Advisors, this guide is designed to help you guide students into a Theology course that will match their level of experience with Theology, learning goals, preferred day/time, and preferred modality (online, hybrid, or face-to-face).

For hybrid and online courses: Students will do well in this course if they are self-motivated and find use of technology enhances their learning. In order to discourage attrition, please do not encourage first year students to take these courses.

Please contact Jennifer Reed-Bouley, Program Director for Theology, for more information. Thank you!

All of these courses count towards the Theology General Education requirement. GCD next to a course indicates it has been approved for Global and Cultural Diversity.

THL 227 D1 and D2 Christian Signs and Symbols Study of the nature of religious symbols and ritual, in particular Christian rituals and sacraments, in terms of their foundations in human experience and in their history within the Church. This course will also include a comparative study of Christian rituals with other multi-cultural rituals or those of other religions. (Field: Systematics) D1 meets MW 2:30-3:45 pm and D2 meets MW 4:00 – 5:15 pm

THL 320 D1 and D2 Church and Social Justice GCD The social teachings of the Church have often been depicted as its best kept secret. Church and Social Justice explores the social teachings of the Church and their application to the concrete economic, social, and political problems of the contemporary world. The course focuses on social issues such as poverty, hunger, racism, immigration, war, the environment, and workers’ and human rights. (Field: Moral) D1 meets TR 9:25-10:40 and D2 meets TR 10:50-12:05

THL 327 E1 and D1 Women in the Bible This course is about women in the Bible and women and the Bible. It will be based on the study of the rich heritage of the stories of women in the biblical narrative which range from the strong leadership of women to “terror-filled” stories about women. In addition, the course will explore the following questions: What were the general attitudes towards women based on the biblical texts that emerged in a patriarchal world? Through the use of biblical critical methods, what are the modern day attitudes towards women based on biblical texts? And finally, how do we explain the attitudes that women have towards the bible which range from complete rejection to unconditional acceptance? Prerequisite: ENG 101. (Field: Scripture) (Also listed as WST 327) E1 meets Tuesday 600-840 and D1 meets Friday 2:30-5:10 pm

THL 365 O1 and O2 Theology and the Environment This course takes as its starting point an acknowledgment that the planet, a gift from God, is in a state of grave peril because of climate change and other threats. The course draws upon interpretation of central biblical texts on creation, as well as historical and contemporary theology, to construct a contemporary theology and ethics of the environment. Prerequisite: ENG 101. (Field: Moral)

THL 390 H1 Special Topics: Finding God in Daily Life This course provides a general introduction to Christian spirituality with special emphasis on Ignatian spirituality. The goal is to deepen understanding of spirituality as well as to improve the quality of Christian living by developing practices of personal prayer and discernment of spirits. (Field: Spirituality) Tuesday 6:00-8:40 p.m. and online

THL 390 H1 Theology and Suffering Monday 600-840 pm Why do people suffer? This is a classic question that has been asked in all ages. This course will delve into the many theological answers to that question. The course will also offer practical tools to help caregivers and those suffering to find redemption in the midst of the pain. Jesus’ own suffering and paschal mystery will offer inspiration throughout the course. (Field: Systematics) Monday 6:00-8:40 pm and online

(Please see other side for Spring and Summer 2016 Plans)
THL 190/390 Theology and Art In this course, students will delve into the theological meaning and symbolism found in literature, film, art, music and various other genres of art. Through this multi-media course students will tap into their own creative talents and come to a deeper understanding of the Christian themes and messages referred to in the arts. Instructor permission required; will involve an optional trip to France and Italy in June for an additional cost and with application process. (Field: Systematics); Meets _____ and online. GCD approval in process.

THL 215 O1 and O2 Christian Life and Service This course engages the student in active theological reflection on everyday Christian life and service in light of Christian scripture, human experience, church tradition, and the contemporary expression of service in the church and the world. Focus will also include the application of these perspectives in light of students' current or vocational careers. (Field: Moral)

THL 223 D1 and D2 Jesus Yesterday and Today This course will focus on the basic and traditional Christian beliefs about Jesus. Central to this endeavor will be the exploration of the person of Jesus as reflected in the early Christian Church as well as the examination of early heresies and the development of Christian doctrine. Select discussion will take place on contemporary perspectives. (Field: Systematics) D1 meets MW 2:30-3:45 pm and D2 meets MW 4:00 – 5:15

THL 310 D1 and E1 Approaches to God This course on prayer in the area of spirituality will be divided into three segments: various ways to approach God; the God who is approached; and the individual who approaches God. The first part of the course will examine different classical and contemporary types of prayer. Each class will provide an experiential dimension of these prayer forms. The second part will study the language, images and metaphors used to speak of God. The third part of the course will utilize a variety of ways that can indicate prayer forms best suited to an individual. Prerequisite: ENG 101 (Field: Spirituality) E1 meets T
6:00-8:40 p.m. and D1 meets F 2:30-5:10 p.m. face to face

THL 354 E1 Christian Spirituality (GCD) This course is an academic study of the nature of Christian spirituality as both religious and lived experience. The student will be exposed to the biblical and theological foundations of Christian spirituality, its overall origins and development, and the varieties of Christian spiritualities that have appeared throughout history in both groups and in specific individuals who have been viewed as exemplary of Christian spiritual life. (Field: Spirituality) TH 6:00-8:40 p.m. face to face

THL 390 H1 Special Topics: Finding God in Daily Life This course provides a general introduction to Christian spirituality with special emphasis on Ignatian spirituality. The goal is to deepen understanding of spirituality as well as to improve the quality of Christian living by developing practices of personal prayer and discernment of spirits. (Field: Spirituality) Tuesdays 6:00-8:40 p.m. and online

THL 380 H1 Faith, Politics, and Social Concerns with travel seminar to Washington, D.C. over Spring Break March 6-10, 2016; permission of instructor required through an application process in Fall; Jennifer Reed-Bouley (Field: Moral); GCD approval in process. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops state that "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation" [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship]. Faith, Politics and Social Concerns applies the wisdom of Catholic theology and ethics to advocacy for social issues identified as Critical Concerns by the Sisters of Mercy. Through collaboration with religious nonprofits, students learn and practice advocacy skills and meet with elected officials locally or in Washington, D.C. This course is being offered in conjunction with HPS 110 American Government. Ideally, students would take both courses concurrently.

THL 380 H2 Faith, Politics, and Social Concerns See course description above. This course will involve advocacy in Omaha and does not require instructor permission. (Field: Moral); GCD approval in process

Summer 2016 Theology Offerings--Tentative Plan

THL 103 D1 Introduction to Christianity This course will study the origins of Christianity from its Jewish roots to its beginnings as a religion based on faith in Jesus Christ and its historical development to the present day. It will also cover the development of beliefs, religious worship, and moral codes as Christianity evolved throughout its history. No prerequisites. This course is designed for students with little background in Theology. 6 week session: June 15-July 24 (with no class on July 3), MWF 1:00-3:10 p.m.

THL________ O1 and O2 or H1 and H2 Course TBD

Reed-Bouley Fall 2015, Spring and Summer 2016