## Theological Studies

### Course Description:

In Theological Studies courses, students will critically analyze the religious beliefs and ethical commitments of Christians as well as those adherents of at least one other religious tradition, and consider how those traditions have engaged politics, culture, and society. Courses in this area consider how religious people think about God and the world and how beliefs, texts, practices, and ethics relate to each other and to their cultural contexts. Because the academic study of theology is interdisciplinary in nature and interactive with the human arts and sciences, courses in this area may include approaches from multiple disciplines including religious studies, history, philosophy, and social sciences. Courses in this area will help students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate our religiously diverse world.

1. **Criteria:** Theological Studies courses will
   1. Substantively engage Christianity (usually at least half the course).
   2. Develop religious literacy and an understanding of religious diversity by comparing the beliefs, texts, or practices of least two religious traditions and/or exploring the relationship between at least two religious traditions.
   3. Encourage students to understand religious traditions, beliefs, texts, and practices as appropriate objects of academic study by critically analyzing and evaluating religious and ethical claims.
   4. Enable students to understand the culturally and historically embedded nature of religious beliefs, practices, texts, and traditions, specifically by addressing how they have affected or been affected by social and cultural contexts, historical or contemporary.
2. **SLOs:** Theological Studies students will
   1. Explain how and why particular religious traditions and/or religious beliefs have affected or been affected by social and cultural contexts, historical or contemporary.
   2. Critically evaluate religious and ethical claims.