

Course Title: THE 102: Positive Theology II

Course Number: THE 102

Term: Spring 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. If my "Do Not Disturb" sign is up, please knock on my office door *only* for something that cannot reasonably wait.

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of THE 101 in SMC, or an equivalent introduction to Sacred Scripture course from another post-secondary institution.

Required Materials:

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

Suggested Materials:

For Saint Augustine's homilies on the Gospel of St. John: <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1701.htm>

For Saint Thomas Aquinas's commentaries on the same: <https://isidore.co/aquinas/english/SSJohn.htm>

Course Description:

"The course will continue the study of sacred scripture in the light of the early Patristic Tradition, later commentators and the Magisterial Pronouncements of the Catholic Church. Close readings will focus on the New Testament, the historicity, authenticity, veracity and integrity of which will be given a critical defense." SMC Catalog 2023-2024, p. 23

Purpose:

This course is designed to give students:

- An overview of the New Testament, its purpose and parts, narrowing the focus down to the Gospel of St. John, which will be read closely as a sort of prime analogate of New Testament books.
- A guided exposure to the entire Gospel of St. John, with constant reference to the homilies of St. Augustine and the commentaries of St. Thomas Aquinas on the same.

- 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. Multiple unforeseen absences from tests may lead to the professor's requiring a doctor's note vouching for the legitimacy of the health cause.
 - 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: Jan 15-19	Intro to New Testament	
2: Jan 22-26	Intro to New Testament	
3: Jan 29-Feb 2	Intro to the Four Gospels	End of add/drop period
4: Feb 5-9	Intro to St. John's Gospel	Fri 2/9: Test 1
5: Feb 12-16	Intro to St. John's Gospel	Ash Wednesday
6: Feb 26-Mar 1	John 1-3	
7: Mar 4-8	John 4-5	
8: Mar 11-15	John 6-7	Fri 3/15 Test 2
9: Mar 18-22	John 8-9	1-class week; Fri: mid-semester review
10: Apr 8-12	John 10-11	
11: Apr 15-19	John 12-13	
12: Apr 22-26	John 14-15	Fri 4/26 Test 3
13: Apr 29-May 3	John 16-17	
14: May 6-10	John 18-19	
15: May 13-17	John 20-21; Review	May 16-17 Study Days