“Now, with God’s help, I shall become myself.”
(Søren Kierkegaard)
THEO 201/WSGS 202/AFST 202: Women & Christianity
TR 12:15PM-1:30PM
Elisabeth T. Vasko, Ph.D.
The goal of this course is to expand our worldview by considering the lives of women in diverse religious communities and to think constructively and creatively about visions and strategies that promote the flourishing of women and all persons. Through this requirement, students are assisted in learning how to be informed global citizens and challenged to take responsibility for promoting human dignity. Emphasis will be placed on multicultural perspectives in light of issues and themes that engage feminist theologians, womanist theologians, and scholars from the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians. Some of the topics that will be discussed include: sexual violence, racism, poverty and health, ways of imagining the divine and participating in religious rituals, interpretive and communal authority, and power structures.

Meets Social Justice Theme Area Requirement

THEO 206: Christian Mysticism
TR 1:40PM-2:55PM
Kevin Mongrain, Ph.D.
The course centers on the mystical theology of Christian religion. With an eye on discerning the internal logic of Christianity as a whole (not just its doctrines but it rituals and spiritual disciplines too), the course begins with a reflection on a paradigm of Christian theology that emphasizes the “iconic” nature of God-talk; this paradigm views theological words and ideas as the “letters” that seek to express the spiritual reality of God’s ineffable mystery without reducing it to a verbal or conceptual idol. This is the essence of written testimonies to mystical experience in the Christian tradition. Overall, the focus of the course is on the symbiosis of Christian mysticism and a Christological-Trinitarian doctrine of God. The course will include writings by authors such as Origen, Athanasius, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, John Cassian, Maximus the Confessor, Richard of St. Victor, Anselm, Bernard of Clairvaux, Bonaventure, Meister Eckhart, John Ruusbroec, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Francis de Sales.

THEO 212/JWST 212: Sacred Scriptures of Ancient Israel
TR 12:15PM-1:30PM
Bogdan Bucur, Ph.D.
This course provides an introduction to some of the most important texts, themes, and persons of the Hebrew Bible, with an eye to the role they have played in constructing and reinforcing individual and communal identity—specifically the identity of the people of Israel. We will alternate between scholarly readings of the texts, reflecting the broad consensus (or, in some case, the main positions) of specialists in the area, and traditional readings stemming from various ancient interpreters weaving exegesis, ritual, and ethics into the sacred canopy—the symbolic universe—of Judaism and Christianity.

THEO 228/CLSX 228: Birth of the Bible
TR 3:05PM-4:20PM
James Platt, Ph.D.
Among the common questions heard in Biblical circles are: How did we get the Bible? How can we be sure that the books it contains are the books that are supposed to be there? What about all those other books—books like the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene—what are we to make out of them? This course will consider these questions and others as we seek to explain how the Bible came to be a book, and how the contents included were ultimately settled upon. This course will also include reflections on the origins of Christianity and incorporate readings from many of the so-called “other books.”

THEO 232: Faith & Atheism
MWF 10:00AM-10:50AM; MWF 1:00PM-1:50PM
Marie Baird, Ph.D.
An examination of the claims which atheists make against faith and the response made by believers to these arguments.

Meets Faith and Reason Theme Area Requirement

THEO 248C: Religion & Ecology
MWF 11:00AM-11:50AM
Daniel Scheid, Ph.D.
A study of the relation of the human to the rest of the earth community and the role religion has played in defining it. (Find alternative course description)

Meets Faith and Reason Theme Area Requirement

THEO 264/AFST 264: Religion & Global Conflict
TR 9:25AM-10:40AM; TR 10:50AM-12:05PM
Anna Scheid, Ph.D.
This course offers a foundation in religious ethics related to conflict and its resolution. It explores the ways that religion can be a motivating force for both violence and peacebuilding. The course will examine the teachings of Christianity and Islam on the moral questions surrounding warfare, and it addresses major religions as well as indigenous traditional religious practices on post-conflict reconciliation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The class will look at present and past conflicts that involve Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, the Philippines, and India, as well as the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

Meets Social Justice, Faith and Reason Theme Area Requirement
THEO 281/AFST 281: African Religions  
**MWF  1:00PM-1:50PM**  
*Elochukwu Uzukwu, Ph.D.*  
It explores indigenous, traditional and contemporary African religious expressions and belief systems with special attention to the particular location in which the course is situated. Through assigned readings and engagement with select African religious rituals and practices, this course seeks to give greater insight and understanding into the reasoning, practices and expressions of African religions.

THEO 282: Christian Faith & Reason  
**TR  1:40PM-2:55PM**  
*George Worgul, Ph.D.*  
The divine is sensed and responded to in various geographical, cultural, and chronological contexts. The rationale behind this was to investigate the nature of religious experience which included looking at the nature of religious faith and its expressions. The nature of religious faith and its expressions however, seem to differ as a result of various contexts. This can be attributed to the different ways of reasoning that is used by different contexts. At the heart of understanding religious experience therefore is an understanding of the reasoning used to express religious faith. In other words, the relationship between religious faith and reason must be explored. Pope John Paul II has explored this question in his encyclical Fides et Ratio his exposition as well as critical reactions to it will be explored.

THEO 283/JWST 283: Judaism, Christianity, & Islam  
**TR  10:50AM-12:05PM**  
*Marinus Iwuchukwu, Ph.D.*  
A study of the beliefs and practices of these three monotheistic religions: the distinct character of each, the varieties within each religion, and the continuities and the differences among all three.  
**Meets Global Diversity Theme Area Requirement**

THEO 301: Marriage  
**TR  9:25AM-10:40AM**  
*George Worgul, Ph.D.*  
We will look at interpersonal relationships and marriage from a sociological, cultural and theological perspective. Hooking up, cohabitation, divorced, sexual behavior, gay marriage etc. will be discussed.