CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY STH-D516

RANDALL S. ROSENBERG, PH.D. 3 CREDITS
FALL 2012 TUESDAYS, 8:45-11:15

DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the mystery and destiny of the human person within a Christian framework. After situating our reflection on the drama of human existence in a contemporary global-cultural milieu – marked as it is by consumerism and technology (e.g., Charles Taylor, Michael J. Buckley, S.J., Walker Percy, William T. Cavanaugh, and the sociologist Benjamin Barber), this course explores key systematic themes (God, humanity, and creation; evil and original sin; nature and grace; death and the afterlife), attentive to historical and contemporary sources. Finally, the course examines several contemporary theological styles related to a variety of issues in theological anthropology (the aesthetic-dramatic emphasis of Hans Urs von Balthasar; the decentered, political subject of Johann Baptist Metz; Réne Girard on mimetic desire and scapegoating; and M. Shawn Copeland on race, gender, and embodiment)

OBJECTIVES:
This course:

1. Enables students to reflect on the human situation in light of globalization and the challenges of consumerism and technology;
2. Introduces students to major themes in the theological discipline of Christian anthropology;
3. Introduces students to Christian anthropology in the Western theological tradition, as exemplified in selected texts from Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, among others;
4. Aids students in exploring the multiple styles of contemporary theologians and their navigation of theological-anthropological questions related to beauty, embodiment and desire, race and gender, violence and genocide.

PROCEDURES:
The course will consist of lectures, discussions, and brief student presentations.

EVALUATION:
Students will be evaluated on their regular reflection papers, engagement in class discussions, and final paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Coursepack of selected writings: Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, Walker Percy, Kathryn Tanner, Michael Buckley, Susan Ross, Lisa Cahill, Charles Taylor, William Cavanaugh, Bernard Lonergan, Karl Rahner, Stephen Duffy, John Paul II, Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI, among others.

Augustine, *Confessions.*

Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible* (translated by D.C. Schindler, Communio/Ignatius, 2004)

M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom: Race, Body and Being* (Fortress Press, 2010)

Rene Girard, *I See Satan Fall Like Lightening* (Orbis, 2001)

Johann Baptist Metz, *A Passion for God: The Mystical-Political Dimension of Christianity* (Paulist, 1998)

Neil Ormerod, *Creation, Grace, Redemption* (Theology in Global Perspective) (Orbis, 2007)