SYLLABUS: Master of Theological Studies
THEO 578 Theologies of Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The task of ministry today has been impacted greatly by the reality of cultural and religious diversity. Promoting mutual understanding and empathy between different Christian traditions as well as between Christian and non-Christian faiths has become of paramount importance. This course examines the historical and theological contexts of recent developments in ecumenism and interreligious dialogue. Special attention is paid to the pastoral and socio-political implications of such developments.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class Attendance and Participation
The seminar nature of the course requires regular attendance. Active participation (e.g. raising questions, contributing to class discussions, etc.) in all discussions is also expected. The necessary prerequisite for a fruitful discussion is a careful, critical reading of the assigned texts by all class members. It is simply assumed that all participants of this course will be honest, open, and respectful of diverse beliefs.

Academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated because it violates the essential integrity of individuals and the mission of St. Norbert College. Please see the St. Norbert College Academic Honor Code for a definition of academic dishonesty and for the procedures in place to deal with violations of the code. These procedures will be strictly adhered to in this course.

Class preparation
Careful, reflective, critical reading of assigned texts is essential.

Papers
Six papers are required. Five of the papers are response papers (2 to 3 pages) (see description below). The sixth paper (5 to 7 pages) is a “State of the Question” paper. This paper is an in-depth analysis of a specific
issue that is a point of contention/discussion between a Christian community and another Christian community (i.e., Ecumenical question) or a non-Christian tradition (i.e., interreligious questions). More details will be given in class.

**EVALUATIONS AND GRADING:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction papers (5) 2 to 3 pages</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of the Question Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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The learning process succeeds only when students perform honestly on assignments and examinations. All students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code. It defines academic dishonesty and sets forth the responsibilities of faculty and students in the event of alleged dishonesty. Possible penalties for dishonesty include reduction of a grade, failure in the course, failure and suspension, or failure and dismissal. Please refer to the current *St. Norbert College Student Handbook* for the text of the Academic Honor Code.

“In keeping with the St. Norbert College mission to help students develop their full potential, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the College provides supportive services to students with disabilities. For enquiries and further details, please visit the Academic Support Services Office located in Todd Wehr Hall, Room 211 or contact Karen Goode-Bartholomew, Coordinator of Services to Students with Disabilities (Phone: 403-1326), or visit the website [www.snc.edu/academicsupport/disabilities.html](http://www.snc.edu/academicsupport/disabilities.html).”

**THEO 578 – Summer 2015**

**CALENDAR: Tentative (may be adjusted due to availability of texts)**

**July 21**
Second Vatican Council *Unitatis Redintegratio (Decree on Ecumenicism)* (1964)

**July 28**
Cassidy pp. 3-121
Kasper pp. 1-74
O’Gara pp. 1-44

**First Response paper is due**

**August 4**
O’Gara pp. 45-103
Kasper pp. 75-172

**Second Response paper is due.**

**August 11**
O’Gara pp. 105-14
Nostra Aetate: Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian (1965)
Phan xvii-81

**Third Response paper is due.**
August 13 (THURSDAY)
Cassidy pp. 125-263
Pontifical Council of Interreligious Dialogue
Phan pp. 85-185

Foruth Response paper is due.

August 18
Phan pp. 186-278
Kasper pp. 173-191
O'Gara pp. 157-174

Fifth Response paper is due.
State of the Question paper is due.


Response papers
A response paper is more formal than a reflection paper which typically draws on personal experiences and observations. A response paper should briefly summarize the key points/themes of the readings and then analyze one of the ideas in some detail. The analysis should include similarities and differences in method and content.