

## Theology 10001 – Foundations of Theology

MEETINGS: FALL 2011, M.W.F. 4:05-4:55  
WEBSITE: [www.nd.edu/~reynolds/theo10001](http://www.nd.edu/~reynolds/theo10001)  
PROFESSOR: GABRIEL SAID REYNOLDS (REYNOLDS@ND.EDU OR CALL X1-5138)  
OFFICE HOURS: M.W.F 11-12 IN 227 MALLOY

*“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14*

### Description of the Course and Its Relevance in the Life of a Notre Dame Student

The name “Immanuel” means “God with us” in Hebrew. Christians have traditionally referred to Jesus Christ with this name, and argued that Jesus was the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy – proclaimed centuries earlier – which is quoted above. Yet the belief that Jesus is “God with us” presents a challenge. How could God, the Creator, become a part of creation? Why would He do such a thing? These are the questions that faced the authors of the New Testament and the Church Fathers. In this course we will examine how they addressed these questions and, through that examination, ourselves confront these same questions. Together we will pursue a critical reading of Old Testament, New Testament and early Christian writings as we engage in theological reflection.

Foundations of Theology is the first of two required theology courses. These two courses are directed towards a number of goals. First, they provide students with information about the Bible and Christian theology that in itself is important. Second, they form the basis of a Catholic community at Notre Dame where all students (whether or not they are practicing Catholics) have a common experience of texts and questions that might be discussed not only in class but also while playing intramural football. Third, theology itself is meant as a guiding light for all other classes. As with the great European universities (Paris, Bologna, Oxford, Cambridge etc.), Notre Dame was founded by the Catholic Church to be a community where students are strengthened in their faith and morals, and therefore more able to see the truth in other fields, whether science, music, or history.

### Course Logic and Learning Goals

For most of the course we will be focused on the Bible. Only towards the end will we consider the reflections of the Church Fathers on Christology and the teaching of the Church on revelation. This plan is inspired by the words of St. Anselm, that Theology is “Faith Seeking Understanding.” Therefore our

first goal is to expand our faith, by contemplating the complexity and beauty of scripture. Our second goal will be to consider, in the light of that Christian faith, Christology (“the study of Christ’s identity”) and revelation (“God’s communication with humanity”).

### **A Few Rules**

1. Attendance is required. Three unexcused absences will be grudgingly tolerated. A fourth unexcused absence, and then a fifth, will bring your class participation grade down by one letter each. A student who is absent, without excuse, more than five times during the semester should not expect to pass the course. Absences are excused with a written form (e.g. a health services blue slip) or by agreement with me or my TA beforehand.
2. Punctuality with your person and your work is required. Tardiness will be treated as an absence. Late papers will lose a full letter grade for each day late. Computer malfunctions and memory malfunctions are not valid excuses. No extensions for papers except for natural disasters.
3. Absence on the day of a quiz or a test without an excuse approved beforehand will lead, tragically, to a zero on that quiz or test (i.e. do not use an unexcused absence on one of those days).
4. Print out assigned on-line readings and bring them to class.
5. Do not use computers in class.
6. No hats or coats are to be worn in class.
7. No eating or drinking in class. We will all fast together.
8. Remember the Honor Code pledge: “As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.”

### **Books and Website**

Two books are required; bring the relevant book(s) to class. They are in the ND Bookstore:

- + *The New Jerusalem Bible* (Doubleday Press) – you \*must\* have this Bible and this particular version of this Bible (i.e. the large study version, ISBN 9780385142649)
- + *The Christological Controversy*, ed. Norris (Fortress Press)

In addition, students are expected to visit our class website regularly. In the Links section of our website you will find the readings marked “Online” in the syllabus, in addition to various links to forums, websites, and videos of relevance to our class. These links will be constantly updated, and you are encouraged to submit suggested links to me or our TA by e-mail. Moreover, I will post paper topics and secret messages on our website.

## **Assignments and Their Contribution to Your Grade**

Class participation	20%
(this includes attendance, contribution in class and participation in our e-mail list)	
Friday reading quizzes + date/map quiz (I will drop your two lowest grades)	15%
Two papers (5 pages maximum)	40%
Final exam	25%

*Spending time at the writing center ([www.nd.edu/~writing](http://www.nd.edu/~writing)) will help you get a better grade.*

## **Definition of Final Grades**

B: Regular and punctual attendance. Active participation in class and/or through the e-mail list. Papers with correct writing, a well-structured argument, and sophisticated use of sources. Improvement shown through the semester.

C: Regular and punctual attendance. Some participation in class and/or through the e-mail list. Papers with good writing, a logical argument, and reference to sources. Improvement shown through the semester.

D: Inconsistent attendance or poor punctuality. Limited participation in class. Papers submitted in time with some reference to sources.

A: In addition to B, extraordinary work in and out of class. Outstanding work ethic and devotion to the class.

## **Class Plan**

### **A. Old Testament**

- 1 (Aug 24) Why theology is better than all of those other courses you are taking.
- 2 (Aug 26) - NJ Bible, Introduction to the Pentateuch  
- Genesis 1-4
- 3 (Aug 29) - Genesis 5-18
- 4 (Aug 31) - Genesis 19-32
- 5 (Sep 2) - Exodus 1-12
- 6 (Sep 5) - Exodus 13-20, 32; Numbers 20-22; Deuteronomy 34

- 7 (Sep 7) - Intro. to the Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings; §1-3  
- Joshua 1-8; Judges 1-2
- 8 (Sep 9) - Intro. to the Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings; §4  
- Judges 19-21; Ruth; Genesis 38
- 9 (Sep 12) - Intro. to the Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings; §5,  
- Judges 13-16; I Samuel 1-7
- 10 (Sep 14) - I Samuel 8-18; II Samuel 11-12
- 11 (Sep 16) - Intro. to the Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings; §6  
- I Kings 17-19; II Kings 1-2, 17-25
- 12 (Sep 19) - Introduction to the Book of Esther (included w/Intro. to Tobit and Judith)  
- Esther
- 13 (Sep 21) - Introduction to the Wisdom Books; Introduction to the Book of Job  
- Job 1-14, 38-42
- 14 (Sep 23) - Introduction to the Prophets (§1-7, 28; begins on p. 1157)  
- Jonah
- 15 (Sep 26) *guest lecture*  
- no reading, work on your paper.
- 16 (Sep 28) movie, **first paper due.**

## **B. New Testament**

- 17 (Sep 30) - Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels  
- Luke 1-8
- 18 (Oct 3) - Luke 9-18
- 19 (Oct 5) - Luke 19-24

- 20 (Oct 7) - Introduction to Gospel of John  
- John 1-6
- 21 (Oct 10) - John 7-12
- 22 (Oct 12) - John 13-21
- 23 (Oct 14) - excerpt from *The Lord of the Rings*, **online**
- 24 (Oct 24) - Introduction to Acts of the Apostles  
- Acts 1-8
- 25 (Oct 26) - Acts 9-17
- 26 (Oct 28) - Introduction to Paul, Introduction to the Letters of Paul  
- I Thessalonians
- 27 (Oct 31) - Romans 1-8
- 28 (Nov 2) - Philippians  
- Introduction to the Letters to all Christians  
- I Peter
- 29 (Nov 4) - Introduction to Revelation  
- Revelation 1-13
- 30 (Nov 7) **basilica tour**  
- no reading, work on your paper.
- 31 (Nov 9) movie, **second paper due**

### **C. The Christological Controversy**

- 32 (Nov 11) - Norris, ch.1, "Introduction" (pp. 1-17)
- 33 (Nov 14) - Norris, ch.1, "Introduction" (pp. 17-31)

34 (Nov 16) - Norris, ch. 3, Irenaeus of Lyon

35 (Nov 18) - Norris, ch. 5, Origen

36 (Nov 21) - Norris, ch. 9, "The Controversies Leading up to the Council of Chalcedon" (pp. 123-145)

37 (Nov 28) - Norris, ch. 9, "The Controversies Leading up to the Council of Chalcedon" (pp. 145-159)

38 (Nov 30) **date and map quiz**, Questions and Answers about Theology and Life

#### **D. On Revelation**

39 (Dec 2) - *Dei Verbum*, chs. 1-3, **online**

40 (Dec 5) - *Dei Verbum*, chs. 4-6, **online (print out and bring to class)**

41 (Dec 7) Slideshow

**Review Session:** TBA

**Final Exam:** TBA