Re-Approval Form for THEOL Liberal Arts Perspective Course

(For current course)

**Date**:

**Instructor’s Name**:

Department and Course Number:

Course Title:

Catalog course description:

The criteria for THEOL courses are listed in Appendix B of the Faculty Handbook. These criteria are as follows:

B. Biblical and Theological Studies (THEOL)

Requiring one regular semester course in the Christian tradition is a curricular expression of the

College’s long-standing institutional commitments, as articulated in its Mission Statement. This course will meet three goals:

* Foster a mature understanding of the Christian faith, including the role of religion in human life.
* Encourage an understanding of the importance of religion as part of a liberal arts education through a biblical and theological study of the Christian tradition.
* Help students develop a critical understanding and appreciation of the Christian tradition as an important element in American society and other world cultures.

Courses in this area meet the following criteria:

1. The course will be in the Christian tradition, construed to embrace, in its several variations, the developing body of communal belief, thought, and action that has served to identify the church of Jesus Christ from its beginnings to the present.

2. The course will be both critically self-conscious and constructive.

a. The course will be critically self-conscious, requiring specific attention to the methods used to analyze particular facets of the Christian tradition and presenting the Christian tradition not as an object that a student must accept or reject, but as an empirical and normative historical totality that a student can come to understand.

b. The course will be constructive, i.e., critical analysis is to be complemented by the endeavor to present coherently, as a challenging and fruitful religious option, an ecumenical understanding of the Christian tradition.

3. The course will:

a. Give students an elementary cognitive grasp of some of the historical, contemporary and emerging future expressions of the Christian faith;

b. Help students learn to think religiously and theologically, i.e., to recognize the religious and theological dimensions of cultural, political, and intellectual issues;

c. Expose students to critical textual interpretations of the Bible, including the historical context in which it was written;

d. Introduce students to the nature of religious language and symbolism and the critical interpretations of religious claims; and encourage students to think critically about their own religious convictions.

Student learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of selected historical, contemporary, and emerging expressions of the Christian faith.

2. Students will evidence an awareness of critical textual interpretations of the Bible, including the historical context in which it was written.

3. Students will be able to articulate a basic understanding of the nature of religious language and symbolism.

4. Students will be able to recognize and articulate the religious and theological dimensions of cultural, political, and intellectual issues.

5. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of critical interpretations of religious claims.

6. Students will think critically about their own religious experience.

1. **Describe in detail how the course fulfills the specific criteria mentioned above**:

1. **How will information about course criteria and student learning outcomes be communicated to the students taking the course? (Examples include: stated on syllabus, verbally communicated in class, placed on Moodle site, etc.)**

1. **Please provide examples of assignments in the course that address the student learning outcomes mentioned in the criteria above. Please identify in parentheses the SLO met by the assignments you describe. (Descriptions are satisfactory, there is no need to provide the actual assignment)**

1. **How will you/your department communicate the expectations that this course meet the criteria, and that the student learning outcomes be assessed, to faculty teaching the course?**

**Submit this form to the Provost’s Office at the following email address:** [courseproposal@gustavus.edu](mailto:courseproposal@gustavus.edu)