Theological Explorations (THEO 1) Course Proposal

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**Theological Explorations (THEO I)**

This is the first of two courses focused on theology. Students think critically about sources and themes of the Christian tradition and begin to explore religious engagement with society. This class also includes a grounding in Benedictine Hallmarks such that students are prepared to meet their Raven requirement. The first theology class helps prepare students for the requirement but does not itself carry a Raven designation. Because of this, Theological Explorations is a pre- or co-requisite for the Raven Designation.

**Learning Outcomes**

Analyzing Texts 1

Students read or interpret a variety of texts for comprehension, adjusting strategies based on the genre, nature of the text and context of the assignment.

Common Good 1

Students explain the moral dimensions of situations, perspectives, and actions in their lives and recognize that there are competing, yet legitimate, conceptions of what defines the common good.

Religious Engagement 1

Students identify and explain one or more forms of religious engagement with the world.

Theological Reasoning 1

Students identify elements of Christian theological sources, which may include scripture, practices, texts, or art forms. Students explain a theological teaching, doctrine, or theme.

As you are filling out this proposal, please review the THEO 1 teaching guidelines and rubrics available on the Integrations Curriculum website.

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**General Curriculum Information**

In the Integrations Curriculum a course can be designated as either:

1. A Way of Thinking, OR
2. CSD: Identity (CI) or CSD: Systems (CS), OR
3. Learning Foundations, Learning Explorations, or Learning Integrations, OR
4. Theological Explorations (THEO 1) or Theological Integrations (THEO 2).

Thematic Encounters or Thematic Focus\* designations must be attached to a course with a Way of Thinking designation.

Any course carrying one of the above designations may also have one engagement^, except for Theological Explorations (THEO 1), CSD: Identity, Learning Foundations, Learning Explorations, and Learning Integrations, which cannot carry engagements:

1. Artistic engagement (ARTE)
2. Experiential engagement (EXP)
3. Global engagement (GLO)

* Any course may satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning skill requirement
* Any course (except courses that fulfill Theological Explorations, Theological Integrations, Learning Foundations, or any course with a THEO course number) may also satisfy the Benedictine Raven.

\*Thematic Focus courses will be renumbered based on theme and course level to be consistent across the curriculum. They will still carry the Department prefix.

The renumbering will be as follows:

277/377 - Justice Theme  
278/378 - Movement Theme  
279/379 - Truth Theme

Each course under the Theme will have a different letter, for example:

HIST 276A  
HIST 276B, etc.

^Semester-length study abroad courses may carry both GLO and EXP.

Instructor

Course number:

Course title (as listed in the official catalog). If a topics course, please list the specific title this request applies to:

Abbreviated course title for the class schedule (30 characters or less including parenthesis & designation)

MOST RECENT Official course description from the Academic Catalog. If this is a topics course, please list description for this specific topic:

Please note:

A.      The committee understands that some courses may still be in development. Prompts that ask for examples of assignments seek information about the spirit of what students will do and instructors are not bound to the specific details (e.g. writing prompts) provided.

B.      The committee includes faculty from a variety of disciplines. Please remember to briefly explain disciplinary terms, contexts, and/or texts to allow all the members of the committee to best understand how your responses address the question.

C.      As you are answering these questions, please keep in mind that students will need to produce work to assess their fulfillment of the related learning outcomes if applicable.

1. Please provide an introductory overview of your course, including course topics, readings, etc. Please also discuss how the course content will introduce students to the discipline of Christian theology.

2. How will this course introduce Benedictine Hallmarks, such that students are prepared to meet their Raven requirement?

Please note: The same activity or assignment may serve to demonstrate how students will meet more than one learning objective or the component parts of a learning objective.

**Analyze Texts I**

3.a. How will students learn to read and interpret a text or texts based on genre, the nature of the text, and context of the assignment?

3.b. Describe an activity(ies) or assignment(s) during which students will demonstrate their ability to read and/or interpret a variety of texts.

**Common Good**

4.a. How will students learn about the moral dimensions of situations, perspectives, and actions in their own lives and recognize that there are competing, yet legitimate, conceptions of what defines the common good?

4.b. Describe an activity(ies) or assignment(s) in which students explain the moral dimensions of situations, perspectives, and actions in their lives and demonstrate a recognition of competing, yet legitimate, conceptions of what defines the common good.

**Religious Engagement I**

5.a. How will students learn to identify and explain forms of religious engagement with the world?

5.b. Describe an activity(ies) or assignment(s) in which students demonstrate their ability to identify and explain one or more forms of religious engagement with the world.

**Theological Reasoning I**

6.a. How will students learn to identify elements of Christian theological sources (those that explain a theological teaching, doctrine, or theme)? These may include scripture, practices, texts, or art forms. Please include potential examples of these sources in your answer.

6.b. How will students learn to explain a theological teaching, doctrine, or theme. In your answer, please describe an activity(ies) or assigment(s) you might use in this course wherein students explain a theological teaching, doctrine, or theme.

(Optional) Additional information (is there anything else that you would like the GECC to know about this course or application?):

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