

**HISTORICAL AND DEVOTIONAL THEOLOGY
FORM 4-5
2025-2026 Syllabus**



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PURPOSE OF HISTORICAL AND DEVOTIONAL THEOLOGY:

The Theology courses at Saint Benedict Hall are not conceived of as separate from the work we do in the Bible courses. We maintain that the world presented to us in the Christian Scriptures is the world in which we live today. This world exists in God as a temporal and physical construction of the Father's eternal love, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The historical and devotional theology course will trace the historical development of key Christian doctrines and devotional classics with an eye toward their impact on our students today.

OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the key doctrines of the Christian faith and the context in which they were first articulated and refined.
- Consider significant and influential theological writings from various eras in the history of the church.
- Apply the theological content of these writings to their lives and context.

MATERIALS:

All or part of the following works will be read and discussed:

- Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*
- Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*
- Augustine, *Confessions*
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*
- John Calvin, *Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life*
- Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*
- C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*
- John Paul II, *The Theology of the Body*

Various readings to be distributed in class.

SCHEDULE:

We will aim to have most of the: reading will be done outside of class to allow greater time for discussion, clarification, evaluation, lectures, and presentations in class.

EXAM WEEK:

At the end of each semester, the students will have two days of oral and written exams in which they are asked to discuss the materials covered in the course.

Exams are evaluated either as or pass/fail. These exams will be used at the end of the semester parent/teacher conferences to help evaluate and assess the development and growth of students.