

## RGT3310HF, RGT6310HF Theological Anthropology

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. (Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, Nov 13, 20, 27)  
& Fridays, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Sep 13, 20, 27, Oct 4)

### Course Outline

#### Course Description

The Human person in our contemporary culture has a fluid spectrum of interpretation. Biblical precedents suggest a certain Judaeo-Christian hermeneutic while cultural mores reference alternatives. This course looks to explore the Roman Catholic tradition in identifying the graced human person and contemporary papal guidelines stressing the inherent dignity of the human person. Accordingly, time will be spent considering biblical foundations and questions posed by the text of Genesis and the Noahic covenant. Aquinas and key documents from Vatican II assist our exploration. The question of whether we are discerning the human person or redesigning humans arises. Identity and the sense of self are important issues raised with reference to both the Qumran community and the work of Charles Taylor. Hans Urs von Balthasar's reclaiming of personhood and the ecclesial person bridges into consideration of the way in which contemporary papacies have identified the human person and the concomitant dignity of every human being made in the image of God.

#### Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

##### BD Level

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes

- (a) **In respect of general academic skills:** they will be demonstrated by an ability to appraise the Roman Catholic tradition of theological anthropology by studying and discussing biblical foundations for theological anthropology; the wider RC tradition; key Vatican II documents; contemporary cultural mores and papal teaching. This also relates to the religious heritage component of the TST program as students will be able to identify and differentiate the contribution of Aquinas, Vatican II, Balthasar and the contemporary papacy.
- (b) **In respect of the understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines;** they will analyze the relationship between

theology and spirituality by reviewing the way in which theological anthropology in the Roman Catholic tradition articulates a theology arising from the fundamental tenets of belief in the human person made in the image of God

- (c) **In respect of personal and spiritual formation:** they will be able to articulate a personal understanding of the relationship between theology and spirituality and personal faith. They will also demonstrate their skill in the application of critical tools and methods and be able to reflect critically on their faith and spirituality in a cultural context with a fluid spectrum of interpretation.
- (d) **In respect of ministerial and public leadership:** by the end of this course they will have operating skills to respond constructively to pastoral situations in ministry by applying course materials in reflective engagement with ministry, and they will be able to evaluate specific theological and spiritual needs of persons encountered through ministry.

### Graduate Level

See additional pages

### Course Evaluation

**BD** (i) participation (10%) In addition to participating in the regular activity of the class, including the reading of the required texts, students are expected to be willing to both enter into the discussions and be seriously attentive to listening to other members.

(ii) class presentations and short paper (40%) – there will be one initial short paper, a major class presentation and the preparation of three questions for each class.

(iii) final paper (50%) – a substantial scholarly paper 10-15 pages submitted on time (marks will be deducted for late papers).

**Graduate** (i) participation (10%) in addition to participating in the regular activity of the class, including the reading of the required texts, students are expected to take a leadership in class discussion, especially in the AD seminar

(ii) class presentations both within the larger class and in seminar (40%) in larger class there will be one initial short paper, a major class presentation which could be a lecture and preparation of 3 questions for each class. In the AD seminar we shall be reading a single text. David Schindler *The Generosity of Creation*. (Washington, DC : Humanum Academic Press, Pontifical John Paul II Institut for studies on Marriage and Family, 2018.)

(iii) Final paper (50%) a substantial scholarly paper 20-25 pages submitted on time (marks will be deducted for late papers)

### **Plagiarism**

Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (if small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional and Christian ethics.

**Back-up copies** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Email** – all students must have a utoronto email address which is entered into the system.

### **Further administrative matters**

Papers are to be double-spaced

Font may be either 11 or 12

1" margins all round

Left justified

Papers are to be no longer than the specified length for either BD or Graduate  
Following the Turabian style – see Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018)

**NB** All semester subject marks are subject to revision by the Dean.

### **Papers and Presentations:**

1. Early in the course a one page paper will be required. This is to comprise three key points that you think are major concerns of the section that has been read. These points should be clearly stated with some critical analysis.
2. A major presentation is where you take responsibility for half of the class. It is your opportunity to present what you consider to be significant issues within the material under consideration for that week. It is not a time to synthesize what all should have read. It is a time for critical analysis and creative discussion. Your presentation which does not need to be longer than 20 minutes should lead into a class discussion so having a couple of focus questions ready is important. You may use A/V but you will need to book this early with the front desk.

## Timeline

1. Introduction and Overview
2. Biblical Foundations and Judaeo/Christian Heritage
3. The impact of NT understanding of Christ on Anthropology
4. The Contribution of the Church Fathers and Aquinas
5. Vatican II – Focus on Human Beings and the Human Family
6. Modern Iconoclasm? Feminist Christology and Gender Ideology
7. Discerning the Human Person or Designing Humans
8. Social Identity and the Sense of Self
9. Balthasar and Personhood
10. Contribution of Pope St John Paul II: Theology of the Body, New Evangelization
11. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis: The Intrinsic Dignity of the Human Person
12. - Conclusions and Further Questions

Research paper due

## Detailed Course Outline

### 1. Introduction and Overview

What is Theological Anthropology?

What difference does it Make?

What are key questions involved?

What are the parameters?

Relationship of Science and Religion – Stephen Barr ‘Science and Religion: The Myth of Conflict’ lecture at university of Chicago (Lumen Christi) April 9 2015.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxQJXXX2hHs>

### 2. Biblical Foundations and Judaeo/Christian Heritage

Reading Assignment: Genesis 1 – 2:4; Genesis 2: 5-25; Genesis 3; Genesis 6:5-9:17

Stephen Barr, Catholicism and Evolution, Stephen Barr,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt0JjHd5htc>

Aaron Chalmers: The Importance of the Noahic Covenant to Biblical Theology (handout)

G. Tanzella-Netti, *The Natural Sciences in the Work of Theologians: Is Scientific knowledge Relevant to Theology?* in ‘Cultures et Foi’ 17 (2009) 8-17,

[http://www.tanzella-nitti.it/sites/default/files/media/pdf/10\\_Cultures.pdf](http://www.tanzella-nitti.it/sites/default/files/media/pdf/10_Cultures.pdf)

(For further reading – if you are interested in the Jewish context) Ephraim

Urbach, *The Sages: The World and Wisdom of the Rabbis of the Talmud*, trans. Israel Abrahams, (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1979) 214-254

### 3. The impact of NT understanding of Christ on Anthropology

Specifically the relationship of the Son to the Father and the Son to human persons

The contribution of the Pauline corpus

Reading Assignment: John 14-17; Romans 5-8; 1Cor. 1:18-29; 2: 6-13; Eph. 1:1-14; Phil. 2:5-11; Col 1:15-20.

Benedict XVI General Audience 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

Pope Benedict XVI, *Paul of Tarsus*, (London: Catholic Truth Society, 2009), 51-57 ‘The relationship with the historical Jesus’; 73-87 ‘The Importance of Christology: The Theology of the Cross’; 109-116 ‘The Apostle’s teaching on the relation between Adam and Christ’. You may also access these pieces through the Vatican website as they were given as a series of catecheses between 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics* in ed. Cortez and Jensen, *T & T Clark reader in Theological Anthropology*, (London: Bloomsbury, T&T Clark, 2018) 33-49

#### 4. The Contribution of the Church Fathers and Aquinas

Augustine of Hippo: *De Trinitate* (Sr Gill)

Reading Assignment:

Gregory of Nyssa: *On the Making of Humanity* in ed. Cortez and Jensen, *T & T Clark reader in Theological Anthropology*, (London: Bloomsbury, T&T Clark, 2018) 138-144

Augustine *On Grace and Free Will*, Ibid 207-212

Anselm *On Free Will*, Ibid: 213-225

For further reading if time and interest:

Aquinas : *The Treatise on Charity*; and *Christ's relations to his Father and to us* both in ed. Timothy McDermott, *Summa Theologiae: A Concise Translation*, (Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press, 1989) 349-371 and 504-510 respectively. You may use other versions of the *Summa*.

#### 5. Vatican II – Focus on Human Beings and the Human Family

Reading Assignment:

*Dei Verbum* and *Gaudium et Spes* from whatever copy of the Vatican II documents you want to use.

Ed. Antonio López, *Enlightening the Mystery of Man: Gaudium et spes Fifty Years Later*, (Washington DC: Humanum Academic Press, CUA, 2018) 15-101 comprises 3 articles: David L. Schindler, 'Disenchantment' and the End of Modern Civilization: The Symbolical, the Neutral, and the Diabolical; Antonio López, *Man's Highest Calling: The Theological Anthropology of Gaudium et Spes*; and Adrian J. Walker: *Sincerum sui ipsius donum: The Trinitarian Ground of Gaudium et Spes's Anthropology*.

#### 6. Modern Iconoclasm? Feminist Christology and Gender Ideology

Reading Assignment:

Vatican Document 'Male and Female He Created Them', Vatican website

Sarah Coakley: 'Creaturehood Before God' chapter 3 in *Powers and Submissions: Spirituality, Philosophy and Gender*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 55-68

#### 7. Discerning the Human Person in contradistinction to redesigning humans

Reading Assignment:

John Zizioulas, *Human Capacity and Human Incapacity: A Theological Exploration of Personhood* in T&T Clark reader in *Theological Anthropology* 312-329

Robert Spaemann, *Persons: The Difference between 'Someone' and 'Something'* Ibid. 342-349.

David S. Crawford, 'Freedom, Biologism, and the Body as Visible Order', in ed. Healy and Schindler, *Being Holy in the World: Theology and Culture in the thought of David L. Schindler*, (Grand Rapids Michigan: Eerdmans, 2011) 232-251

Paul Twomey, Antonio Spadaro SJ, 'AI and Social Justice: A Challenge to the Church', *La Civiltà Cattolica*, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020,

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/artificial-intelligence-and-social-justice/>

TED talk Gregory Stock at

[https://www.ted.com/talks/gregory\\_stock\\_to\\_upgrade\\_is\\_human?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/gregory_stock_to_upgrade_is_human?language=en)

Paul Twomey, Antonio Spadaro SJ, 'AI and Social Justice: A Challenge to the Church', *La Civiltà Cattolica*, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020,

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/artificialintelligence-and-social-justice/>

## 8. Social Identity and the Sense of Self

Reading Assignment :

Jutta Jokiranta: *Social Identity in the Qumran Movement: The Case of the Penal Code*

Charles Taylor : *Modern Social Imaginaries*, *Public Culture* Vol 14, Number 1, Winter 2002 91-124.

Fergus Kerr OP, 'Charles Taylor's Moral Ontology of the Self' in Fergus Kerr, *Immortal Longings; Versions of Transcending Humanity*, (London: SPCK, 1997) 136-158.

## 9 Balthasar and Personhood

Reading Assignment: Hans Urs von Balthasar 'On the Concept of Person'

*Communio: International Catholic Review* 13 (Spring 1986) 18-26

Importance of mission as anthropological category (me - & Todd W 137-144)

Who is Man? In *Explorations IV*:15-28; *Movement towards God in Explorations III*: 15-55; *Theo-Drama III* 13-22, 263-282

## 10. Contribution of St John Paul II: Theology of the Body and New Evangelization

Reading Assignment: *Man and Woman He created Them*, 'The Meaning of Original Solitude' p146-155; 'The Meaning of Original Unity' p156-167; 'The Meaning of Original Nakedness' 169-177.

G. Tanzella-Netti 'Some reflections on the Influence and Role of Scientific Thought in the Context of the New Evangelization', in G. Gionti, J-B. Kiwaya-

Eluo (edd) 'The Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Springer International, 2018 235-244. <http://www.tanzellanitti.it/sites/default/files/media/pdf/18-VaticanObs.pdf>

### **11. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis: The Intrinsic Dignity of the Human Person**

Reading Assignment: *Deus Caritas Est, Spe Salvi, Caritas in Veritate, Lumen Fidei, Evangelii Gaudium, Laudato Si, Gaudete et Exsultate*

### **12. Conclusions and Further Questions**

Reading Assignment: Review the term's work.

**Research paper due on or before**