

Course Title: Positive Theology II

Course Number: THE 102

Term: Spring 2026

Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-9:20

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. 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:

Completion of SMC THE 101

Required Materials:

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

Notebook, pen

Course Description:

This course continues 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 portions of the Old Testament that follow the division of the Davidic kingdom and the New Testament.

Purpose:

This course is designed to give students a basic grasp on the single narrative arc underlying the various books of the Bible, as well as a sense for how to read the Bible following the guidance of the Catholic Church and benefiting spiritually from the treasures of Sacred History.

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 what they have learned and whose items will be assessed holistically against the answers of the other students.

Attendance Policy:

- Students will not be admitted to class after class has begun and the door has been closed.
- Students who are noticeably in violation of the college dress code will be asked to leave the classroom.
- The students are asked out of courtesy (courtesy is not optional) to inform the professor when they foresee missing a lecture or to present an excuse when they have missed one for unforeseeable reasons.
- Each student is personally responsible for gathering the material presented in each lecture.
- Students are expected to be present for each test at its scheduled date and time.
 - A foreseen absence from a test, after the requisite permission from the college president, 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 or a note vouching for the excuse from a parent or from a dorm prefect.
 - 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:

Students who are disturbing the lectures by carrying on among themselves, will be asked to continue their discussion outside the classroom.

Course Schedule:

WEEKS AND DAYS	TOPICS COVERED	NOTES
1: Jan 12-16	Elias, Amos, Osee	
2: Jan 19-23	Osee, Isaias	
3: Jan 26-30	Isaias, Micheas, Jeremias	No class 1/30
4: Feb 2-6	Jeremias, Ezechiel	Planned review 2/4 Test #1: 2/6
5: Feb 9-13	Ezechiel, "Second Isaias"	
6: Feb 16-20	"Second Isaias"	Ash Wednesday 2/18—No THE 102 (Retreat next week)
7: Mar 2-6	"Second Isaias," Esdras, Nehemias, Macchabees, Daniel	
8: Mar 9-13	Daneil, Matthew	Planned review 3/11 Test #2: 3/13
9: Mar 16-20	Matthew, Acts	
10: Mar 23-27	Thessalonians, Peter	
11: Apr 13-17	Peter, Corinthians	
12: Apr 20-24	Corinthians, Romans	Planned review 4/22 Test #3: 4/24
13: Apr 27-May 1	Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, John	
14: May 4-8	John, Apocalypse	Planned review 5/8
15: May 11-15	Apocalypse	Planned review 5/11 Semester study day 5/13 Final Exams 5/15