THEO799 Colloquium: Hospitality

Instructor	Dr. Arthur Sutherland & Rabbi Nina Cardin
Schedule	Mondays, 6 – 8 :30 pm (January 11 – May 10)
Description	What makes hospitality sacred? What kind of life does hospitality make possible? Why is hospitality essential? This course examines Jewish and Christian understandings of hospitality and considers how they challenge or complicate contemporary cultural assumptions about welcoming strangers and loving one's neighbor. Drawing on biblical texts, foundational beliefs, and contemporary resources, students will explore the roles of the stranger and the neighbor, the responsibilities of host and guest, and how hospitality and inhospitality—expressed through welcome and exclusion, boundary-making and belonging, and the recognition or withholding of dignity—shape human flourishing, community, justice, migration, and faith.
Requirements	**Reading:** Students will complete approximately 700 pages of reading.
	Writing: **Paper 1 Biblical/Theological Interpretation (Due February 22):** What can biblical stories of hospitality and inhospitality teach us about human relationships? Analyze one or more biblical narratives and develop an argument about hospitality, paying particular attention to themes such as welcome, exclusion, boundaries, dignity, and belonging. **Paper 2: Theological Argument (Due April 5):** What makes hospitality sacred? Drawing on Jewish and Christian theological traditions, develop an argument explaining what distinguishes sacred hospitality from ordinary kindness, generosity, social convention, or commercial practices. **Paper 3: Contemporary Application (Due May 3):** What kind of life does hospitality make possible? Using biblical, theological, and contemporary resources, examine a contemporary issue involving hospitality and inhospitality—such as migration, community boundaries, homelessness, religious difference, or social isolation—and develop an argument about how hospitality shapes human flourishing, dignity, and belonging.
	Other Assignments Six times over the semester, students will prepare a reading summary of no more than two paragraphs based on the assigned texts and present it to the class. At the end of the semester, students make a presentation based on their third paper.

Required Texts: (These are books for purchase; handouts will be posted on Canvas).

Author and Title (Press, Year, Edition)	Cost	Pages to be read
Oden, *And You Welcomed Me* (Abingdon, 2001)	33.38	100
Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace* (Abingdon Revised and Updated 2019	34.59	175
Sutherland, *I Was a Stranger* (Abingdon 2006)	16.99	100
Groody, A Theology of Migration (Orbis 2022)	18.99	175