



# Theology & Religious Studies Department

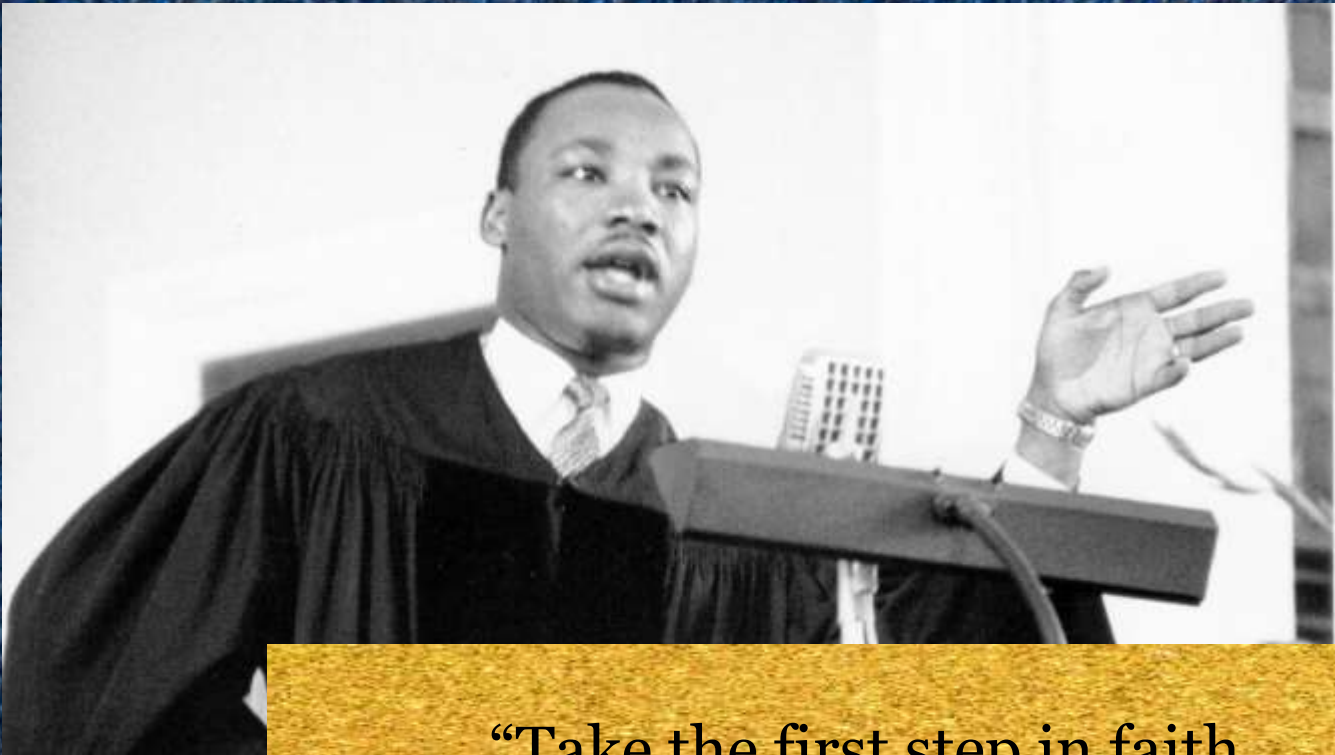
## Course Offerings Fall 2020



*200-Level  
Courses  
(Pp. 2-5)*

*300-Level  
Courses  
(Pp. 6-10)*

*Grad-Level  
Courses  
(P. 11)*



**“Take the first step in faith.  
You don’t have to see the whole staircase,  
just take the first step.”  
~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.~**

## Key:



BSI:  
Borromeo Seminary course

CAPA:  
Creative and Performing Arts

CS:  
Catholic Studies

EGC:  
Engaging Global Community

ISJ:  
Issues in Social Justice

LINK:  
Linked course

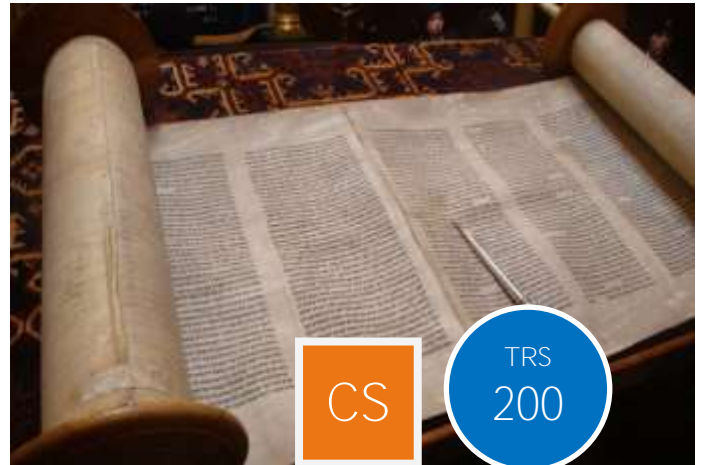
SLC:  
Service Learning Component

## Hebrew Bible

Sheila McGinn PhD

TR 9:30 –10:45 AM; 11:00 AM—12:30 PM

Historical and cultural environment of the Jewish Bible (the collection of scriptures in the Torah, **Nebi'im, and Kethubim, or “Tanakh,” which Christians call the “Old Testament”**), its nature and composition, and its religious and theological developments

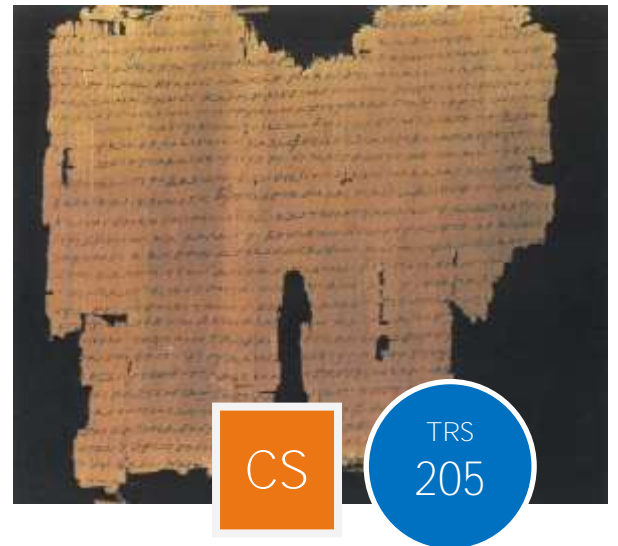


## New Testament

Allan Georgia, PhD

MWF 11:00 —11:50 AM

A survey course introducing the scholarly study of the New Testament. It will be grounded in the biblical scholarship and teachings of the Catholic Church. Specifically, it will explore the historical and cultural milieu that shaped the New Testament, its nature and composition, its religious and theological developments, and its significance for Catholics today.

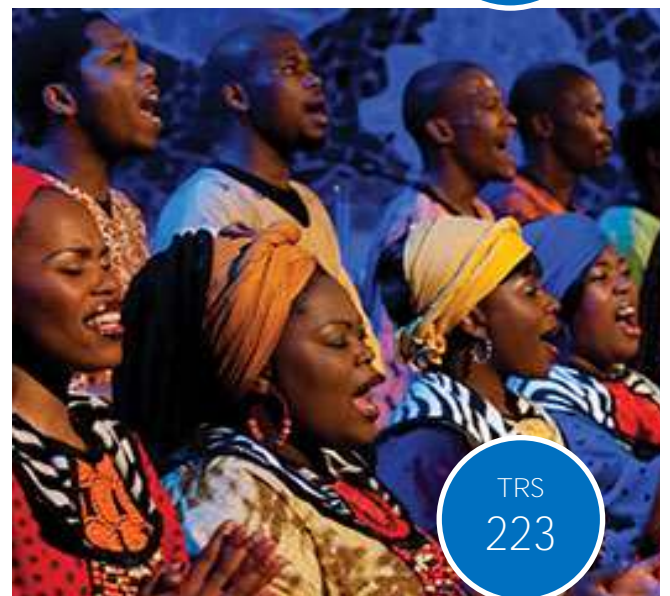


## African American Religion

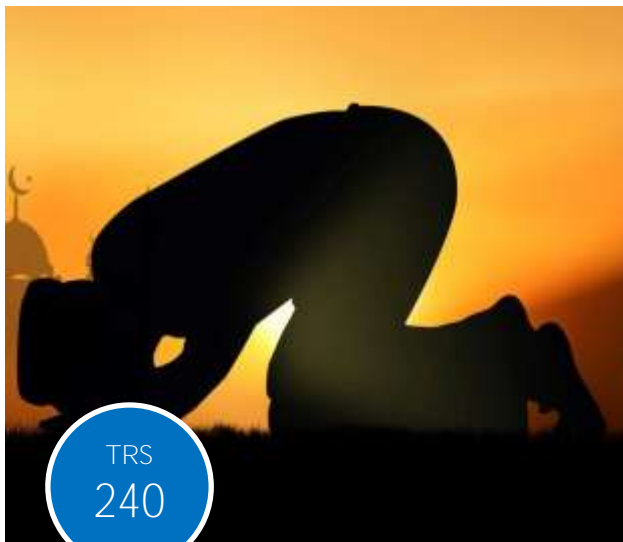
Reverend Bertrice Wood, PhD

TR 2:00-3:15 PM

The African-American religious experience, including historical roots of African religion essential to slave Christianity, development of the institutional church, and spiritual expressions influencing African-American worship styles. Important political and social foundations of the church from which political and social organizations were created, as well as African-American theology.



## Cool & New Courses— 200 Level



### Introduction to Islam

Jacob Waldenmaier, PhD

MWF 10:00—10:50 AM; 11:00— 11:50 AM

Surveys the history of Islam, impact of Islamic belief and culture on global social and political development, and fundamental tenets and practices of Islam. Includes a modern interpretation of the Islamic tradition

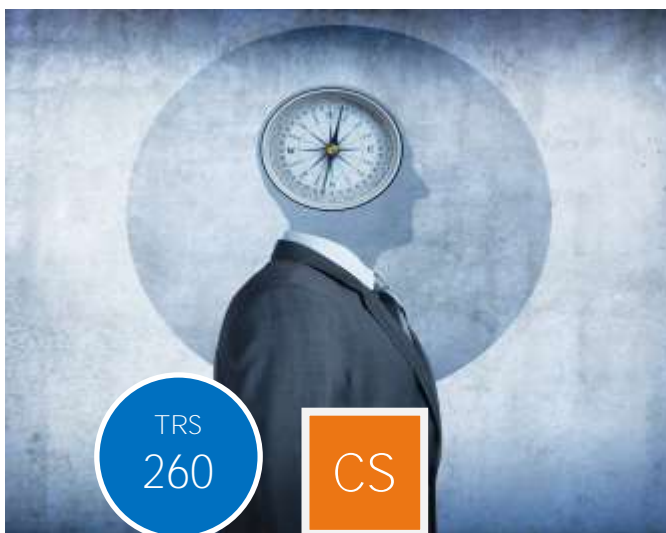


### Religions of India

Paul Nietupski, PhD

MWF 9:00-9:50 AM; 10:00-10:50 AM;  
1:00-1:50 PM

**Study of interpretation of India's religions and cultures,** including the discussion of methods and cultural biases in the study of foreign religions and cultures. Focus on Hinduism and Buddhism in the Indian subcontinent and how these were transmitted to other Asian countries.



### Moral Decision-Making

Rev. James Bretzke, SJ, STD

TR 12:30-1:45 PM

Examination of contemporary moral issues with a focus on methods for analyzing and evaluating moral problems; sources from the Christian tradition that form moral identity and ethical decisions.

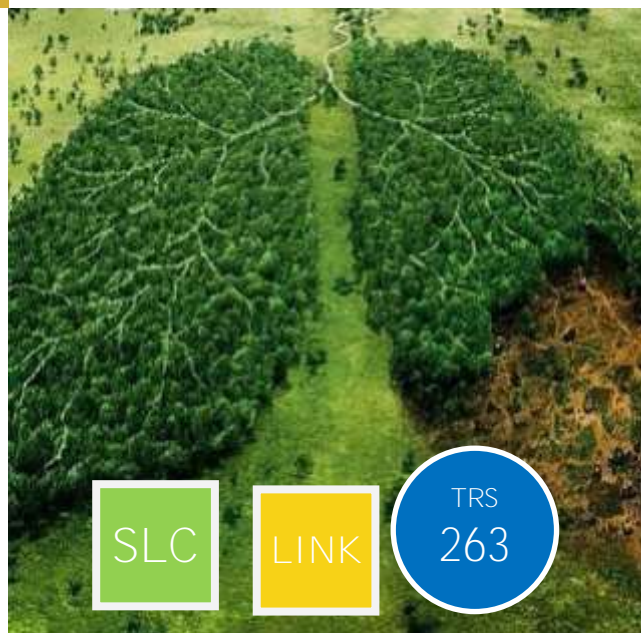
## Cool & New Courses— 200 Level

### Ecology, Religion, and Justice

Deborah Zawislan, PhD

MW 3:30—4:45

Explores how the Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—are addressing the contemporary ecological crisis. Issues of eco-justice are approached through the interplay between faith, scholarship, and activism. Responses are evaluated using the principle of the common good, assessing potential impact on the most vulnerable members of the global community. Topics include eco-theology, eco-feminism, globalization, migration, violence against women and children, food security, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. Forms a Core Link with SC 290 Environmental Sociology.

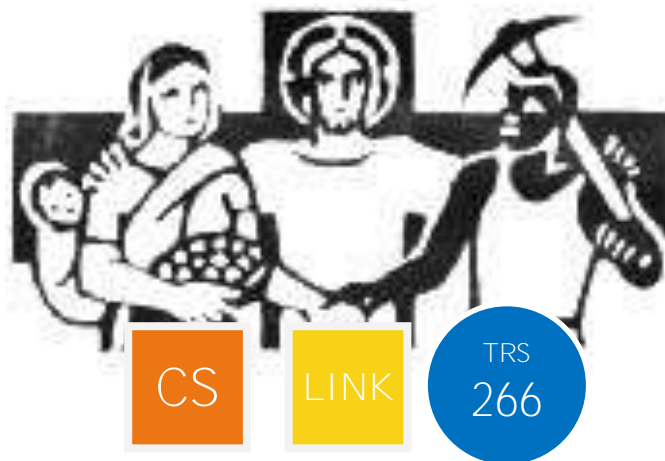


### Catholic Social Teaching in Business

Megan Wilson-Reitz, MA

MWF 12:00-12:50 PM

Examines the historical context, biblical foundations, theological meanings, and ecclesiastical purposes of the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Students learn the CST framework in this class and then apply it in the linked business class to examine and evaluate the systems and decisions of real businesses in the contemporary world. Forms a Core Link with AC 100 Catholic Social Teaching in Business.

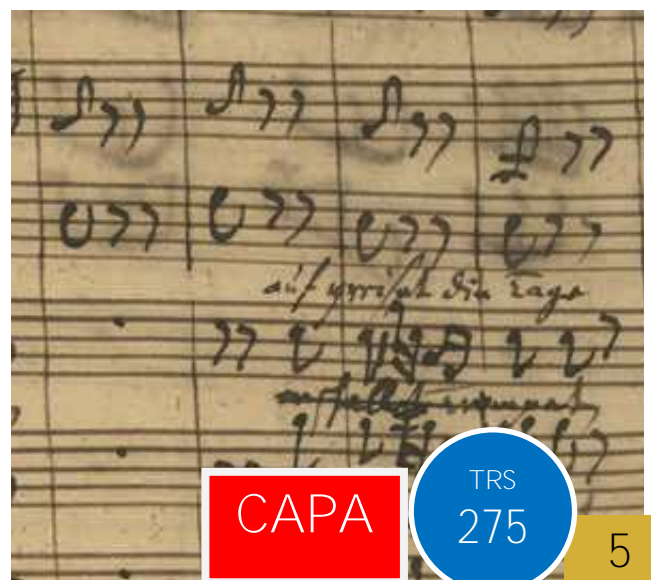


### Theology in Music

Jerome Andrews, MA

MF 2:00-3:15 PM

Broad survey of church music as a carrier of theology and spirituality, from the early church to Vatican II. Examines the history of western church music to understand the relationships between music, worship, theology, and spiritual life, within the cultural and historical settings of the church. Involves experiential learning. A CAPA course in the Core Curriculum.



## Archaeology and the Bible

Michele Freyhaut, MA, ABD

MWF 8:00-8:50 AM

Principles and methodologies of archaeology; examination of how archaeology broadens and informs our understanding of the world and events of the Bible.



"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time-waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God- it changes me."

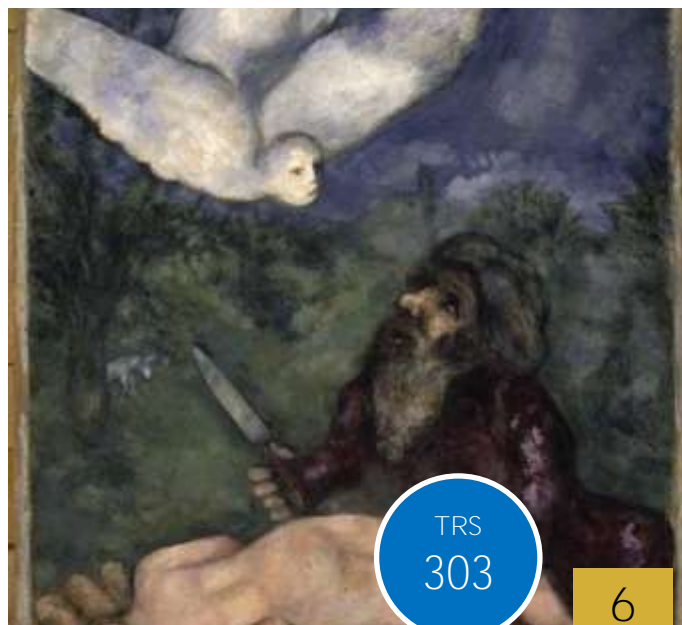
- C.S. Lewis

## Abraham: Father of Many Nations

Noah Bickart, PhD

R 5:00-7:45 PM

Three religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all see this biblical figure as in some way their founder or ancestor. In this course we will engage in close readings of Genesis 12-25 which tell the story of this Patriarch to try to understand how Abraham was understood in Ancient Israel. Along the way we will also encounter texts from rabbinic literature, the New Testament, and the Qur'an to explore the ways in which three contemporary traditions map onto Abraham their own visions of what it means to be a religious person.



## Religious Enthusiasm in Modern America

Kristen Tobey, PhD

TR 9:30-10:45 AM

A sociological inquiry into religious fervor in 20th- and 21st-century America. Examines the histories and lived experiences of several contemporary "enthusiastic" religious movements, paying particular attention to the discrepancy between their appeal to adherents, versus the fear and mistrust they often excite in society at large. Case studies are used to explore the dynamics of contemporary American religion and offer ways to think about American religious history. Forms a Core Link with HS 240 Spiritual Awakening in in Early America.



## Martin, Malcom, & Black Lives Matter

Reverend Bertrice Wood, PhD

TR 12:30-1:45 PM

Life, career, and teaching of the civil-rights leader and Christian theologian, Martin Luther King, Jr. **Sources of King's unique theology; analysis of speeches and writings; King's relationship to other activists of his time, such as Mohandas K. Gandhi and Malcolm X; milestones of justice and peace; connections and comparisons with the contemporary "Black Lives Matter" movement.**



## History of Christmas

Nathaniel Morehouse, PhD

TR 9:30-10:45 AM; 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Origins of the feast; gospel infancy narratives; apocryphal traditions; Christology; Christmas in Medieval art and drama; cult of Saint Nicholas; origins and growth of Christmas music; Puritan attack on the feast; decline of the feast in 18th century; impact of the Industrial Revolution; the establishment of modern Christmas; modern commercialization; contemporary developments.



## Minority Religions

Kristen Tobey, PhD

TR 2:00-3:15 PM

Examines the histories, traditions, and lived religious practices of select minority religious groups by exploring their interaction and exchange with wider American culture (e.g., through architecture, commerce, food, law, and media). Case studies consider such questions as the shifting contextual meaning of the labels minority/majority and marginal/central; ways American religious groups affect one another while maintaining their distinct identities. Involves experiential learning.



## Faith & Science

Rev. Don Serva, SJ, MS

MWF 9:00-:9:50 AM

Explores the historical controversies and contemporary conversations surrounding the relationship between religious belief and modern science, with particular attention to evolution and ecology.

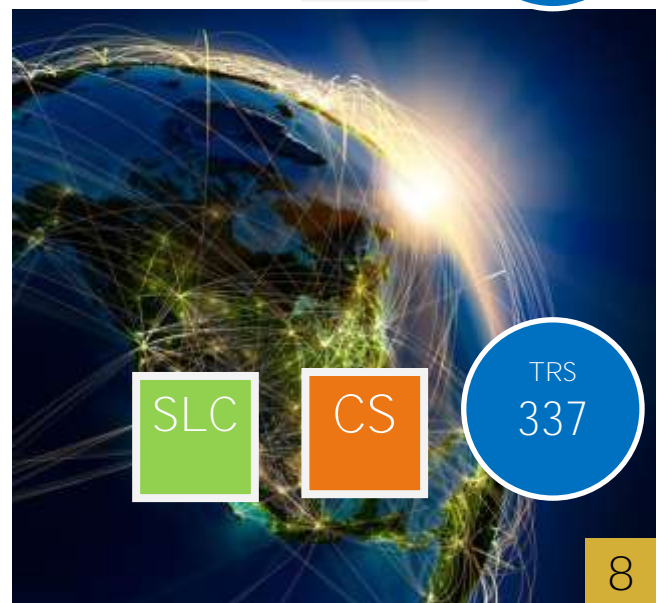


## Globalization, Theology, and Justice

Krista Stevens, PhD

TR 11:00 AM –12:15 PM; 12:30-1:45 PM

Surveys and analyzes contributions of Catholic theology and tradition on issues related to globalization, such as economics, demographic shifts, ecology, migration, human trafficking, and interreligious conflict. Approached through the lens of Catholic social teaching, possible responses are evaluated based on the principle of the common good and the impact upon the most vulnerable members of society. Involves service learning.





## Catholic Moral Theology

Rev. James Bretzke, SJ, STD

M 5:00-7:45 PM

Methods for making informed and prudential moral decisions, in the interpersonal and social spheres, grounded in experience, Scripture, church teaching, and rational discourse. Addresses such topics as conscience; virtue; individual and social sin; the common good; political, economic, and social problems such as war and peace, poverty, and prejudice; and major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.



## Theologies of Sex, Gender, & Identity

Russell Tripi, MA

T 6:30-9:15 PM

An exploration of Christian spirituality, religion, and theology from the LGBTQ+ perspective. Topics include the origin, history and themes of queer theology and its relation to Queer Theory; queering scriptural interpretations and theological doctrines; intersections of queer people of color; and societal and ecological engagement in the post-colonial western world. Case studies on queerness, race, and ethnicity in Womanist, Asian-American, Latina/o, and Two-Spirit Indigenous theologies.



## Religion, Terror, & Culture Wars

Michele Freyhauf, MA, ABD

W 6:30-9:15 PM

Ethical and practical issues regarding the importance of cultural memory and the destruction, recovery, and protection of cultural assets in a politicized global environment. Examination of past and present national and international threats to cultural assets.



## Ignatian Spirituality: Origins & Development

James Menkhaus, PhD

M 6:30-9:15 PM

Study of the life and writings of Ignatius Loyola and the spirituality that emerged from his religious experience, the dissemination of Ignatian spirituality through the creation of the Jesuit order, the mission and ministry of the first Jesuits, the development of Ignatian spirituality, and its contemporary relevance. Involves experiential learning.



## Augustine's Spiritual Quest

Sheila McGinn, PhD

TR 2:00-3:15

This course focuses on Augustine of Hippo as spiritual guide and model of an authentic Christian life. Historical analysis will provide the groundwork for spiritual and theological reflection on key works of the early Augustine (especially the Confessions and On Grace and Free Will).



## Special Topics: Spirituality of the Catholic Novel

Andrew Cera, SJ, MA

W 5:00-7:45 PM

Explores the expression of Catholic spirituality in the works of several 20th-century English and American novelists (e.g., Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Walker Percy, Flannery O'Connor, et al.) Students will examine how concepts like grace, mercy, redemption, charity, and love are manifest in the novels.



## Introduction to Systematic Theology

Edward Hahnenberg, PhD

W 5:00—7:45 PM

Consideration of concepts key to understanding how theology works: faith, revelation, scripture, symbol, tradition, community, and method. Explores how these concepts work in the writings of significant theologians. Places these thinkers within their historical and cultural worlds to help students reflect on what it means to do theology out of their unique commitments, contexts, and life experiences. A Core Advanced Writing in the Major and Oral Performance course.



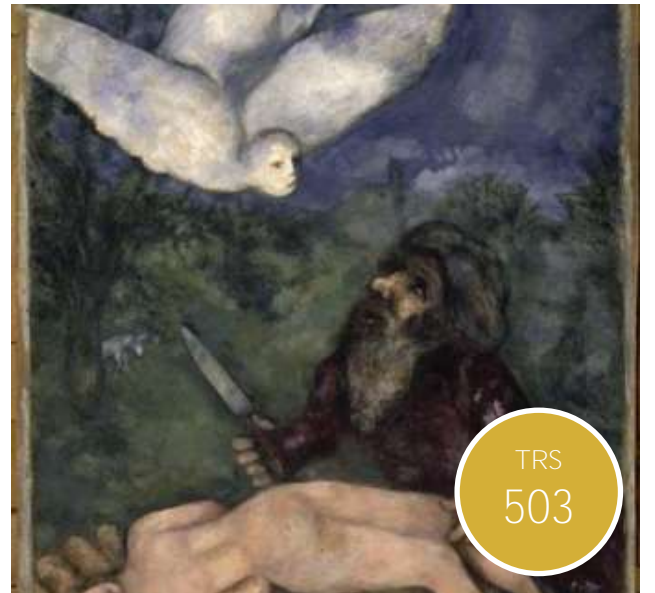
TRS  
430

## Abraham: Father of Many Nations

Noah Bickart, PhD

R 5:00-7:45 PM

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TRS  
503

## Catholic Moral Theology

Rev. James Bretzke, SJ, STD

M 5:00-7:45 PM

Introduction to Catholic moral theology attentive to implications for both the individual and society. Topics include moral decision making, conscience, virtues, sin, social sin, the common good, and major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.



TRS  
560



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