THEO 1023 01 — Exploring Catholicism I  
Summer Session 1, 2015; 3 credits

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Office:  Stokes Hall 321N
Office Hours:  Wednesday 10:00AM-12:00  
Telephone: 617-552-3971
Schedule:  M/W 6:30–9:00PM
Room: Stokes Hall 195S

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This course is the first in a two-course sequence, which offers a comprehensive introduction to Roman Catholicism. This first course includes a brief introduction to the Christian scriptures, an overview of the historical development of central Catholic doctrines, including Trinity, Christology, the work of Christ, sin, grace, and salvation. It also includes Augustine’s Confessions.

Course Objectives
Students will acquire an understanding of:
1. The contents of Christian Scripture.
2. The development of Catholic theology and doctrinal (e.g., Trinity, Christology, sin, grace and salvation, etc.)
3. A basic overview and introduction to the history of the Catholic Church during this period.

This course aims to fulfill the general “learning goals” of the Theology Dept. as follows:
1. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of creeds and major theological developments of the Roman Catholic tradition.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to engage empathetically/charitably, as well as critically/evaluatively with past eras, and will so acquire certain intellectual habits and moral sensibilities related both to cross-cultural encounter and to ethical interaction with the “other.”

Grading Scale (letter grade value)
A  95-100 (100)
A-  90-94 (94)
B+  87-89 (89)
B  83-86 (86)
B-  80-82 (82)
C+  77-79 (79)
C  73-76 (76)
C-  70-72 (72)
D+  67-69 (69)
D  63-66 (66)
D-  60-62 (62)
WCAS Grading System

The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (0.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (0.00), failure; I (0.00), incomplete; F (0.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (0.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (0.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)

Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work

Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity

It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance

Attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a
student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing
the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she
is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in
any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss
class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are
not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Extra
assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances
necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In
all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies
specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and
welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be
made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without
jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review
course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding
any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate
information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is
the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed
due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the
WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments
will be graded accordingly.

Course Assignments
This course meets once per week for 2.5 hours per class session. It is expected that 8-10 hours
per week of your study time out will be devoted to out of class assignments and exercises. These are
listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the
average is approximately 8-10 hours per week over the semester.

Course Requirements:
A. Class Attendance/Participation (10% of overall grade): Students are expected to attend all
class meetings, having done the assigned reading for that day, and participate in class discussion. You
are allowed at most two (2) unexcused absences. More than two (2) absences will result in the loss of
half of the Class Attendance/Participation points (that’s 5% off your semester total); More than four
(4) absences will result in the loss of all of the Class Attendance/Participation points (that’s 10% off
your semester total). An “unexcused absence” is defined as one that a) has not been cleared with the
professor and b) has not been formally documented by the Academic Dean or by University Health
Services.

B. Pop Quizzes (10% of overall grade): An unspecified number of in-class “reading quizzes”
will be given at the beginning of class over the course of the semester. They are designed to measure
how carefully students are reading the material and to motivate students to keep up with the reading.
They will be short and easy if the reading has been done carefully. Students arriving after the quiz
has begun will not be allowed to take or make up the quiz. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

C. Exam #1 (20% of overall grade) will be a virtual exam (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank,
true-false), covering the material assigned since the start of the course, on TBA, 2015.

D. Exam #2 (20% of overall grade) will be virtual exam (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank,
true-false), covering the material assigned since the prior exam, on TBA, 2015.
E. **Exam #3** (20% of overall grade) will be virtual exam (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false), covering the material assigned since the prior exam, on **TBA**, 2015.

F. **Paper on Augustine’s Confessions** (20% of overall grade)

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Exercises/Experiences</th>
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<td>5/13</td>
<td>Old Testament</td>
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<td><strong>The Development of Foundational Catholic Doctrine</strong></td>
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<td>The Doctrine of the Trinity</td>
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<td>The Doctrine of Christ</td>
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<td><strong>An Autobiographical Interlude: The Confessions of St. Augustine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Development of Catholic Doctrinal Pillars</strong></td>
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<td>The Doctrine of the Work of Christ: St. Anselm’s <em>Cur Deus Homo</em></td>
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<td>Sin, Grace, and Salvation: Martin Luther</td>
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<td>Sin, Grace, and Salvation: Council of Trent</td>
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