

Being Human: Becoming the Best Bag of Bones You Can Be

Summer 2019

TPS-3### / TPS-4###

Claremont School of Theology

Professor:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how Christian theology can address our rapidly changing paradigms of human existence. We will explore how process theology can contribute to our knowledge of the human self as gained through the sciences, how a process theological perspective on humanity is useful in contemporary pluralistic and global settings, as well as the theological significance to work and play. Also considered will be issues of gender, sexuality, creativity, and human expression, and how it is no longer possible to assign definitive meaning to categories like man and woman, self and society, freedom and determinism, reason and feeling, soul and body by reference to systems of narrative (including biblical narrative) and interpretation in which those ideas are taken for granted. The theology of human personhood begins with irreducible experiences both universal and particular and searches for functional understandings from the whole range of Christian and non-Christian ways of knowing.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this class will be able to:

1. Articulate the fundamental ideas of process theology, especially on issues of personhood and ethics.
2. Write perceptively about theological anthropology including issues of identity, personhood, and the good life.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

Paper: An essay on theological anthropology and ethics from a process perspective. 5-8 pages for 3000 level, 10-12 pages for 4000 level (assesses SLO #1, 2). **Due 1 August 2019.**

COURSE TEXTS:

Note: Additional required reading may be provided via hyperlink or pdf.

Bowman, Donna, *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Being Human: Becoming the Best Bag of Bones You Can Be* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018)