

THEO 111, Theological Foundations

Theological Foundations explores theology as a critical dialogue between Christian traditions and contemporary human experience. Students are required to examine varied perspectives on Scripture, tradition, reason and experience as they inform religious faith. Instructors of this course understand religious faith to be situated in the context of a pluralistic and rapidly changing world. Thus special attention is given to the interrelatedness of and interaction between religion and society. Each instructor's interpretation of the suffering produced by such interaction shapes the nature of the theological issues raised and questions explored. Questions such as, what does it mean to relate faith to issues of justice in the modern world? How can faith address the major moral issues of our time? In what ways does faith orientate us toward responsible action? ground theological inquiry.

Theological foundation courses do not share a common text. However, there is a consensus within the Department that the Bible and/or Biblical interpretation should be part of the curriculum. It is suggested that each Foundations section include one book from the Hebrew Bible (i.e. Job) and one book from the Christian Bible (i.e. Luke).

Courses in Theological Foundations frequently address major ethical issues and themes that challenge religious faith and society. Issues such as war and peace, religious intolerance, slavery and racial injustice, poverty and economic inequality, gender and sexual violence and ecological denigration shape the moral problematic to which faith must respond. Themes such as justice and equality, dignity and human freedom, global Christianities and religious pluralism, violence and nonviolence also figure prominently in Foundations courses.