subfields of theology and religious studies. Each course fulfills upper-level major and minor distribution requirements in one or more of the following areas--History, Ecclesiology, Christology, Spirituality, Religion and Culture, Scripture, Social Justice, and/or Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue--as designated by the specific course description.

**THEO 42008 - ST: Sufism and Islamic Mysticism (3)**

This course provides an exploration of Islamic mysticism, commonly referred to as Sufism, through its spiritual and philosophical aspects. We will examine various manifestations and understandings of Sufi themes such as love, knowledge, intoxication, and bewilderment – focusing on how these mystical themes intertwine with philosophical questions about knowing and being from medieval to contemporary periods

**THEO 42009 - ST: Vatican 2 (3)**

Students will learn about the nature and the function of the Roman Catholic Church (ecclesiology) through a study of the Second Vatican Council. Students will learn to outline the historical, ecclesiastical, and ecclesiological contexts in which the documents of the Second Vatican Council were created. Additionally, students will analyze and evaluate the major documents of the council from a theological perspective with considerations of the reception and implementation of the major ideas of the council.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 or THEO 10600

**THEO 42010 - ST: Scripture and Disability (3)**

Scripture and Disability examines how scriptures (such as the Bible, Qur'an, or others) construct and reflect perspectives of human wholeness, impairment, and disability, including cognitive impairments and mental illness.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 and THEO 20000

**THEO 42011 - ST: Religion and the Body (3)**

This course will examine the nature and meaning of bodies both inside and outside Catholicism, including but not limited to historical and contemporary discourses of disability, sexuality, self-improvement, and spirituality.

Prerequisite: THEO 10000 and THEO 20000

**THEO 42012 - ST: The Chosen: Jesus in Film (3)**

This course will analyze how video visual media representations of Jesus shape and reflect contemporary Christian faith communities. The content focus will be on contemporary video adaptations of Christian scriptural and extra-biblical themes and symbols with comparisons to past video and still images. Narrative components of visual media will be analyzed using a visual culture studies method. Students must attend scheduled screening sessions outside of weekly class hours.

**THEO 45000 - Capstone: Peace and Justice Studies Seminar (3)**

This capstone provides an integrative experience for the Peace and Justice Studies Major or Minor, offering students an opportunity to synthesize what they have learned in both course and field work. Students review and evaluate theory, models of practice, research, and experience to develop their understanding of the ways peacebuilding and conflict-transformation are engaged personally, spiritually, locally, regionally, systemically, and globally. The course requires a project (e.g., the completion of an e-portfolio, major paper, and/or and public presentation) integrating peace and justice theory and praxis with a student's academic major collective studies and future career aspirations. THEO 45000 should be taken in the final semester of the major or minor. The Capstone fulfills the Writing Across the Curriculum requirement for the Peace and Justice Studies major. 3 credit(s)  
Prerequisites: Completion of a majority of courses, including THEO 25000 "Foundations of Peace & Justice Studies," which fulfill the major or minor curriculum (i.e., completion of around 9 courses for the major or 4 courses for the minor, inclusive of THEO 25000).

Prerequisite: THEO 25000

Attributes: Advanced Writing, Experiential Learning Gen Ed, Peace Studies

**THEO 46100 - Christian Service and Society (3)**

This course provides a framework for responding to the needs of the disadvantaged members of society, especially the elderly, the hungry, the homeless and the institutionalized. Students provide practical action plans of service learning based on Scripture, existing or possible social or ministerial services, and the support of others similarly interested. The course includes a required service learning component.

Attributes: Peace Studies

**THEO 46400 - Disabilities Studies Capstone (3)**

This capstone provides an integrative experience for the Disability Studies Minor, offering students an opportunity to synthesize coursework and field experience. Students review and evaluate theory, models of practice, research, and lived experience to develop their understanding of the ways Disability Studies pertains to personal, spiritual, local, regional, and global contexts. The course culminates in a major integrative project (e-portfolio, public presentation, major paper, or equivalent) linking Disability Studies with a student's academic major and future professional aspirations.