

Course Title: Introduction to Theology; Positive Theology I

Course Number: THE 101

Term: Fall 2024

Lecture – Mon/Wed/Fri 8:35-9:25

Room 302

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. You are also welcome to knock on the door any time I am in my office. However, if my "Do Not Disturb" sign is up, please knock *only* for something that cannot reasonably wait.

Prerequisites:

Admission into SMC

Required Materials:

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

Notebook, pen

Course Description:

"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 understanding of the nature of the Bible and the relationship of the Bible to the Catholic Faith.
- 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 more lightly 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 more heavily 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 may be asked to provide the professor with proof of the excusing cause, e.g. a doctor's note, a note from a parent or from a 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, booze, 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, or perhaps a thank-you note at the end of the year, after grades have been finalized and if you want to express true gratitude for the course. Thank you for understanding.

Class Disruption Policy:

If I feel that students are disturbing the lectures by carrying on among themselves, I will ask them to continue their discussion, which must certainly be very important to them, outside the classroom. This does not bother me even if the students feel that I am being very unfair and overly sensitive.

Course Schedule:

WEEKS AND DAYS	TOPICS COVERED	NOTES
1: Sept 2-6	The Bible; its Author	2-class week
2: Sept 9-13	Inspiration; its effects	
3: Sept 16-20	The interpretation of Sacred Scripture	
4: Sept 23-27	The senses of Sacred Scripture	Fri 9/27: Test 1
5: Sept 30-Oct 4	The canon and versions of the Bible	
6: Oct 7-11	Intro to the Old Testament: its purpose, contents, chronology	
7: Oct 14-18	Intro to the Old Testament: the Pentateuch and the Book of Genesis	Fri 10/18: Test 2
8: Oct 21-25	Genesis 1-3	
9: Oct 28-Nov 1	Genesis 4-7	1-class week
10: Nov 4-8	Genesis 8-21	
11: Nov 11-15	Genesis 22-33	
12: Nov 18-22	Genesis 34-40	Fri 11/22: Test 3
13: Nov 25-29	Genesis 42-44	1-class week
14: Dec 2-6	Genesis 45-50	2-class week
15: Dec 9-13	Review of the semester	2-class week; Begin "Study Days"