



**Module II: Theological Explorations
Proposal to Create a New Core Course**

Instructions: Use this form to propose a **Theological Explorations University Core course**. Forms for each of the other Core courses can be found on the Core website. Please provide the information requested in each section and insert a provisional syllabus that includes, at minimum, the following information: the learning outcomes, possible texts or types of texts that will be used, types of assignments and their nature/size/length, and a thematic outline describing how the course progresses through the quarter. Submit your proposal materials through the normal process for course review in your department and college/school, using the deadlines set by your college/school curriculum committees. In general, each faculty member who plans on teaching a customized version of a Core class should submit a separate proposal. Identical courses that will be taught by multiple faculty members may be included on a single proposal, but in those cases department chairs should address the issue of faculty participation in Section V.

Section I: General Information

Faculty:	SU email:
College/School:	Department:
Course Title:	
Special facilities needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory <input type="checkbox"/> Studio <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Lab <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Will this course require any new library resources or support from library staff? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Will this course involve: <input type="checkbox"/> Study abroad <input type="checkbox"/> Immersion/Fieldwork <input type="checkbox"/> Service learning	
Please explain any special needs for this course (including Library resources) in Section VI of this form.	

Section II: Approvals All Core courses must be approved by 1) the chair of the faculty member’s home department, 2) the dean and/or chair of the faculty member’s college curriculum committee, 3) the Core Curriculum Committee, and 4) the Director of the University Core. Approvals should proceed in the order of signatures on this form.

1. **Department Chair:** (see Section V)

2. **Chair, College/School Curriculum Committee:**

3. **Dean:**

4. **Chair, Core Curriculum Committee:**

5. **Director, University Core Curriculum:**

The questions on this proposal form reflect the specific requirements for this course as explained on the course guidelines document. Please refer to that document for the details (a copy is attached at the end of this form for your convenience).

Section III: Course Information Please provide the following general information about the proposed course. Make reference to the material in the syllabus as appropriate, but be sure to directly address all of the questions. This information will be used by the departmental and college/school curriculum committees, as well as the Core Curriculum Committee.

1. Course focus: Briefly indicate the issue, person, question, or text that has shaped or informed the Christian tradition, around which the course will be focused.

Section IV: Core Requirements

Required Learning Objectives: Each Core course is responsible for helping students achieve the learning objectives assigned to that Core category. Each of the assigned learning objectives for this course is listed below. Please explain how the course is designed to achieve each of these objectives. Your explanations need not be long, but should be complete enough so that the Core Curriculum Committee can understand how well the objectives are addressed in the course. Please note that the course syllabus, required for this proposal, should also address these learning objectives.

1. This course helps students understand key theological foundations of the Christian, Catholic, and Jesuit traditions.

2. Students in this course examine their own beliefs and learn to effectively engage with the beliefs of others.

3. This course introduces students to the academic study of Theology, helping them understand key issues, questions, and approaches of the discipline.

4. This course assists students in becoming effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.

5. The study of Theology inevitably encounters moral issues, helping students learn to identify and think carefully about issues of value and justice.

Essential Pedagogy: Please provide brief explanations of how this course incorporates the essential pedagogy identified in the Core course guidelines document (listed below).

1. Writing assignments should be included in all sections of this course, with instructor feedback on content, writing mechanics, and style.

2. At least one assignment should ask students to engage in reflection on their own spiritual life, beliefs, and/or values.

Common Learning Objectives: All Core courses share a common responsibility for helping students achieve the objectives listed below (see *Common Learning Objectives in the Core* for more information). However, it is understood that different courses will emphasize some objectives more than others. Please identify the common learning objectives emphasized in your course by checking the boxes below.

- 1. Where relevant, courses should help students understand how the field and subject matter being studied are related to or reflect the Jesuit intellectual tradition. In particular, Core courses should help students reflect on questions of meaning, spirituality, ethics, values, and justice.
- 2. Students should develop analytic thinking and reasoning skills in all Core courses, although the forms those skills take vary across disciplines.
- 3. Students should come to recognize and appreciate complexity and ambiguity, as well as the limitations of knowledge and imperfections in understanding of the subjects being studied.
- 4. Study in a variety of disciplines will assist students in understanding and valuing the wide range of academic insights and perspectives.
- 5. All courses should help students develop as writers of clear, effective, and elegant prose, including the ability to adapt their writing to different situations and content.
- 6. Class discussions, in all their forms, help students learn to engage in effective and responsible discussion and debate.
- 7. All faculty are encouraged to help students understand how their studies prepare them to meaningfully engage important issues and become responsible global citizens.

Insert any necessary information here. Otherwise, leave blank.

Section V: Instructor Information

1. Submitting Faculty: Qualified individuals from any department are welcome to submit Core course proposals in all categories. Please briefly describe the academic background and experience that prepares you to teach this course. Note: In most cases, this should be very simple (e.g. a directly relevant terminal degree, teaching experience in similar courses, etc.), but if additional information regarding your academic preparation for this course is necessary, please include that here.

2. Additional Faculty: If your department's plans include faculty members other than the individual listed on this form being scheduled to teach this specific course, please list their names here with very brief explanations of their relevant preparation. Any faculty member teaching this course should have qualifications directly comparable to those of the proposing faculty member. If the versions of the course they will be teaching are expected to vary in any significant way (i.e. not using the same syllabus), each faculty member should submit a separate proposal. As new faculty members join the university and are assigned to this course, their faculty information should be submitted to the Core as soon as possible.

Section VI: Other Information

- 1. Short title:** To be used in published information and to identify your course in SUOnline. 30 characters maximum.

- 2. Short description:** To be published in lists of available Core courses and included in the course description on SUOnline to assist students in selecting courses. Approx. 50-75 words.

- 3. Special Course Requirements:** If you checked any of the boxes on page 1 regarding library resources, facility requirements, or other special elements in the course, or if there are other unique features that should be considered in planning and supporting this course (e.g. team teaching, special scheduling needs, etc.), please explain.

- 4. Other Information:** Please provide any additional information you feel necessary or helpful for the review of this course.

Thank you for submitting a proposal for this Core course! Please remember that review of this proposal is a multi-step process, proceeding through department, college/school, and Core stages. The University Core will notify both the faculty members and their departments when courses are approved by the Core Curriculum Committee.

Syllabus: A syllabus is a required part of this proposal form. There is space at the end of the form (page 10) for you to paste the syllabus into this document.

Submissions: Please submit this form through your college or school's normal submission process for new course proposals. If you are submitting this form electronically, please save it with a new name that includes the name of the course category as well as your last name (e.g. "Acad Writing - Jones").

The Core guidelines document for this course is included here for your reference. Some questions in this form refer to specific requirements listed in this document.

**UCOR 2100: Theological Explorations:
Course Description and Guidelines**

Description: These courses each include four key elements: An introduction to theology as an academic discipline; an examination of some of the theological beliefs that have shaped Christian understandings of the divine, especially in the Catholic Jesuit theological tradition, and a consideration of their implications for life today; an exploration of a key issue, person, or text that has had a formative role in shaping this theological tradition; and an opportunity for students to reflect on their own spiritual life and become more thoughtful and articulate in expressing their own spiritual values. Prerequisites: Module I Writing, Humanities seminar.

Notes or Guidelines:

1. Note that the description calls for four elements to be addressed in all sections of this course. Courses need not be formally organized around these elements, but the presence of each element should be evident the course design and faculty proposal.
 - 1) An introduction to the academic discipline of Theology
 - 2) A study of some key elements of the Christian theological tradition, including but not limited to the study of Catholic theology and the Jesuit theological tradition
 - 3) A focused exploration of an important issue, person, question, or text that has shaped or informed the Christian tradition
 - 4) An opportunity for students to examine, reflect, and articulate their own spiritual perspectives (see note 2 below)
2. This course is intended to be a rigorous, academic experience. Students in this course will come from many faith traditions, but all students who attend Seattle University should understand basic principles of the Catholic Jesuit tradition. While this course should encourage students to reflect thoughtfully on their own spirituality, students seeking further personal growth in any faith tradition should contact appropriate extra-curricular resources (e.g. Campus Ministry).

Essential Pedagogy:

1. Writing assignments should be included in all sections of this course, with instructor feedback on content, writing mechanics, and style.
2. At least one assignment should ask students to engage in reflection on their own spiritual life, beliefs, and/or values.

Learning Objectives: Helping students meet the Core Learning Objectives is a collaborative effort.

1. All Core courses share a common responsibility for helping students achieve some objectives, and faculty should review the common objectives document (see *Common Learning Objectives in the Core*) and consider how those objectives can be reinforced and developed in this specific course.
2. In addition, each course has specific objectives for which it has special responsibilities. The table on the back of this page describes the ways in which this course has primary responsibility for one or more of the Core Learning Objectives. These objectives must be explicitly addressed in all sections of this course.

Theological Explorations: Learning Objectives	
Core Learning Objectives	How objectives should be addressed within this course (bullets are the relevant language from the Core Learning Objectives)
<p>Jesuit, Catholic Intellectual Traditions: Through knowledge of Jesuit, Catholic intellectual traditions and understanding of diverse religious traditions, students will reflect on questions of meaning, spirituality, ethics, values, and justice.</p>	<p>1. This course helps students understand key theological foundations of the Christian, Catholic, and Jesuit traditions. Students will study central themes of Christianity, including but not limited to Catholic theology. When relevant, courses should help students identify connections between the material being studied and the Catholic, Jesuit intellectual and spiritual traditions. Together with the Religion in a Global Context course, this course helps students understand Jesuit, Catholic perspectives within the context of world religions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand academic traditions (theological, philosophical, etc.) on which Jesuit education is based • Understand Catholic theology • Understand Jesuit, Catholic perspectives within the context of world religions <p>2. Students in this course examine their own beliefs and learn to effectively engage with the beliefs of others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to articulate one’s own spiritual/religious perspective • Ability to appreciate & reflect on religious & spiritual perspectives other than one’s own
<p>Disciplinary Knowledge and Integrative Learning: By studying humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, and fine arts, students will learn how different disciplines pursue knowledge. They will learn disciplinary ways of posing questions, gathering and analyzing evidence, developing cogent arguments, and engaging issues related to nature, culture, and society. Students will also learn to integrate knowledge and explore their intellectual passions.</p>	<p>3. This course introduces students to the academic study of Theology, helping them understand key issues, questions, and approaches of the discipline. Students will learn to understand and apply appropriate methods in order to interpret sacred texts, beliefs, rituals, ethics, and spiritual practices. Collectively, this course and others in Module I and II help students understand and appreciate the diverse contents, approaches to inquiry, and methods of answering questions or solving problems of a variety of disciplines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation of how knowledge is discovered and constructed within and across disciplines • Understanding of the content and approaches to inquiry of different disciplines • The ability to apply disciplinary knowledge and methods to answer questions and solve problems
<p>Communication: Students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of genres and for different audiences and purposes through writing, speaking, and visual expression.</p>	<p>4. This course assists students in becoming effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose. While this course is primarily focused on studying religion, helping students improve their writing skills is a goal of all Core courses. Written assignments in this class will focus on genres of writing appropriate to the study of religion.</p>
<p>Global Engagement: Students will examine their roles in local, regional, national, and transnational cultures and communities. Students will be prepared to act, from an informed perspective, on local and global issues that surround and affect them.</p>	<p>5. The study of Theology inevitably encounters moral issues, helping students learn to identify and think carefully about issues of value and justice. As appropriate to the section’s focus, this course should identify and explicitly address these issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate importance of issues of justice, such as social justice, environmental justice, & human rights

Syllabus: A syllabus is a required part of this proposal form. Please insert your syllabus here and be sure to include the appropriate Core Learning Outcomes in the syllabus.