Theology of the Human Person – RLGR 6031 DRAFT SYLLABUS

Spring Semester 2016 - Tuesday, 5:00-6:50

Professor Daniel Rober
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45 p.m. or by appointment after class

Textbooks:

Augustine, *Selected Writings on Grace and Pelagianism* (New City Press)

Peter Brown, *The Body and Society*

M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom*

Erasmus and Luther, *The Battle Over Free Will* (Hackett)

Various, *Catholic Women Speak*

Vatican II, *Constitutions, Decrees, Declarations*

**Additional Sources of Readings** (Available as PDFs on Blackboard):

Susan Abraham and Elena Procario-Foley, eds., *Frontiers in Catholic Feminist Theology*

James Alison, *The Joy of Being Wrong*

Charles Camosy, *For Love of Animals*

Sarah Coakley, *God, Sexuality, and the Self*

Margaret Farley, *Just Love*

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*

Elizabeth Johnson, *Ask the Beasts*

Kathryn Tanner, *Christ the Key*

Pope John Paul II, *Man and Woman He Created Them*
Assignments:

10-page term paper making a constructive argument in Theological Anthropology; topic chosen and developed in discussion with professor. This paper can also be formatted as a take-home final exam responding to instructor questions.

In-Class attentiveness and participation. Participation may not always mean raising one’s hand or taking part directly in discussion, but at minimum it always means having the reading prepared and on one’s desk and respecting the contributions of others by listening carefully to them.

Reading Notes: The reading for each class section represents a selection of important text(s) dealing with the day’s theme in theological anthropology. Depending on one’s schedule or style of learning, the reading may prove challenging at certain times. Professor will work with students to make sure reading is of reasonable length and comprehensibility; non-English translations of books available in multiple languages (e.g. Bible, Vatican II documents) permissible.

Schedule of readings is subject to change based on class discussions and student interests.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Tuesday, January 19

  First part of class: Introduction to course/Syllabus
  
  Second part of class: Discussion: Who do we think we are?

Tuesday, January 26

Anthropology in the Bible

Read: Genesis 1: 26-4:26; Psalms 8,139 ; Song of Songs (Entire); John 1:1-18, , Romans 1:1-8:39; Galatians; 1 Corinthians 5:1-7:39, 11:3-16, 12:1-31; Ephesians 1:1-5:33

  Michael Coogan, God & Sex, Excerpt; Mark S. Smith, How Human is God? Excerpt

Questions:

- What are the fundamental problems raised in these texts?
- How does a historical or contextual approach change our reading of these texts?
Tuesday, February 2

**Patristic Anthropology**

*Read:* Irenaeus of Lyons, *Against Heresies*, Excerpt; Gregory of Nyssa, *The Making of Man*

Peter Brown, *The Body and Society*, Chapters 2, 3, 10

Questions:

- What do the early theologians add to the Biblical accounts?
- How does the worldview of these thinkers resemble and notably differ from ours?
- Does Gregory of Nyssa’s theology anticipate modern concerns?

Tuesday, February 9

**Augustine and Original Sin**

*Read:* Augustine, *The Punishment and Forgiveness of Sins and the Baptism of Little Ones*; James Alison, *The Joy of Being Wrong*, Excerpt

Brown, Chapter 19

Questions:

- Does original sin flow inexorably from the Biblical texts involved?
- How is original sin transmitted?
- How does Alison try to reimagine original sin?

Tuesday, February 16

**Medieval Theological Anthropology**


Questions:

- How does Aquinas develop Augustine’s anthropology?
- How does Bonaventure’s work draw on Augustine and compare to that of Aquinas?
Tuesday, March 1

Theological Anthropology in the Reformation

*Read:* Erasmus and Luther, *The Battle Over Free Will*, Excerpts; Calvin, *Institutes*, Excerpt

Questions:

- How do Luther and Erasmus interpret Augustine’s legacy on free will?
- How does Calvin depart from Luther?

Tuesday, March 8

Twentieth-Century Theology and Anthropology


Questions:

- To what kinds of issues are de Lubac and Rahner responding?
- What vision of nature and grace is being supported and resisted?

Tuesday, March 15

Week 8: Vatican II and Theological Anthropology

*Read:* *Gaudium et Spes*, *Dignitatis Humanae Nostra Aetate*

Questions:

- How does *Gaudium et Spes* discuss the human person relative to other texts we have read?
- How does *Dignitatis Humanae* ground the idea of religious liberty?
- What are the implications of interreligious dialogue for anthropology?
Tuesday, March 29

Week 9: Contemporary Issues in Theological Anthropology: Sexuality

Read: Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*; John Paul II, *Man and Woman He Created Them*, Excerpts; *Catholic Women Speak*, Excerpts; Margaret Farley, *Just Love*, Excerpt; Synod on the Family documents as available

Questions:
- What is the anthropological foundation for magisterial teachings about sexuality as expressed by Paul VI and John Paul II?
- How does Farley challenge the presuppositions of church teaching?
- How does theological anthropology relate to the debates at the Synod?

Tuesday, April 5

Week 10: Contemporary Issues in Theological Anthropology: Gender

Possible Readings: John Paul II, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* and *Mulieris Dignitatem*, Excerpts; Michele Saracino, “Moving Beyond the ‘One True Story’”; Teresa Delgado, “This Is My Body…Given for You”; *Catholic Women Speak*, Excerpts; Kathryn Tanner, *Christ the Key*, Excerpt; Sarah Coakley, *God, Sexuality, and the Self*, Excerpt

Questions:
- How do women’s voices change discussions of gender and sexuality?
- What is the official magisterial view of women as expressed by John Paul?
- Is gender a fixed given?
- What is the relationship between theology and pastoral care in matters of gender?

Tuesday, April 12

Week 12: Contemporary Issues in Theological Anthropology: Anthropocentrism

Read: Charles Camosy, *For Love of Animals*, Excerpt; Elizabeth Johnson, *Ask the Beasts*, Excerpt; Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, Excerpt

Questions:
- Do animals participate in anything like human nature?
- What is the relationship between anthropology and care for creation?
Tuesday, April 19

Week 13: Contemporary Issues in Theological Anthropology: Race

Read: M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom*

J. Kameron Carter, *Race: A Theological Account*, Excerpt

- How do issues of race and gender intersect for Copeland?
- What is the theological significance of race?

Tuesday, April 26

Theological Anthropology and Disability

Read: Nancy Eiesland, *The Disabled God* and Amos Yong, *The Bible, Disability, and the Church*, Excerpts

Questions:

- How do contemporary perspectives about disability change how we think of human nature?
- How does our view of disability affect pastoral care and welcome for those with disabilities?

Tuesday, May 3

Week 14: Theological Anthropology, Secularism, and Global Christianity


- Does the rise of secularization indicate anything about shifts in human nature?
- How does formation of young people raise questions of theological anthropology?
- What do non-Western perspectives have to offer to Christian anthropology?