Integrations – Faith and Reason

I. Description of Purpose and Content
The purpose of these courses is to institute dialogue between theology and other fields that inform and enrich the pursuit of questions of ultimate concern, an essential feature of a Jesuit and Marymount education that serves faith and promotes justice. The Faith and Reason Core Integration courses challenge students to take the skills and knowledge that they have acquired from Foundations and Explorations courses, as well as major/minor courses, and build upon and articulate the relevance to interdisciplinary consideration of thematic questions that link theological reflection with various aspects of human reasoning in other disciplines. Content areas should include the study of faith and human religious experiences in relation to discrete fields of study that approach questions of ultimate concern from other various disciplinary perspectives. Courses in this area should typically be conducted as seminars, and should include activities, experiences, and pedagogies that are appropriate to the engaged conversation between theological reflection/action and critical reflection/action in the dialogue discipline.

II. Learning Outcomes
Course proposals will address the following student learning outcomes and briefly describe how the specific course content relates to these outcomes.
Students will:
• Value the existential importance of ultimate questions.
• Understand the search for God as a culturally and historically embedded process.
• Be able to analyze the meaning of theological ideas and religious institutions in light of one or more disciplines that inform, explicate or challenge these ideas.
• Be able to compare different perspectives on religious, ecclesial and spiritual traditions.

Proposals will also indicate what kinds of assessment mechanisms will be used to ascertain the degree to which student learning outcomes have been achieved.

III. Defining Characteristics
Course proposals will:
• Describe how the dialogue between Theology and another field or fields of study inform and enrich the pursuit of questions of ultimate concern.
• Address the historical and cultural contexts of the questions raised from the perspectives of both Theology and the other field/s of study.
• Describe how comparative perspectives on religious, ecclesial, and/or spiritual traditions are developed
• Describe the particular disciplinary methodological approaches to be used in the course.
• Demonstrate through a sample reading list how the class places Theology in dialogue with another field of study.
• Address specific religious texts and practices.