

# God and the Human Person: Theological Anthropology

**Spring Semester, 2022**

**10:525 - 1**

**Room: Newman 215**

**Tue., Fr. 8:30-9:45 AM**

**Professor Keith Lemna**

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Office Hours by appointment

## **Course Description:**

This course investigates Christian beliefs regarding the origin, nature, and destiny of humans and of the universe in which they live. It will do so based on the Catholic theological tradition and in dialogue with modern science. The central theme of the course is deification: “humans becoming God in Christ.” This theme will be explored in its vastest cosmological proportions, stressing the inner bond between humanity and all of creation in its evolutionary meaning. Various topics will be explored around this theme: the creation of the cosmos and humanity; human nature as male and female in the image of God; the experience of freedom; the origins of sin and evil; the phenomena of suffering and death; and the hope for life in the world to come. We explore the mystery of God’s grace communicated to us in our journey from creation through fallenness, redemption, and eschatological fulfillment.

## **Course Texts:**

- J. Patout Burns, ed. *Theological Anthropology* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1981)
- Adam G. Cooper, *Naturally Human, Supernaturally God* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 2014)
- Fr. David Meconi, S.J., and Carl E. Olson, ed., *Called to be the Children of God: The Catholic Theology of Human Deification* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2016)
- Joseph Ratzinger, *Eschatology: Death and Eternal Life* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1988)
- Cardinal Marc Ouellet, *Divine Likeness: Toward a Trinitarian Anthropology of the Family*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006)
- Numerous articles and book chapters listed in the course schedule
- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, available at:  
[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p1s2c1p7.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s2c1p7.htm)

## Course Objectives:

- To understand the basic interpretive points of biblical anthropology concerning creation and modern science
- To know the basic points for theological anthropology in patristic, scholastic, and modern eras, with the opening of scientific challenges in the latter, particularly regarding evolution and cosmogenesis
- To understand basic points of the Darwinian understanding of evolution and the theological issues it raises
- To understand what is meant when speaking of the “nuptial meaning” of the human body and creation
- To know the basic elements of eschatology: the nature and meaning of personhood, freedom, the immortality of the soul, suffering and death, the last things

## Course Outcomes

- To successfully complete this course, you must:
  - Demonstrate basic knowledge of points in theological anthropology through objective tests
  - Locate at least 6 scholarly sources exploring the final paper
  - Organize and write an 8-10 page research paper on deification and cosmogenesis
  - Write essay questions detailing the Catholic Church’s understanding of the meaning of human personhood

## Course Assignments:

There are two in-class tests, one take home test, and a final research paper. The tests are each worth 20% of your final grade. The final paper will be worth 30 % of the final course grade. Details on the final paper will be given later in the semester.

There will be a participation grade worth 10% of the final course grade. There may be occasional quizzes. If so, these will be factored into the participation grade.

## Grading Scale:

100-94 A

93-90 A-

89-87 B+

86-84 B

83-80 B-

79-77 C+

76-74 C

73-70 C-  
Etc.

**Schedule:** (I reserve the right to give you handouts additional to the ones that I have listed here)

Jan. 26: Course Introduction: Divinization and Cosmogogenesis [Handout: John Haught, *The New Cosmic Story* (Yale University Press, 2017, pp. 1-6, 49-77); Ian Barbour, "Evolution and Continuing Creation," in *Religion and Science: Historical and Contemporary Issues* (Harper Collins, 1997), pp. 221-252]

### **I. Creation and Deification**

Feb. 1: Humanity in a Vast Cosmos [Handout: Stephen M. Barr, "Man's Place in the Cosmos," in *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith* (Notre Dame Press, 2003), pp. 115-66]

Feb. 4: Humanity in Evolution [CCC, 385-421; Handout: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Christianity and Evolution*, trans. René Hague (New York: Harcourt, 1974, pp. 173-211)]

Feb. 8: Original Sin, the Fall, and Evolution [Handout: Louis Bouyer, *Cosmos: The World and the Glory of God* (Petersham, MA: Saint Bede's Publications), pp. 194-225; Handout: Kenneth Kemp, "Problems of Conceiving Human Origins," in *Church Life Journal*, August 10, 2020, at: <https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/problems-of-conceiving-human-origins/>]

Feb. 11: The Church Fathers [Saint Irenaeus, reading: Burns, 23-28; Meconi and Olsen, 1-39]

Feb. 15: The Church Fathers [Saint Gregory of Nyssa, reading: Burns, 29-37; Handout: Saint Maximus the Confessor, "Difficulty 41"; Meconi and Olson, 40-58]

Feb 18: No Class [AAAS Conference]

Feb. 22: Personhood and the first Ecumenical Councils [Handout: Joseph Ratzinger, "Concerning the Notion of Person in Theology," *Communio* 17 (Fall, 1990): 439-54]

Feb. 25: The Church Fathers [Saint Augustine, reading: Burns, 39-55, Meconi and Olson, 82-100]

Feb. 28: The Church Fathers [Saint Augustine, reading: Burns, 61-108]

March 1: **Midterm Exam**

## II. The Purpose of Human Body and Soul

Mar. 4: Body and Soul [Handout: Thomas on Body and Soul, ST I, 75; Handout, Denys Turner, *Thomas Aquinas: A Portrait*, 47-69]

March 8: Body and Soul in Light of Contemporary Neuroscience [ST I, 76; Handout: Gerard M. Verschuuren, "Aquinas and Neuroscience," in *Aquinas and Modern Science* (Kettering, OH: Angelico Press, 2016), pp. 179-202]

Mar. 11: Nature and Grace: Neo-Scholasticism [Cooper, *Naturally Human, Supernaturally God*, pp. 41-96]

Mar. 15: Nature and Grace: Karl Rahner [Cooper, *Naturally Human, Supernaturally God*, pp. 97-114, pp. 169-192]

Mar. 18: Nature and Grace: Henri de Lubac [Cooper, *Naturally Human, Supernaturally God*, pp. 151-168, pp. 193-216]

March 22: Nature and Grace: The Cosmic Christ and Evolution [Cooper, *Naturally Human, Supernaturally God*, pp. 115-130, pp. 169-192]

March 25: Trinitarian Image of Family [Ouellet, 3-37] **[Take home exam handed out]**

## III. Eschatology

March 29: Eschatology I [Ratzinger, 1-15]

April 1: Eschatology II [Ratzinger, 19-66] **[Take home exam due]**

April 5: Eschatology III [Ratzinger, 69-103]

April 8: Eschatology IV [Ratzinger, 104-140]

April 19: Eschatology V [Ratzinger, 140-161]

April 22: Eschatology VI [Ratzinger, 165-190]

April 26: Eschatology VII [Ratzinger, 191-214]

April 29: Eschatology VIII [Ratzinger, 215-238, Meconi and Olson, 274-283] **[Final Course Paper Due]**

May 3: Eschatology IX, [Ratzinger, 233-238]

May 6: The New Jerusalem [Meconi and Olson, 274-283]

May 10: **Final Exam [Not Cumulative]**