

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
School of Theology and Ministry
STMM 500: Christian Anthropology
Summer 2010

Instructor: Prof. J. Rodriguez
Class Meetings: July 15 (6-9pm); July 16, 17, 23, 24 (9-4)
Classroom: Hunt 110

Office Hours: by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the mystery of the person from a Christian perspective. Specifically, it will flesh out the idea of the person as relational. Major themes include origin and destiny; sin and grace; embodiment; freedom and responsibility; and the individual in society. Of particular interest is the examination of these concepts in light of experiences from the margins.

COURSE GOALS

- To develop the ability to reflect theologically on the basic themes of the Christian faith in the areas of theological anthropology, grace, sin, and the Holy Spirit.
- To reflect theologically on one's own experience of human life.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role and dynamics of human "meaning-making" in framing worldviews, and in impacting individual and collective human values formation, ethical and other forms of decision-making, and leadership ideals, goals, and methodologies
- Demonstrate a *reflective* capacity for analyzing and articulating the student's personal spirituality and "meaning-making" influences and structure, and its impact on the student's leadership ideals, goals, and methodologies
- Demonstrate an ability to think critically about the impact and role of religious organizations, spiritual movements, and spiritually-inspired insights and worldviews in public discourse
- Demonstrate an ability to *integrate* course material with their personal meaning structure and spirituality, and their ideals and goals for leadership

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible (any modern translation)
Diaz, Miguel, *On Being Human*
O'Hara Graff, Ann (ed). *In the Embrace of God*. Orbis, 1995
O'Donovan, Leo (ed.) *A World of Grace*
Servan-Schreiber, *Healing Without Freud or Prozac*
Course Reader from SUpercipy

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Bartel, Michelle J. *What It Means to Be Human*. Geneva Press, 2001
Fernandez, Eleazar. *Reimagining the Human*. Chalice Press, 2004

Haight, Roger. *The Experience and Language of Grace*
 Lewis, C.S. *Great Divorce*. Harper Collins, 2001
 Tillich, Paul, *Systematic Theology*, Volumes 1 and 2, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951, 1957
 Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith*. Crossroads, 1990

OVER ARCHING COURSE QUESTIONS

- What is the author's assertion(s) in the readings?
- How does s/he substantiate this claim?
- What are the implications of this claim for understanding the human person? For understanding personal experience? For the way we approach our pastoral work?
- What claims are particularly problematic? What claims are especially insightful?

Students are to take note of their responses to these questions as they read the required texts.

COURSE OUTLINE

	Date	Topic	Readings
Session 1	Thursday July 15 6-9 pm	Introduction to theology and theological Anthropology	O'Donovan, ch. 1-4
Session 2	Friday July 16 9-12 noon	Humanity before God	O'Donovan, ch. 5-9
Session 3	Friday July 16 1-4	Earliest tradition of Jesus Kingdom of God	Article to be distributed
Session 4	Saturday July 17 9-12 noon	Principles of Mercy	Sobrinio
Session 5	Saturday July 17 1-4	Voices from the Margins Naming One's Experience	O'Hara Graff, Intro-ch.5 Diaz, Intro-ch. 2
Session 6	Friday July 23 9-12 noon	Theology of Grace, Person, and Community	Diaz, ch. 4 O'Hara Graff, ch. 6-8
Session 7	Friday July 23 1-4	Sin: Rupture of Trust "When Being Human Becomes Truly Earthly"	O'Hara Graff, ch. 9-10
Session 8	Saturday July 24 9-12 noon	Healing Without Freud or Prozac	Entire book by Servan-Schreiber
Session 9	Saturday July 1-4	Hope for Humanity Rethinking the Image of God	O'Donovan, ch. 10-12 O'Hara Graff, ch. 11-12

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to come to class with a summary paragraph and basic outline of the readings assigned for the day. Students are to take note of questions and new concepts encountered in the readings. Questions should go beyond clarifications of the intent of the authors to include challenges to their claims, particularly in light of the student's life experiences. Students should be prepared to hand these in upon the professor's request. **(10 pts)**

Class Participation: Student participation is a critical element for the success of each individual student and the class as a whole. Participation includes regular class attendance, preparation of assigned readings, prepared responses to assigned questions, and active engagement in class discussions and group work. **(20 pts)**

2-page Paper: Reflect on your initial thoughts to the question “What does it mean to be human?” Please email essay to professor by **7/17**, and bring a hardcopy to first day of class. **(10 pts)**

Discussion Facilitation: During specific meetings, students will be required to come prepared to speak as “experts” about a particular section of the assigned text. The assigned student is to come prepared with a brief summary of the assigned texts and 2-3 thoughtful questions about the text and/or its implications for ministry to illicit discussion by the class. **(15 pts)**

4-page Paper I: Karl Rahner is among the most challenging theologians to read. In this first paper, you are to focus on a specific passage (statement, paragraph, section) taken from the assigned readings in O’Donovan regarding Rahner’s theology that you deem a critical element of his understanding of the structure of human existence. Explain this element of his thought and why you deem it critical to understanding the human person. **(due 7/23) (15 pts)**

5-page Paper II: The second sets of readings for the course challenge the students to become aware of the importance of social location for understanding the meaning of human existence. In particular, O’Hara Graff and Diaz both argue that the failure to see the impact of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, and the human being’s relationship to the non-human world can lead to a vision of the human person that excludes the experiences of those on the margins. In this paper, describe a theological concept whose meaning has expanded for you through the consideration of voices from the margins. Name the new insights gained about this concept and implications these present for your self-understanding and your understanding of the Christian vision of the human person. Provide examples of how these new insights might affect your approach to your ministry. **(due 7/30) (30 %)**

GRADING SYSTEM

A	3.89-4.00	93 – 100	Superior Performance
A-	3.65-3.88	90 – 92.99	
B+	3.25-3.64	87 – 89.99	
B	2.95-3.24	83 – 86.99	Good Performance
B-	2.65-2.94	80 – 82.99	
C+	2.25-2.64	77 – 79.99	
C	1.95-2.24	73 – 76.99	Adequate Performance
C-	1.65-1.94	70 – 72.99	
D+	1.25-1.64	67 – 69.99	
D	0.95-1.24	63 – 66.99	Poor Performance
D-	0.65-0.94	60 – 62.99	
F	<0.64	< 60	Failing

REGARDING STYLE

- Papers must be typed, double-spaced.
- Use 1-inch margins all round. Use 10 or 12 pt. type.
- Do not use right-hand justification as it leads to oddly spaced words.
- Follow one of the styles in Handbook for Writers by Troyka and Hesse, 8th or 9th edition.
- **Staple the paper in the top left-hand corner.** Do not use plastic covers or binders.
- Keep a copy other than the one you submit.