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**FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING**  
**(*Fides Quaerens Intellectum*: FQI)**  
**TF 102-3**  
**FALL 2013**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:20 a.m.**  
**Schlegel Hall 123**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Faith Seeking Understanding (FQI) is a team-taught, interdisciplinary course in theology and ethics that is usually taken in the fall semester of the first year. FQI is designed to follow the summer course for entering students, Transforming Seminary Education (TSE), and to anticipate the two-semester course History of Christian Experience (HCE1 and HCE2).

The purpose of FQI is to help students gain greater confidence and competence in thinking theologically and ethically. The course intends to prepare students for this task by providing an introduction to systematic theology and ethical method. Students will reflect on the interplay between belief and behavior, as they wrestle with traditional doctrines and contemporary issues in theology and ethics. They will gain skill in reading theological texts and thinking doctrinally. Furthermore, the course encourages students to think self-critically about their own ethical and theological commitments.

**Student learning outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Show deepening awareness of multiple expressions of Christian faith on central doctrines examined in the course;
2. Claim their voices as theologians— able to articulate their own emerging positions on central matters of Christian faith and life, in awareness of and conversation with other views;
3. Demonstrate growing ability to think theologically, imaginatively, and contextually about ethical issues;
4. Reflect critically on the complex relations between belief and behavior, with special reference to topics of ethical reflection in the course;
5. Identify for further study and reflection areas in which their own positions are in transition or their questions unresolved.

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance and informed participation, including in discussion sections (15%)

2. Three papers (15%, 20%, 20%)

Students will prepare three brief papers (3-4 pages) responding to the prompts distributed in class on the days indicated in the syllabus.

The papers are to be submitted to both instructors through CAMS (or by email) by the end of the day they are due.

**Papers will be written following the conventions of academic writing.**

**We highly recommend that you take advantage of the services of the Academic Support Center, located on the first floor of Schlegel Hall, in preparing your written assignments for this course.**

In unusual circumstances, requests for extensions may be made in advance. Late papers will be penalized by a loss of a grade (e.g. from B+ to B) for each day they are late.

3. One presentation of a secondary, introductory text on either ethics or theology. Appropriate texts will be on reserve in the library.

4. Oral final examination in groups: claiming the role of theologian (20%)

Questions will concentrate on articulation of the student's emerging theological and ethical understandings, in awareness of and conversation with diverse positions.

Preparatory questions will be distributed in advance. Times for the meetings will be arranged for the final week of the semester.

**Grades:**

Participation (10%), First Paper (15%), Second Paper (20%), Third Paper (20%), Presentation (15%), Oral Final Exam (20%)

**Required Texts:**

Farley, Margaret. *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. New York, NY: Continuum, 2006. ISBN: 9780826429247.

Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*, tr. Matthew J. O'Connell. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1987. ISBN: 0883445522.

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*, reprint edition. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1996. ISBN: 0807010294.

**Library Reserves:**

These are available on CAMS or on the Web; other readings may be added during the course.

**Please make your own copy of the readings to bring to class on the day they are discussed.**

## **LPTS Classroom Policies:**

### **Use of Inclusive Language**

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for more information, see:

<http://www.lpts.edu/academics/academic-resources/academic-support-center/online-writing-lab/avoiding-gender-bias>

### **Academic Honesty**

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

### **Special Accommodations**

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center ([kmapes@lpts.edu](mailto:kmapes@lpts.edu)) during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

### **Citation Policy**

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.

Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

### **Attendance Policy**

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

### **Tentative Schedule of Classes and Assignments**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subject/Assignment</u></b>
<b>TH S 5</b>	<b>Introduction to the course</b>
<b>T S 10</b>	<b>Christology: Who does the church say Jesus is?</b> Read: Thurman, 1-35.
<b>TH S 12</b>	<b>Christology: Who does Thurman say Jesus is?</b> Read: Thurman, 36-88.
<b>T S 17</b>	<b>Christology: Who does Jesus say I ought to be?</b> Read: Thurman, 89-112. Prompt for first paper will be distributed.
<b>TH S 19</b>	<b>Paper Writing Workshop 1: Desiderata</b>
<b>T S 24</b>	<b>Christology: Discussion Section</b>
<b>W S 25</b>	<b>First Paper Due by Midnight</b>
<b>TH S 26</b>	<b>Theological Anthropology: How do we know who we are?</b>
<b>T O 1</b>	<b>Theological Anthropology: Who are we?</b> Read: Farley, xi-108.
<b>TH O 3</b>	<b>Theological Anthropology: Who are we together?</b> Read: Farley, 109-206.
<b>T O 8</b>	<b>Theological Anthropology and Ethics</b> Read: Farley, 207-311.
<b>TH O 10</b>	<b>Paper Writing Workshop 2: Thesis Statements</b> Prompt for second paper will be distributed.

### **Research and Study Week**

<b>T O 22</b>	<b>Theological Anthropology: Discussion sections</b>
<b>W O 23</b>	<b>Second Paper Due by Midnight</b>

- TH O 24 Sin and Suffering**  
Read: Gutierrez, xi-18.
- T O 29 Sin and Suffering: Where Is God?**  
Read: Gutierrez, 19-50.
- TH O 31 Sin and Suffering: Who Is God?**  
Read: Gutierrez, 53-104.
- T N 5 Responding to Suffering, or Images of God and Images of the Good**  
Read: Material on CAMS  
Prompt for third paper will be distributed.
- TH N 7 Suffering and evil: discussion groups**
- T N 12 Paper Writing Workshop 3: Peer Review**
- W N13 Third Paper Due by Midnight**
- TH N14 Church: How Are We Church?**  
Read: material on CAMS
- T N 19 Church: What Is Church?**  
Read: Dulles on CAMS
- TH N 21 Church: How Will We Be Church?**  
Read: Yoder and Lakeland on CAMS
- T N 26 Broken Church in a Broken World**  
Read: Niebuhr brothers' debate

## **Thanksgiving Break**

- T D 3 Presenting on Secondary Sources**
- TH D 5 Concluding discussion**