

Course Title: Introduction to Theology; Positive Theology I

Course Number: THE 101

Term: Fall 2023

Lecture – Mon/Wed/Fri 9:30-10:20

Room 300

Professor: Fr. Joseph Wood

Email: jwood@smac.edu

Phone: 785.437.2471, extension 158

Office Hours: By appointment

I am at your service for anything you may need for my classes or for your spiritual life: please don't hesitate to email me to ask for a meeting. Please knock on my office door *only* for something that cannot reasonably wait.

Prerequisites:

Admission into SMC

Required Materials:

N/A

Suggested Materials:

A Catholic, pre-Vatican II Bible, preferably the Douay-Rheims version

Course Description:

"The course will start with an introduction to the nature and method of Sacred Theology, and then pass to positive Theology. The Origin, composition, and canon of scripture will be seen. Students will then read the Bible in the light of the early Patristic Tradition, later commentators, and the Magisterial pronouncements of the Catholic Church. Close readings will focus on the Old Testament." SMC Catalog 2023-2024, p. 22

Purpose:

This course is designed to give students:

- A basic idea of the science of sacred doctrine
- A basic idea of the nature of the Bible and its relationship of the Bible to sacred doctrine
- A model for a Catholic and educated reading the Bible, not only for doctrinal insight but also for their spiritual profit.

Grading Policy:

- Final Grade Weighting:
 - tests: 70%
 - semester exam: 30%
- In addition to the semester exam, there will be three tests, as indicated on the course schedule. Test dates are subject to change due to unforeseeable circumstances.
- The tests and the semester exam will comprise the following:
 - a lighter weighted identification section, which will test the students' memory of the material and whose items will be assessed analytically against the facts presented in lecture
 - a heavier weighted short essay section, which will test the students' ability to use creatively their new theological knowledge and whose items will be assessed holistically against the answers of the other students.

Attendance Policy:

- Each student is personally responsible for gathering the material presented in each lecture.
- The students are asked out of courtesy to inform the professor when they foresee missing a lecture.
- Students are expected to be present for each test at its scheduled date and time.
 - A foreseen absence from a test must be sufficiently explained to and excused by the professor prior to a student's missing the test.
 - Only for a very serious reason will the professor permit a make-up test for unforeseen absences from a test, and usually only at the request of the Dean's Office.
 - In cases both of foreseen and unforeseen excused absences from tests, the student must provide the professor with proof of the excusing cause, which will generally take the form of a doctor's note or a note from a parent or dorm prefect vouching for the excuse.
 - It is the student's responsibility to approach the professor about scheduling a make-up test.
 - Unexcused absence from a test will result in a zero.

Personal Gifts Policy:

I do not accept gifts, baked goods, the singing of 'Happy Birthday,' or other such tokens of esteem from students. They will be thrown away or given away. The greatest token of your appreciation would be for you to do your reasonable best to learn the material and succeed on your tests. Thank you for understanding.

Course Schedule:

| WEEKS AND DAYS | TOPICS COVERED | NOTES |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1: Sept 4-8 | Intro to Theology | 2-class week |
| 2: Sept 11-15 | Intro to Theology | |
| 3: Sept 18-22 | Intro to the Bible | |
| 4: Sept 25-29 | Intro to the Bible | Fri 9/29: Test 1 |
| 5: Oct 2-6 | Intro to the Bible | |
| 6: Oct 9-23 | Intro to the Bible | |
| 7: Oct 16-20 | Intro to the Bible | Fri 10/20: Test 2 |
| 8: Oct 23-27 | Intro to Old Testament | |
| 9: Oct 30-Nov 3 | Intro to Old Testament | 1-class week; Fri: mid-semester review |
| 10: Nov 6-10 | Intro to Genesis | |
| 11: Nov 13-17 | Intro to Genesis | Fri 11/17: Test 3 |
| 12: Nov 20-24 | Book of Genesis | 1-class week |
| 13: Nov 27-Dec 1 | Book of Genesis | 2-class week |
| 14: Dec 4-8 | Book of Genesis | 2-class week |
| 15: Dec 11-15 | Book of Genesis | 2-class week; Wed 12/13: general review; 12/14: Begin Study Days |