

# The Theology Major

The major in theology seeks to assist students in their development towards union with God, the Blessed Trinity. Through natural revelation, God manifests Himself in creation to human reason in its natural operation. Through supernatural revelation, He manifests Himself in and through this same creation but in such a way as to reveal new, intimate depths of His Being and plan that surpass our natural power of knowing. This superhuman revelation – received by means of the gift of supernatural faith – is transmitted to us through Sacred Scripture, the living Tradition of the Church, and the authentic Magisterium. Through their courses in theology, (and always in a deeply cooperative symbiosis with the perennial philosophy) the students will carefully investigate God as revealed through faith. Courses THEO 105 and 205 are prerequisites to all major courses.

## Core Courses

THEO 105 Sacred Scripture

THEO 205 Sacred Doctrine

THEO 400 Living in Christ (Capstone for non-majors)

## Required Major Courses

THEO 206 Creation and Grace

THEO 305 Moral Theology

THEO 306 Catholic Spirituality

THEO 307 Sacraments

THEO 309 Christ and His Church

THEO 405 Triune God

THEO 490 Senior Seminar (Capstone for majors)

## Elective Major Courses (two required):

THEO 411 Advanced Scripture

THEO 412 Mary, Mother of God

THEO 410 Theology of Pope John Paul II

THEO 413 St. Augustine

THEO 414 St. Thomas Aquinas

THEO 415 Special Topics

## Minor in Theology

A minor in theology is available. The student must complete four courses in theology in addition to the three core theology requirements.

## Course Descriptions

THEO 105 SACRED SCRIPTURE

This course serves as the first theology course in the core curriculum. Since God is the primary author of Scripture, the soul of sacred theology is the study of the sacred page. This course has a twofold goal: to introduce students to the principles of authentic Catholic biblical exegesis, and to explore how God, the Creator, has acted through his covenants to draw his people, disordered by the Fall, back to himself. The course begins by examining the principles of Catholic exegesis as set forth definitively by Dei Verbum and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We then undertake a careful reading of large segments of the New Testament, with an emphasis on the unity of Scripture.

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### THEO 205 SACRED DOCTRINE

This course serves as the second theology course in the core curriculum. Building upon the scriptural foundation of the previous required course in Sacred Scripture, this course is an introduction to dogmatic Catholic theology. Particular attention will be given to natural and divine revelation, the modes of transmission of divine revelation, and the essential doctrines of the faith.

### THEO 206 CREATION AND GRACE

The course investigates God's transformation of the cosmos through the mystery of grace. Special attention will be given to sanctifying grace, the virtues, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### THEO 305 MORAL THEOLOGY

By examining the beatitudes, human actions, the moral and theological virtues, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and natural and divine law, this course will investigate how Christians are conformed to Christ in their lives. Required texts include St. Augustine's *Confessions* and selections from St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa theologiae*. This course satisfies the third theology core requirement for students majoring or minoring in theology. Prerequisite: THEO 105, THEO 205, PHIL 205 and PHIL 206.

### THEO 306 CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the wealth of theological resources available in the Catholic tradition in the area of spirituality. The course will provide an overview of the spiritual teachings of the great Doctors of the Church.

### THEO 307 SACRAMENTS

The seven sacraments are the divinizing work of Christ in His Church. This course will explore the nature and effects of each of the sacraments, along with their interrelationship.

### THEO 309 CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

This course leads the student more profoundly into the mystery of the incarnate Son of God and His bride, the Church. Topics to be treated include the metaphysics of the Incarnation and the mysteries of Christ's life in His Church through the action of the Holy Spirit. Central to this course will be the investigation of key texts from the entire Tradition. Authors may include St. Athanasius, St. Augustine, St. John Damascene, St. Thomas Aquinas, Cardinal John Henry Newman, Fr. Matthias Scheeben, St. Therese of Lisieux, among others.

### THEO 400 LIVING IN CHRIST: MORAL THEOLOGY (required for non-majors)

This course serves as the third theology course for the core curriculum. By examining the beatitudes, human actions, the moral and theological virtues, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and natural and divine law, this course will investigate how Christians are conformed to Christ in their lives. Required texts include St. Augustine's *Confessions* and selections from St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa theologiae*. Prerequisite: THEO 105, THEO 205, PHIL 205 and PHIL 206.

### THEO 405 TRIUNE GOD

This course is an invitation to contemplation of the highest mystery of Christian faith, the Holy Trinity. By examining the works of select Doctors of the Church as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we will arrive at a more profound wisdom and love for the Triune God we worship.

THEO 410 THEOLOGY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

The course will begin with a brief analysis of select early writings of Karol Wojtyla, including his poetry and plays. We will then turn to direct engagement with the great writings of his Pontificate. These will include his encyclicals, select apostolic letters, his Wednesday audiences (e.g., Theology of the Body), and books such as Crossing the Threshold of Hope and Gift and Mystery. The course may be supplemented by secondary literature, e.g. George Weigel's biography. The goal of the course is to achieve a mastery of the theological contribution of Pope John Paul II.

THEO 411 ADVANCED SCRIPTURE

This course will examine in detail one of the constitutive portions of Sacred Scripture. Topics to be treated may include the Pentateuch, Prophets, Wisdom, Literature, Holy Gospels, Epistles, and Revelation.

THEO 412 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The course studies the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church. We will examine what the Church has professed about Mary in theology, history, liturgy, and spirituality, as well as in ecumenical perspective.

THEO 413 ST. AUGUSTINE

In this course, the central doctrines of Augustine will be presented. Select passages from his work will be investigated to familiarize the student with the principles of his thought.

THEO 414 ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

In this course, the central doctrines of Aquinas will be presented. Select passages from his work will be investigated to familiarize the student with the principles of his thought.

THEO 415 SPECIAL TOPICS

An integral part of the Ave Maria University program is the opportunity for studies abroad. The International Theological Institute (ITI) provides a rich religious, historical, and cultural atmosphere for a variety of courses in theology. ITI courses are cross-listed with the University. In addition, with administrative approval, other theology courses may be offered under Special Topics including Mariology, Canon Law, Ascetical and Mystical Theology, Catholic Bioethics, and the Theology of Tradition.

THEO 490 SENIOR SEMINAR (required for majors)

As the final course in the theology sequence, the senior seminar is designed for and required of all theology majors. In a seminar format, students examine a topic in depth and prepare a research project to be presented at the end of the semester.

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# Typical Plan—Theology Major

### Freshman Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
MATH 100, 120, 150, or 151	4	THEO 105 Sacred Scripture	4
LITR 103 Literary Tradition I	4	LITR 104 Literary Tradition II	4
HIST 101 Western Civ I	4	HIST 102 Western Civ II	4
LATN 101 or 103 Elem Latin	4	LATN 102 or 104 Inter Latin	4
MUSC 101 Gregorian Chant*	0		
Total	16	Total	16

\*may be taken in the Fall or Spring semester.

### Sophomore Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
PHIL 205 Nature and Person	4	PHIL 206 Ethics	4
THEO 205 Sacred Doctrine	4	HIST/POLT 203 Amer Civ	4
Science I with Lab	4	Science II with Lab	4
General Elective	4	THEO 206 Creation & Grace	4
Second Arts Practicum*	0		0
Total	16	Total	16

\*may be taken in the Fall or Spring semester.

### Junior Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
THEO 305 Moral Theology	4	THEO 307 Sacraments	4
THEO 306 Catholic Spirituality	4	THEO 308 Christ & His Church	4
General Elective	4	General Elective	4
General Elective	4	General Elective	4
Total	16	Total	16

### Senior Year

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Credits</u>
THEO 405 Triune God	4	THEO 490 Senior Seminar	4
Theology Elective	4	Theology Elective	4
General Elective	4	Elective	4
General Elective	4	PHIL 400 Phil Perspectives	4
Total	16	Total	16