

FALL, 1981

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Secs Th 2:30-4:15

TITLE Method in Theology

PROFESSOR B. Lonergan

DESCRIPTION: Every theology has been an effort at mediating between a religion and a culture. Even a religion that does not change in its commitments will experience the need for a transposition of its theology when it would speak to a culture that has been or is still changing.

Western culture has undergone two profound changes since the medieval period: the first was the seventeenth-century launching of an empirical science that differed notably from Aristotelian techniques; the second was the nineteenth-century development of scientific history.

Christian theology has been aware of these changes and has been doing many things differently because of them. But the differences are so manifold that they create the problem of method in theology. Its task is to discern what precisely are the ingredients in a theology on the level of our age, how each can or should be elaborated, how all may come together to constitute a single ongoing unity, and what are the existential developments a budding theologian has to foster if he is to make his personal contribution to a theological renaissance.

TEXTS: B. Lonergan, Method in Theology, Seabury paperback, 1979.

Back ground to the above in Lonergan's Insight, Harper & Row paperback 1978; Collection Seabury; Second Collection, Westminster.

A representation for the Tübingen Catholic faculty: Michael O'Callaghan, Unity in Theology: Lonergan's Framework for Theology in its New Context, University Press of America, 1980.

Walter Conn, Conscience: Development and Self-transcendence, Birmingham Alabama: Religious Education Press, 1981

John Haight, Religion and Self-acceptance, University Press of America, 1980.

REQUIREMENTS:

Active participation in sessions. 15-page term paper.

If possible, participation in Rev. Charles Hefling's discussion group.

PRE-REQUISITES:

Serious concern for a basic problem of our time,

Adequate awareness of theological issues.