

## THEO 111, Theological Foundations

*Theological Foundations* introduces students to theology as a mutually critical dialogue between religious traditions and contemporary human experience. As a theology for life, this course provides intellectual and spiritual resources that students can use to construct lives of meaning and value.

- THEO 111 embodies Xavier's core values<sup>1</sup> of academic excellence, Ignatian tradition, and integrity.
  - Academic excellence: The course stimulates rigorous analytical and creative thinking.
  - Ignatian tradition: The course addresses the whole person intellectually, morally and spiritually and emphasizes the importance of lives of solidarity and service, with sensitivity to issues of social and environmental justice
  - Integrity: The course upholds the academic freedom of students and faculty and fosters mutual respect in the formation of a healthy learning environment.

All sections of this course share the following **Student Learning Outcomes**, namely:

As a result of completing THEO 111, students will be able to:

1. Describe how reflection on the range of human experiences and evolving religious traditions enables a sense of the Divine and/or contributes to life's meaning.
2. Identify how religious tradition develops over time in response to historical period, human experience, and cultural contexts.
3. Describe key features of the Christian understanding of being human and the demands of right relationship with the Divine, other humans, and the environment.
4. Apply the critical methodology and interpretative strategies of contemporary biblical scholarship to texts in both Hebrew Bible and Christian Scripture that express key biblical themes (creation, covenant, community, and/or liberation).
5. Identify key concepts and practices of at least one non-Christian religion in critical dialogue with Christianity.
6. Formulate a theologically informed response to the environmental crisis and to at least one other significant social issue, such as economic inequality, gender inequality and gender-based violence, and/or racial inequality.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.xavier.edu/mission-identity/xaviers-mission/xaviers-academic-vision-statement>

7. Explain the Jesuit values of Xavier University and articulate how the practices of Ignatian spirituality provide strategies for human wholeness and creative social engagement.

**Common texts that are currently used in THEO 111 are:**

- Genesis 1-3
- Exodus 1-6:13, 19-20
- A complete synoptic gospel (Matthew, Mark, or Luke)
- Excerpts from Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si*

Additional common texts may be added in the future.