

Historical Development of Christology ST 2232

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology
Fall, 2018. Classroom is DSPT 3

Edward L. Krasevac, O.P.

Note: Green Superscripts refer to DSPT Institutional Goals and MATH Program Goals and Outcomes: see last page

Welcome!

The primary purpose of this course is for you to attain a good knowledge of the main lines of Christological development from the earliest Patristic writers to the Reformation; the areas of particular concentration will be the Patristic development from Nicaea to Constantinople III, and Aquinas' Christology. ^{THTG1/THEG1} Its secondary purpose is for you to attain a knowledge of several classical soteriological theories, as well as the theology of Mary, both as it has evolved historically, and as it is being re-imaged by contemporary authors. The achievement of these purposes will serve as a foundation for your further—and hopefully life-long—study of Christology ^{IG3/IO3} (which may also proceed by way of the study of modern and contemporary developments in Christology, which will be covered in ST 3115, Contemporary Christology, in the spring semester of 2019).

The primary goal of the Patristic/Thomistic segments of this course is that you be able to say to yourself something like "aha! this is why all those old, seemingly arcane debates in the history of Christology over metaphysical principles such as soul, body, nature, *hypostasis*, etc., are deemed so important in the history of the Church, and I've come to see that they can have a relevance to my own lived faith." ^{THTG5/THEG4} The process of your achieving this goal should result in the following learning outcomes: you should come to understand the theological and soteriological dynamics [note: not memorize the historical details] of the patristic/conciliar Christological development through the Third Council of Constantinople, as well as Aquinas' theology of the hypostatic union; and you should also learn to "think theologically," that is, to see the relation between the principles of faith and their theological implications. ^{IG1/THTG5}

Your achievement of these outcomes will be assessed through your ability to write, using largely your own words rather than extended quotations, one 8-10 page essay summarizing the patristic/conciliar Christological development and one 6-8 page essay summarizing Aquinas' theology of the hypostatic union (total length of both essays must not exceed 16 pages). ^{THTG3/THEG3} These essays will demonstrate that you understand the theological and soteriological dynamics which formed both the Patristic Christological development and Aquinas' theology ("theological dynamics"→how the thinker's understanding of God and God's relation to the world shaped their Christologies; "soteriological dynamics"→how the thinkers' understanding of human salvation shaped their Christologies). The criteria for the assessment of these essays are found on page five, #2, and the addendum.

With regard to the shorter segments of the course dealing explicitly with soteriology and the theology of Mary, you should have a basic knowledge of the soteriological theories of Anselm and Aquinas, as well as an introductory knowledge of the history and contemporary contexts of the theology of Mary. This knowledge will be assessed by your ability to write, using largely

your own words rather than extended quotations, one four-page essay on either Anselm's or Aquinas' soteriological principles, or on some aspect of the theology of Mary that is directly relevant to the class. The essay should demonstrate that you are able to understand the importance of at least some aspects of the subject matter for your own faith and/or ministry. THTG5/THEG4

This is a foundational course, and the primary pedagogical method is lecture. However, questions and comments relevant to the lectures or readings, and the discussions that flow from them, are always welcome. IG4/THTG4/IG2 Please keep your questions short and focused, however, realizing that others may also need the floor, and avoid polemical formulations or those that are disrespectful of others, always realizing that we search for understanding with humility, rather than with the intellectual arrogance of those who believe that they have little to learn. IG2

This course can only introduce you to a number of key concepts that you are encouraged to pursue in the years which follow; this is one reason why the syllabus contains more material than you will be expected to read during the course itself (as we proceed, I will suggest the most important readings for any given class, as well as those that would be appropriate for future reference). The process of your understanding and integration of this material can only *begin* in this course, but must continue well beyond it; although I will foster this process as best I can, the responsibility for this integration is primarily yours, both now and in the future. IG3

Details on assignments and grading will be found in the following pages. Note that the reading assignments are given with no dates attached; they should be read in sequence, depending upon how far we get on any particular day.

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to change the order of the readings, add other readings as appropriate, dispense with some readings, spend more time on certain topics and less on others, etc., as the ongoing experience of the semester dictates. Thus, the topics and readings on this syllabus are subject to change in view of pedagogical effectiveness.

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Please check your email on a daily basis, especially before coming to class; this is the primary way in which I will communicate with you regarding changes of reading assignments or in the event a class has to be canceled due to illness. If your email address changes, please notify me immediately.

Class will not be held during Reading Week (10/22 & 10/25), Thanksgiving (11/29) and during the last week of school (12/10 & 12/13, unless there is need for a make-up class on 12/10).

If you will need special arrangements for meeting course requirements for reasons of documented disability, please speak to the instructor early in the term so that arrangements can be anticipated and arranged. Students who have trouble climbing the stairs to my office may meet with me in a designated ADA room on the first level of the East Building.

CHRISTOLOGY IN THE PATRISTIC PERIOD (Twelve Classes)

The only required book for this course is Leo Donald Davis' *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils*, along with *Readers One* and *Two* (see details in addendum at end of syllabus). **Always** bring *Reader One* to class. The legend for assignments below is as follows: '*' signifies readings in *Reader One*, '**' signifies readings in *Reader Two*, '♦' signifies "fair use" readings to be emailed or handed out in class; note that the Smulders books does not follow the same chronology in its development as the Davis, so read the Davis pages first. We will spend around twelve classes on this section; the *approximate* class/content breakdown is as follows, although we may proceed at a somewhat different pace given how each class and the semester as a whole unfolds. As class attendance is required, you will always know the precise assignment for the following class at the end of the preceding one. A short bibliography of helpful sources will be passed out and explained the first day of class.

Ignatius/Justin/Irenaeus	2 nd class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 33-39 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 1-19 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. xix-xxvi
Tertullian/Origen/Synod of Antioch	3 rd class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 40-50 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 19-32 / 39-71 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. xxvi-xxxiii
Arius and Nicaea	4 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 51-79 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 68-71 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. 3-20
Athanasius/Apollinaris/Constantinople I	5 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 80-132 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 32-39 / 71-88 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. 20-31
Logos-Anthropos Christology/Nestorius	6 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 134-148 ♦Five pages of quotes from John McGuckin on Cyril and Nestorius **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 88-105 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. 32-46
Ephesus/Cyril	7 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 149-168 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 105-127 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. 46-63
Ephesus/Cyril	8 th class	♦Cyril's 2 nd & 3 rd Letters to Nestorius / ♦Cyril's <i>Laetentur Coeli</i> Letter to John of Antioch / ♦Tome of Leo to Flavian Analyze carefully the annotated *"Formula (or Symbol) of Union"
Chalcedon	9 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 170-192 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 127-139 **Thomas Weinandy, <i>Does God Change?</i> , pp. 63-66 *One page entitled "Sarah Coakley, What Does Chalcedon Solve" Analyze carefully the annotated *Definition of the Council
Aftermath of Chalcedon Constantinople II	10 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 193-256 ♦Twelve Anathemas of Constantinople II
Constantinople III	11 th class	Davis, <i>The First Seven Ecumenical Councils</i> , pp. 258-289 **P. Smulders, <i>The Fathers on Christology</i> , pp. 139-153 Article in the "old" Catholic Encyclopedia on Pope Honorius at < http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07452b.htm > ♦Definition of Faith & Monothelite Anathema of Constantinople III
Monothelitism vs Dyllothelitism: Theological Analysis	12 th class	Thomas White, O.P., ADyothelism and the Instrumental Human Consciousness of Jesus.≡ <i>Pro Ecclesia</i> XVII (2008), pp. 396-409. Paul Crowley, S.J., "Instrumentum divinitatis in Thomas Aquinas: Recovering the Divinity of Christ." <i>Theological Studies</i> 52 (1991), pp. 441-77 (read especially 451-458 & 461-475). [Both articles are available on GTU GRACE Article Databases]. <i>These are difficult and important articles; please read them very carefully.</i> *One page entitled "Summa Theologiae III 18 Article 1. Whether there are two wills in Christ?"

THE INCARNATIONAL CHRISTOLOGY OF THOMAS AQUINAS (Five Classes)

Hypostatic

Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae Part III* Question 1, Articles 1,2,3.

Union

- *One page entitled "Christology in Aquinas"
- **Per Erik Persson, *Sacra Doctrina*, pp. 191-224
- **Thomas Weinandy, *Does God Change?* pp. 74-100
 - Summa Theologiae III*: Question 2, Art 1,2,5,7,8,10 / Question 4, Art 2,3 / Question 16 entire
- *One page entitled "Texts from Robert Barron"
- *One page of reflections on the Trinity in St. Thomas [for review and reference]
- *Two pages of quotations on analogy by Michael Dodds, O.P. [for review and reference]
- *Three pages of quotations from Weinandy, *Does God Change?*
- *One page entitled "Notion of Person"
- *Two-page summary of Hypostatic Union by Krasevac [we will go over these in detail in class]
- **Herbert McCabe, *Aquinas on the Incarnation*, from *God Still Matters*, pp. 107-114.
- *Three pages of "Quotations from Aquinas on Christology" [we will go over these in detail in class]
- *Two-page synthesis of an article by Michael Raschko, "Aquinas' Theology of the Incarnation. . ."
- *One page entitled "E-Mail Reflections of Michael Dodds, O.P., on Weinandy 'Actual Relation'

Grace & Knowledge of Christ

- *Two pages entitled "Question 12. The acquired or empiric knowledge of Christ's soul"
 - ST III Part III*: Question 7, Articles 1,4,9,11,12 / Question 8, Articles 1,3,5,6 / Question 9, Articles 1,2,3,4 / Question 11, Articles 1,2 / Question 12, Articles 1,2,3.
- White, Thomas Joseph. ADyothelism and the Instrumental Human Consciousness of Jesus.≡ *Pro Ecclesia* XVII (2008): 409-422. See above.
- *One page on the "Grace of Christ" and "Knowledge of Christ," and excerpts from Liam Walsh
- *One page of texts entitled "Texts from Raymond Brown"
- *One page of quotations from Jean Galot's, *Who is Christ?*
- *One page entitled "Quotations from Karl Rahner's "Dogmatic Reflections on the Knowledge. . ."

SOTERIOLOGY Three Classes: 1) Patristic 2) Anselm 3) Aquinas 4) Luther 5) Schillebeeckx on suffering & sacrifice

- 1) *One page on Pauline Theology from *New Jerome Biblical Commentary* AND *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, article #82, numbers 67-80
 - 1) **John R. Sheets, *Theology of the Atonement*, pp. 4-24 / 57-8
 - 1) *Edward Schillebeeckx, *Jesus, an Experiment in Christology*, pp. 562-65 and 567-69
 - 1) *One page "The Specific Elaboration of the Fundamental Grace" from Schillebeeckx' *Christ*
 - 2) Three pages on "Key Concepts in Anselm's/Aquinas' Theories of Satisfaction" (*handed out in class*)
 - 2) **"Why God Became Man. . .", Introduction by Joseph Colleran, pp. 21-30
 - 2) **Romanus Caesario, *The Godly Image*, pp. 208-11
 - 2) *Walter Kasper, *Jesus the Christ*, 219-20, on Anselm's *Cur Deus Homo?*
 - 3) *Summa Theologiae* III 22.2-3 / 48.1-2-3-4-5-6 / 49:1-2-3-4-5 / 50.6 / 53.1 / 56.1
 - 3) *One page entitled "Aquinas' Soteriology"
 - 3) *Five pages entitled "Romanus Caesario, *The Godly Image*"
 - 4) **John R. Sheets, *Theology of the Atonement*, pp. 27-31
 - 4) **Paul Althaus, *The Theology of Martin Luther*, pp. 202-8
 - 5) *Krasevac, "Suffering, Sacrifice, and Loving Service: Salvation 'Thanks to' or 'In Spite of' the Cross?"
 - 5) *Edward Schillebeeckx, passages on "The Death of Jesus and the Problem of Evil"
 - 5) **Herbert McCabe, *He Was Crucified, Suffered, Died and Was Buried*, from *God Still Matters*, 92-101.

THEOLOGY OF MARY (Four classes)

- #1) *Four pages of texts from Raymond Brown's *The Birth of the Messiah* on the infancy narratives
- #1) *Pages 188-189 from Raymond Brown's, *The Birth of the Messiah*
- #1) Biblical Passage on Mary: Matthew and Luke, Chapters 1 & 2 / Mark 3: 20-35 / 6:1-6a / Matthew 12: 46-50 / 13:53-8 / Luke 8:19-21 / 4:16-30 / 11:27-8 / Acts 1:14 / John 2:1-11 / 7:1-10 / 19:25-7 / Revelation 12
- #1) **Raymond Brown, et al, *Mary in the New Testament*, pp. 7-31 / 283-94
- #1) *Three pages of exegetical texts and commentary on Mary in the New Testament
- #2) **9 pages of notes on the history of doctrine and devotion
- #3) Vatican Council II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, Chapter 8
- #3) **Anthony Tambasco, *What Are They Saying About Mary?*, pp. 8-53
- #4) **Edward Schillebeeckx, *Mary, Mother of the Redemption*, xiii-xvi/3-7/27-30/35-9/46-5/69-100/102-1/134-6/140-1
- #4) **Doris Donnelly, ed., *Mary, Woman of Nazareth*, pp. 7-68 / 81-87

Course Requirements/Grades/Incompletes

1. **Written Essays:** You will be required to write three essays during the course of the semester (the precise topics will be given two or three weeks before they are to be handed in). One 8-10 page essay will incorporate material discussed under the heading of "Christology in the Patristic Period;" a second 6-8 page essay will incorporate material under the heading of "The Incarnation Christology of Thomas Aquinas;" the final 4 page essay will be on an aspect of soteriology or Marian theology. A total of 20 pages of written material is required for the course. The point of these essays is to help you understand, critically assimilate, and express the important issues covered in the course in a *concise* and *synthetic* fashion; ^{IG1/THTG3/THEG3} essays that are unable to do this in the allotted number of pages will be returned for editing. Also, mistakes that show carelessness (such as typos, misspellings, sloppiness) are not acceptable. Although the content of the written work is obviously of primary importance, the presentation of that content is important as well, particularly for those who aspire to be effective leaders in the Church or the Academy. ^{IG4} Proofread your work! And always cite the source of quotations or ideas that you use, whether in a footnote, endnote, or in parentheses.

The first two essays in particular should

- ◆ cover the main phases of the patristic/conciliar development and the core insights of Aquinas' theology of the hypostatic union, without getting bogged down in historical detail or peripheral issues;
 - ◆ never lose sight of the soteriological concerns involved in the Christological development;
 - ◆ normally use your own examples, rather than the instructor's or those of other authors; ^{IG3}
 - ◆ demonstrate that you are able to understand the importance of at least some aspects of the development/theology for your own Christian faith; ^{THTG5/THEG4}
 - ◆ be concise, remaining strictly in the page limits given by the instructor.
2. **Grades** ^{THTO1/THEO1} will be determined primarily by the quality of the written essays—that of their content (how well they reflect your knowledge of the readings and lectures, your ability to recognize and develop the important principles contained in them, as well as your ability to think through the material synthetically) and their form (your ability to express in good written English, free of syntactical and grammatical error, what you know)—as well as their timeliness ^{IG3} (see #1 above, and also addendum for more general essay grading criteria). In addition, **attendance at all class sessions is a requirement for the course and will be a consideration in grading, and *no credit for the class will be given at all if a student misses more than three classes.*** ^{IG4/THTG4} If you have previous commitments that will cause you to miss classes, you probably should not enroll. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class; if you miss a class due to illness, you should check with someone who was present, or arrange for it to be recorded. Also, being late for a small class can be disruptive and annoying for everyone, as well as discourteous; please be prompt! ^{IG3}
 3. **Incompletes:** If you have not turned in all of your essays by Friday, December 14th, you *must* submit the form to take an incomplete by then—*essays turned in after Friday without taking an incomplete will lose one full grade.* The DSPT policy on incompletes will be followed without exception: "Students who wish to take an Incomplete in a course must file a petition by the last day of the semester. The work for each course must be completed by the third week after the end of the semester in which the course is taken." *Work that is submitted after the third week after the end of the semester will lose one full grade.* ^{IG3}
 4. **Plagiarism:** Always use quotation marks around others' phrases that you use in your essays, and cite the reference in a footnote or parentheses. *An instance of plagiarism will automatically result in a grade of "F" for the course.*
 5. **ESL Students:** If English is your second language, you may ask for and be given one extra week to turn in the essays after the end of the semester. In such a case, *you must still fill out an incomplete form.* All of the essays will be due no later than Friday, December 21nd.

Addendum

Required Books/Readers:

Davis, Leo Donald. *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-787)*. Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1983. ISBN 978-0814656167. Cost is \$15.72 on Amazon.com as of 8/12/15. Please consider purchasing it at the DSPT/Amazon bookstore at <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20/detail/0814656161>.

Readers One and Two are available for purchase at Copy Central, 48 Shattuck Square, at University Avenue. The precise cost has not yet been determined by Copy Central, as it is based on copyright fees, but the total for both readers in past years has been around \$35.00). The phone number of Copy Central is 510-848-7034; you may want to call to make certain they have copies prepared before you go in to pick one up.

The **official description** of this course is found in the GTU Schedule of Classes: "The primary purpose of this lecture course (designed for the M.A./M.Div./M.T.S. levels) is to survey the main lines of Christological development from the earliest Patristic writers through Aquinas. The areas of particular concentration will be the Patristic development from Nicaea to Constantinople III and Aquinas' Christology and soteriology. Its secondary purpose is to survey the main lines of Marian doctrine, both as it has evolved historically, as it is being revised by contemporary authors. Modern and contemporary developments in Christology, including the various "Quests" of the historical Jesus, will be covered in ST 3115, Contemporary Christology, in the spring semester of 2019. The requirements for the course are attendance, and 20 pages of written work distributed over three essays. NOTE: this course is a prerequisite for ST 3115."

General Criteria for Grading of Papers

- A:** Not only does the student's work reflect a correct understanding of the subject matter, but his or her efforts show something more: a certain and marked *depth* of understanding of the subject which allows its wider implications to be grasped and creatively applied to other areas of thought and life, an ability to discern and articulate the principles involved, as well as a talent to express oneself with both clarity and power. The writing is both fluent and without grammatical or syntactical error.
- A-:** For work that falls somewhat short of the above.
- B+:** The student has demonstrated that he or she has correctly grasped the subject matter, free of error, and has expressed it articulately and well.
- B:** The student has correctly grasped the subject matter, and has articulated it in such a way that this is obvious to the instructor.
- B-:** Although the work shows a fundamental and a good understanding of the subject matter, some errors in understanding have been made, or perhaps the expression is such that some confusion results when it is read.
- C+:** The student's work shows effort, and some real understanding of the subject matter. However, there are some important errors or omissions, or the expression may make it difficult to determine just what the student indeed has grasped.
- C:** Again, effort has been demonstrated, but there are some serious errors or omissions that show that the student has not grasped important aspects of the subject matter, or has expressed them so poorly as to leave a serious question in that regard.
- C-:** The work is poor, in both understanding and expression, but effort to understand has been demonstrated.
- D** Not only is the work poorly done and poorly expressed, but it is obvious that the effort normally expected of a student has simply not been made. This would include poor class attendance.
- F:** The assignments have not been turned in and/or there has been poor class attendance.

DSPT Institutional Goals (IG)

Pedagogical Goal: Deep Learning

Motivated by a thirst for truth, the disciplined inquirer is a life-long learner who recognizes fundamental principles in a given field of inquiry and applies them in creative or innovative ways to broader contemporary issues which are of importance to Church, the academy, and/or society. Disciplined inquiry includes the following characteristics:

1. *Integrative Thinking*: the ability to recognize, understand, retain, integrate, and apply the fundamental principles operative in a field of inquiry, and use them to make synthetic judgments.
2. *Intellectual Humility*: an orientation of mind and heart that fosters intellectual collaboration, precludes both rigidity and passivity of mind, and recognizes that contrary opinions are not a threat, but provide the opportunity to test and deepen one's own grasp of the truth.
3. *Self-Direction*: the disposition to take primary responsibility for one's own education, manifested in a keen intellectual interest in the topic of studies, and the ability to teach oneself through a habit of skilled and responsible research and resilient exploration.

Vocational Goal: Collaborative Leadership

A collaborative leader inspires within others the desire to realize the common good by articulating to academy or society a coherent vision rooted in the mission of the Church, all the while leading by example.

4. *Ability to Collaborate*: expressed in good listening and communication skills which foster decisions stemming from and leading to an open, transparent, and mutually enriching dialog with others in order that the gifts of all can be appropriately acknowledged and utilized.

DSPT MDiv Program Outcomes (DIVO)

By the end of the program, students will demonstrate ministerial and pastoral competency through the ability:

1. to communicate simply, accurately, and effectively the theological tradition of the Roman Catholic Church through preaching, teaching, and writing;
2. to preach in a manner that is grounded in scholarly methods of biblical interpretation, and is doctrinally sound, pastorally focused, and rhetorically effective;
3. to analyze, assess, and critique theological perspectives through scriptural, historical, and systematic theological methods, and to assist others in doing the same;
4. to fulfill their responsibilities with the moral, intellectual, psychological, and emotional maturity that grounds vigorous discipleship of Christ and priestly service to others;
5. to lead a faith community in prayer, worship and theological reflection, centered on the Eucharist, respecting both the liturgical tradition of the Church and the pastoral needs of the local community;
6. to apply the principles of the moral theology of St. Thomas Aquinas to pastoral situations in general and confessional situations in particular;
7. to both lead and work collaboratively with others in a just, charitable, and generous manner, respecting the relevant cultural, social, and ecclesial circumstances, all the while maintaining professional, ethical boundaries;
8. to foster Church communion, demonstrated through personal and liturgical prayer, regular observance, and life in community.

Master of Arts in Theology Thesis Option Goals (THTG) and Outcomes (THTO)

In addition to the stated institutional goals, students develop:

1. a foundational knowledge of the fundamental areas of theological inquiry in the Roman Catholic tradition (Biblical Studies, historical theology, dogmatic theology, and moral theology);
2. a specialized knowledge of one area of theological inquiry (area of concentration) chosen by the student;
3. the ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly writing;
4. the ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through oral presentations and discussions;
5. the ability to integrate contemporary theological issues with the tradition of the Catholic Church, and where possible with the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Students demonstrate competence in these goals by:

1. attaining a grade of B+ or better in the required core courses in four fundamental areas;
2. producing a thesis proposal which articulates and effectively communicates clear goals & outcomes for the proposed thesis;
3. produce a well-written thesis that meets specified criteria, e.g. theological knowledge, writing skills, etc.;
4. use the oral defense to demonstrate their skills for collaborative learning. While working with faculty on the proposal & thesis and in the oral defense itself, students demonstrate an ability:
 - to listen attentively to input from faculty on questions or points of disagreement, and
 - to formulate responses which incorporate issues raised.

Master of Arts in Theology Exam Option Goals (THEG) and Outcomes (THEO)

In addition to the stated institutional goals, students in the MA Theology, exam option will develop:

1. a foundational knowledge of the fundamental areas of theological inquiry in the Roman Catholic tradition (reflected in the required core areas);
2. a specialized knowledge of one area of theological inquiry (area of concentration) chosen by the student;
3. the ability to communicate this knowledge effectively through scholarly research and writing;
4. the ability to integrate contemporary theological issues with the tradition of the Catholic Church, especially with the theological tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Students demonstrate competence in these goals by:

1. maintaining a B or better average in coursework throughout the program;
2. passing a closed-book, written examination in a required area;
3. producing a 20-page research paper in the area of concentration with a grade of B+ or better.