

# THEO 142W-01: THEOLOGICAL VIEWS OF THE PERSON

Fisher Hall 336, 11:00-11:50am, Fall 2023

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## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

***Who am I? What is the meaning of human life? How do I make my life meaningful as a human person?*** Philosophy, theology (religion) and anthropology (among others) attempt to explore these questions. In this course, we will explore the question of “what it means to be human” from a comparative theological (interreligious) perspective.

The approach to the course is broad rather than deep. We will concentrate on the concepts underlying various aspects of spirituality and wholeness drawing on the wisdom and insights of religious as well as non-religious sources and domains. Writing assignments and other requisites of this course will assist students to identify key concepts, perspectives, and worldviews and their significance in contemporary lived experiences and contexts.

## 2. COURSE PROCESS

***“What does it mean to be human in relation to oneself, God (Divine), other human beings, and the world?”*** This is the question that we will think, read, watch, and talk through! Each class session involves a brief lecture and group discussions of the Readings for each day. Our class readings, discussions, and activities are designed to give you material for presenting your Personal View of the Self, which will be combined with others in another presentation, your Group View of the Self.

## 3. COURSE GOALS

*General learning goals relevant to theology:*

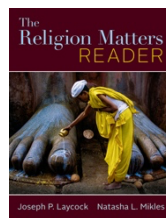
- The ability to comprehend fundamental human questions through the study of selected texts and figures in philosophy and theology.
- The capacity to explain how religion can inform personal, societal, and professional life through the study and reflection on theological sources and questions.

*Specific learning outcomes:*

- Students become familiar with basic questions in the study of the human person informed by religious traditions, spiritual pathways, and modes of thought.
- Understand one’s own existence in relation to God, human beings, and the universe and engage in a critical reflection on cultural and religious pluralism and people’s ways of being religious in view of developing respect and appreciation for one’s as well as other faiths.
- Find oneself in relation to the larger concerns of the entire human family and the rest of creation, particularly the social, ecological, and environmental challenges of today.
- The ability to engage significant questions related to human existence, including those on the ultimate purpose and meaning of life in a well-informed and self-appropriated manner.

## 4. COURSE TEXTS / MEDIA

- a) Laycock, Joseph and Natasha L. Mikles. 2021. *The Religion Matters Reader*. New York NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- b) Other readings/materials are available on Canvas.



## 5. COURSE ACTIVITIES / GRADING

Consider this a “Build-Your-Score” Course. All students start at zero and build points toward their grade, rather than start with a perfect score and lose points on course activities. This is an approach that is more about emphasizing the paths to successful learning, and less about emphasizing the mistakes.