

D0107

OUTLINE OF COURSE

- I. Two difficulties in the study of theology
 - A. Knowledge vs. indoctrination: the post-Enlightenment context
 1. The structure of indoctrination: ideology
 2. The structure of knowledge: inquiring intelligence and reflecting reasonableness
 3. Theology as knowledge: the pursuit of accurate understanding concerning the dimension of ultimacy in human experience
 - B. Religion
 1. Religion as an illusion
 2. Religion as secular ultimacy
 - a. the radical secularity of all experience
 - b. the radical religious dimension of secularity
- II. Religion and Culture: an introduction
 - A. Dimensions of the problem
 1. Historical context of present situation: where have we come from?
 2. The option of the future: where are we heading? What is going forward?
 - a. Post-historic humanity: an evolutionary blind alley
 - b. World cultural humanity: a qualitative leap to a series of new schemes of recurrence
 - B. Culture
 1. Defined: the at least implicitly operative set of assumptions of meaning and value that inform the lifestyle and project of the members of a given group of people
 2. Two uses of the definition: restricted and general
 3. The priority of the more general use
 - C. Cultural epochs
 1. The notion of the control of meaning: i.e., techniques of procuring intelligibility
 2. Mythic consciousness, realistic consciousness, self-appropriating consciousness
 3. A new epoch: Lonergan, Mumford, Jung, scholars of religions
 4. The common denominator: a new differentiation of human consciousness through interiority

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