ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
LOYOLA SCHOOLS

Course Syllabus

TH151: THE CATHOLIC COMMITMENT OF TODAY'S FILIPINO, A SYNTHESIS
Theology Department, School of Humanities
First Semester 2015--2016, (3 units)
TTH, Section T: 12:00-13:30 (SEC-C201A), Section P: 13:30-15:00 (SEC-A208A), Section Q: 15:00-16:30
(CTC 408), Section R: 18:00-19:30 (B-106), Section S: 19:30-21:00 (B-209)
Faculty: Udo Goebel, Ph.D., udogoebel@gmail.com, only in case of an emergency 0917-832-8217

A. Course Description: Theology 151 is the synthesis of the Ateneo four-course Theology Program.
Major elements of the three previous courses (Th 121 & 131 are prerequisites to this course; Th 141 is also
taken in senior year) are integrated in the critical study of contemporary issues and in the
theological reflection on commitment: how it perfects human freedom and love, its necessary
purification and participation in Christ's Paschal Mystery, its ultimate goal: Christian joy and
fruitfulness. Kierkegaard's three stadia of life will be employed as a framework and structure for this
course.

B. Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to

a. explain what it means to live a life of Christian Commitment within the challenges of our Philippine
context.
b. explain what it means to make a choice(act) to commit to Christ by using ones conscience and
practicing authentic freedom
c. articulate the content of what Christian's commit to as expressed in the creeds
d. explain how a person grows in Christian Commitment by aiming at permanence.
e. articulate the inspiration one can obtain in Sacred Scripture in living a life of Christian Commitment f.
explain how the Trinity is our source for our life of Christian Commitment g. articulate the meaning of
Fidelity as the fundamental characteristic of Christian Commitment.

C. Course Outline

I. Introduction to the course:

Aug 11-13: Introduction to the class: syllabus, class requirements, classroom policies, assign
beadle, prepare handout for photocopy, class expectations: Articulate your own
personal expectations for this class in writing for submission.

II. Getting to know our context

Aug 18-20 Who are we as a Church? John Allen, Jr., “Ten Mega-Trends Shaping the Catholic Church,”
accessed from All Things Catholic (Friday, Dec. 22, 2006 – Vol. 6, No. 16),

Who are we as individuals? Tony Anatrella, “The World of Youth Today: Who are They
and What Do They Seek? Taken from The World Youth Day: From Toronto to Cologne
(Rome 10-13 April 2003)

What is the world like in which we live? Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., “Vandalism of Shalom” in Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be, A Breviary of Sin (pp. 7-27)

III. Introduction to Kierkegaard: Theology and the Search for Ultimate Meaning

Sep 01-03:  Introduction to the life and work of Søren Kierkegaard

The unexamined life is not worth living: From Tabula rasa to a coherent life view

Kierkegaard’s differentiation of a worldview and a life view
Udo Goebel, “Søren Kierkegaard’s three stadia of life and the unexamined life”, unpublished article, 2014

IV. Kierkegaard’s first stadium: The Aesthetic Life

Sep 08-10:  The Aesthetic life according to Kierkegaard: The life of Don Giovanni (no reading)

The Moral Life: Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, “Narcissism, Pragmatism, Unbridled Restlessness and the Non---Contemplative Personality: Factors Militating Against Contemplation” in The Shattered Lantern (pp. 27-51)

Sep 15-17:  Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, “A Spirituality of Sexuality,” in The Holy Longing (pp. 192-212)


V. Diapsalmata

Sep 29  Make-up

Oct 01: Midterm Exam

VI. Kierkegaard’s second stadium: The Ethical Life

Oct 06:  The Ethical life according to Kierkegaard: The life of Judge William (no reading)


Oct 22: Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Chapter 7: “I Am Because We Are”

VII. Kierkegaard's third stadium: The Religious Life

Oct 27: The Religious life according to Kierkegaard: The leap of faith of Abraham (no reading)

Oct 29: Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, “A Spirituality of the Paschal Mystery,” in The Holy Longing (pp. 141-166)

Nov 03: Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Chapter 9: “Root Shock” – Communion versus Kingdom?

Nov 05: Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Chapter 3: “The Peaceful Sea”

Nov 10: Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, “A Spirituality of Ecclesiology,” in The Holy Longing (pp. 111-140)

Nov 12: Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Chapter 8: “Citizens of the Kingdom”

Nov 17-19: Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Chapter 10: “Breeding Pandas”

VIII. Synthesis, Review, and Conclusion

Nov 24-26: Conclusion: Developing a holistic Theology of Life according to Kierkegaard’s stages of life

Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Conclusion: “What is the Point of Being a Christian?”

Dec 01-03: Make-up and Review

Dec 08-10: Final Exam

D. Required Readings:


Bible – preferably The New Jerusalem Bible (NJB), The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)


E. Suggested Readings:


Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter "Deus Caritas Est" (Accessed from the Vatican Website: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/index_en.htm


F. Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation and Attendance, Short Quizzes, etc. (10%)

2. SUMMARY PAPERS (20%): The student is required to submit a summary for every reading assignment. The summary of the reading will help in the class discussions, therefore, no late assignment will be accepted. The summary may be submitted via email. 1 page double-spaced. All assignments will be submitted as soft copies (th151x2012@gmail.com) x = your section.

3. GROUP PRESENTATION (20%): Each student will be assigned to a group of 3 students. Each group is required to research and present a topic of their choice in class for 20-30 minutes including question and answer time. The chosen topic has to relate to at least one of the topics of the class. Approval by the professor is needed. Each group is encouraged to be creative in their research as well as their presentation, i.e. use power-point/movie clips etc. A short summary of two pages, double-spaced paper is to be submitted on the day of presentation. Missing the presentation on the scheduled date will result in automatic failure. The grade will be given on the basis of the performance of the individual student, rather than the entire group.

4. MIDTERM EXAM (25%): The midterm exam will cover the entire first part of the semester. The student will be given 5 essay questions. He or she may choose 3 questions to answer. Each answer should be about 1 page in length. Scheduled date: Oct. 01.

5. FINAL ORAL EXAM (25%): Dec. 08-10. Oral exam of 10 minutes for each student. Each student is required to submit a thesis statement by email three weeks before final exam.
G. Grading System:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent: represents original contribution to the theological reflection on the topic</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B +</td>
<td>Very Good: Evidence of clarity and depth of personal reflection on the topic</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good explanation of answer</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C +</td>
<td>Satisfactory understanding of topic: could still do better</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Superficial work</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Low quality of work</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure to fulfill course requirements</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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**LETTER EQUIVALENT OF FINAL GRADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Average Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>3.70 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B +</td>
<td>3.25 – 3.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2.75 – 3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00 – 0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C +</td>
<td>2.25 – 2.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1.75 – 2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00 – 1.74</td>
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H. Classroom Policies: The percentage weight of each item is listed next to it below.

**GENERAL CLASS STRUCTURE:** Each class will generally consist of lectures (based on the assigned readings and other materials), class discussion and student presentations. Class discussions and student presentations are important as they help deepen and integrate the material presented in the class lecture.

Several aspects are important to guarantee a successful learning process. The professor will try his best to clearly articulate the objectives, goals, requirements, and expectations for the class. If there are questions at any time, the student may ask the professor at any time.

There are some expectations for the students. Your regular attendance, attentive listening and reflective sharing are all part of the process of learning in this course. I expect all aspects of the course to be given your serious attention. Always keep a copy of the syllabus at hand, and regularly check the course website (yahoo group) for updates.

**DISCUSSION GROUPS:** When time is given for class and group discussions, it is important that each student participates. Again, it will help integrate the course material, as well as allow for practical application in the learning process. To facilitate group discussions, students will form groups of three (3) students. Each group will be tasked with the following:

- Group discussions may be assigned as preparation for class (i.e., homework) or may occur during class time.
- Any member of the group may be called on to share the group’s output in class.
- If a member is absent, you are responsible for communicating to your groupmate the lesson/assignment s/he missed.

**ABSENCES:** Absences are checked daily. You are responsible for keeping your own attendance record.

a. More than six (6) absences for a TTH class incurs a mark of W.

b. Two (2) late arrivals will be recorded as one absence.

c. If you are asked to leave the class for any reason at any point in the class, you will be marked absent (see policies on class disruptions, use of laptops/netbooks and dress code).

d. If you miss a group discussion or other work, you will receive an F for that activity. Make up work will only be considered in extreme circumstances. It is your responsibility to approach me.
LATE ARRIVALS: If you arrive after the bell, kindly observe the following:
   a. During a regular class lecture, enter the room through the rear door and quietly take a seat at the back.
   b. During a group discussion, join your group but understand that you will receive one full letter grade lower than the rest of the group for the work submitted.
   c. Inform me during the break that you came in late; otherwise you will be marked absent for the day.
   d. If you arrive later than 15 minutes after the bell has rung, you are considered absent for that class meeting and will incur an F for any graded activity on that day.

BEADLE: The Beadle will assist with some of the class administration.

CLASS DISRUPTIONS, doing any of the following will result in you being asked to leave the class and marked absent for that day:
   a. Leaving the room outside of designated break periods;
   b. Using cell phones in any way (including failing to place it on “silent” mode);
   c. Chronic talking or unrelated discussion;
   d. Sleeping or mindless staring off into space (daydreaming) in class; and
   e. Doing work that is not related to the class.

LAPTOPS/NETBOOKS IN CLASS, the following rules are in place:
   a. Laptops/netbooks may only be used for taking notes during lectures or group discussions.
   b. Be sure that the sound is on mute.
   c. If you are caught surfing, gaming or doing work not related to class, you will be asked to leave the class.

SUBMISSION OF REQUIREMENTS: Requirements are to be turned in as instructed, usually during class meetings. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Students will receive an F for any improperly submitted assignments.

PLAGIARISM: Each student is expected to submit his/her own work. If you submit work that is found to be an unauthorized use or copy of another author’s work, you will be given an F for that assignment and may also receive an overall grade of F for the class. A disciplinary case will also be filed against you according to guidelines found in the Student Handbook.

I. Consultation Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 until 6 pm. Otherwise by appointment