Theological Studies

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**Major:** Theological Studies courses – 10, including one of 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, or 167; one in Biblical studies, one in contemporary theology, one in ethics, one in historical theology, 312, 412, and 471 (culminating experience); any two others.
Comprehensive evaluation, with passing grade of D- or better.
Total of 10 courses (10 course units).

**Minor:** Theological Studies courses – completion of ThS 16x (excluding 160) and four additional courses in the department.
Total of 5 courses (5 course units).

Of the courses listed below, 337, 353, 354, 355, 356, and 358 will fulfill Biblical studies requirements; 325 and 344 will fulfill contemporary theology requirements; 323, 324, and 326 will fulfill ethics requirements; and 333, 336, and 337 will fulfill historical theology requirements. (337 will fulfill either the Biblical studies or the historical theology requirement but not both.) From year to year, selected Special Topics courses (260, 360) will be designated as fulfilling specific area requirements; see department advisers for current information.

All other courses have, as prerequisite, the completion of one of 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, or 167.

**ThS 160. Special Topics.**

**ThS 161. Theology and the Human Condition.** Central issues in theology will be raised by asking: What is a human being? What does it mean to be human? Various answers to these questions and the theological frameworks that support them will be examined. In combination with Phi 161, satisfies the Examined Life LADR. Not open to students who have credit in 100-level theological studies courses. Must be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Meets the major requirement for an introductory course.

**ThS 162. Theology and the Arts.** Central issues in theology will be raised by examining various works of art such as literature, music, drama, film, sculpture, or painting. Various specific framings of and answers to the issues that the works of art offer will be evaluated. In combination with Phi 162, satisfies the Examined Life LADR. Not open to students who have credit in 100-level theological studies courses. Must be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Meets the major requirement for an introductory course.

**ThS 163. Theological Issues and Classic Texts.** Study of central issues in theology through an examination of classic theological texts such as those found in the Bible, Augustine’s *Confessions*, and Calvin’s *Institutes*. An examination of these texts will allow students to study and to analyze several clearly developed and well-known theological perspectives. In combination with Phi 163, satisfies the Examined Life LADR. Not open to students who have credit in 100-level theological studies courses. Must be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Meets the major requirement for an introductory course.

**ThS 164. Theological Perspectives on Nature.** Study of central issues in theology through an examination of various concepts of nature, such as those found in the Bible, Origen, Irenaeus,
Augustine, and St. Francis. Each concept of nature says something different not just about the natural world, but also about what it means to be human and what our relationship with and responsibility for the natural world should be. In combination with Phi 164, satisfies the Examined Life LADR. Not open to students who have credit in 100-level theological studies courses. Must be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Meets the major requirement for an introductory course.

**ThS 165. Theology and Ethics.** Focuses on topics and texts in ethics and raises questions everyone struggles with throughout life. What is the good life? What does it mean to be a good person? How do we know what the good is? What is the nature of the good? In combination with Phi 165, satisfies the Examined Life LADR. Not open to students who have credit in 100-level theological studies courses. Must be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Meets the major requirement for an introductory course.

**ThS 167: Foundational Issues in Theology.** Addresses some of the fundamental issues in theology. Students critically reflect on various metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical positions and identify the one they find most reasonable. At the end of the course, they will bring together their positions and construct a coherent theological position. In combination with Phi 167, satisfies the Examined Life LADR. Not open to students who have credit in 100-level theological studies courses. Must be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Meets the major requirement for an introductory course.

**ThS 260. Special Topics.**

**ThS 307. Directed Study.** .50 unit.

**ThS 312. Seminar on Theological Method.** A study of issues and approaches common to all areas of theology, including biblical interpretation, the relationship between theology and faith, the analysis of theological arguments, and the nature of human knowing. Prerequisite: junior majors and minors only.

**ThS 323. Historical Issues and Figures in Christian Ethics.** An examination of one or more influential figures or central themes in the history of Christian ethics.

**ThS 324. Contemporary Issues and Figures in Christian Ethics.** An examination of one or more influential figures or central themes in contemporary discussions in Christian ethics.

**ThS 325. Contemporary Theology.** A study of some recent developments in Protestant and Catholic theology. Offered alternate years.

**ThS 326. Sexual Ethics and the Christian Tradition.** A study of many of the issues in the field of sexual ethics, especially as these have been and continue to be shaped by the history and doctrine of Christianity.

**ThS 333. American Religious Thought.** An analysis of selected thinkers, movements, and themes in American religious history, with emphasis on theological development. Offered alternate years.

**ThS 335. Christianity and Contemporary Culture.** An investigation into the possible correlation of Christian theology with selected aspects (political, scientific, philosophical) of postmodern world views. Offered alternate years.

**ThS 336. The History of Christian Thought.** A consideration of turning points in the growth and evolution of Christian theology from the first century to the present. Primary focus on seminal thinkers, with supplemental attention to creators of popular religious thought. Offered alternate years.

**ThS 337. The History of Biblical Interpretation.** An examination of the history and development of the interpretation of biblical texts with particular emphasis on the interpretive principles and theological issues brought to bear on specific biblical passages by Jewish and Christian scholars. Prerequisite: successful completion of an introductory theology course or an Examined
Life sequence. Will meet the major requirement in either historical theology or the Bible but not both.

**ThS 338. Faith in Fantasy and Fiction.** An exploration of the way in which authors such as C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and John Updike address important issues of faith in their fiction.

**ThS 339. An Odyssey to the Holy Land.** A study of the geography and history of the Holy Lands with particular attention given to areas within Israel and other Mediterranean countries associated with major biblical figures and events. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

**ThS 344. Emerging Theologies.** A study of emerging themes in theological study, focusing on those which are expected to become influential in a postmodern world.

**ThS 353. People of the Covenant.** An investigation of sections of the Hebrew Scriptures which focus on themes related to the covenant between God and Israel.

**ThS 354. Sages and Seers: Studies in Israel’s Wisdom and Prophetic Traditions.** A class focusing on various issues which occur in Israel’s wisdom and prophetic literature, with particular attention to the emotional and intellectual aspects of Israel’s faith.

**ThS 355. Jesus of Nazareth.** A seminar focusing on Jesus’ life and ministry. Themes and topics vary from semester to semester.

**ThS 356. Paul and the Church’s Struggle to Survive.** An investigation of the life, theology and mission of the apostle Paul, emphasizing his influence on Christianity during its first turbulent years.

**ThS 358. Geography of the Holy Lands.** A survey of the history, culture, topography, and development of societies in the Middle East from the Neolithic period through the present, with particular emphasis on explaining the relationship between the sociogeographical history of the area and the biblical narrative. Satisfies Other Cultures LADR.

**ThS 360. Special Topics.**

**ThS 370. Directed Study.** One unit.

**ThS 412. Theological Studies Seminar.** Integration of the various components of the major and exploration of advanced methods in theological studies. Prerequisites: 312 and senior standing.

**ThS 471. Independent Study.** Required of majors; open to minors.