

THEOLOGY

FRESHMEN

TH 810 INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

Two Semester Course

In the first year course, students will explore the foundations of Catholic theology, history, sacramentality, and morality. In doing so, students will gain a firm grasp of the intellectual component of the tradition of the school. After an introduction to the life and spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, students will investigate the inter-relationship between knowledge, truth, and belief, with a careful treatment of the complementarity of faith and science. The course then moves on to a study of the nature of God, in which students will engage the meaning of the Apostles' Creed. Following a brief survey of the mission and history of the Catholic Church, students will study liturgy, prayer, and sacraments, followed by an introduction to principles of Catholic morality and to Catholic social teaching. Throughout the course, students will be challenged not only to understand theological concepts, but also to experience various elements of the Catholic tradition so that they grasp the relevance of faith for their own lives and for the world in which they live.

SOPHOMORES

TH 820 INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

Two Semester Course

In the second year course, students will critically, responsibly, and faithfully interpret the texts of the Bible in a way that informs and challenges how they live. Using the tradition of the Church, students will identify major themes, characters, and events of the Bible, appreciating its literary, historical, and theological nature. Additionally, students will articulate various ways in which the Bible has influenced Christian life (liturgy, theology, church tradition). This survey of both the Old and New Testaments will also challenge students both to draw ethical norms from scripture and to use them to evaluate their prayer life, personal experiences, and issues of social justice. Finally, the course will prompt students to investigate questions of ultimate meaning found in scripture in order to enrich their own faith experience.

JUNIORS

TH 830 CATHOLIC ETHICS

Two Semester Course

The third year course challenges students to examine the question: What is “the good life,” and how can I live it as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Students will think critically, evaluate arguments, and identify logical fallacies, using various modes of reasoning. Using the complementarity of faith and reason, students will analyze and evaluate various moral topics and ethical approaches. Students will also identify and employ the salient features of the moral decision-making process, inspired by the Catholic Tradition. The course will present various ethical approaches in order to understand the essential difference that God makes. Ultimately, students will construct moral arguments rooted in a Catholic sacramental worldview and a “seamless garment” approach to moral issues, both interpersonal and social.

SENIORS

All Seniors will either take the year long Discipleship and Social Justice course (TH 859)/Service Learning (SS 777) or Theology 4 - World Religions (TH 840) and one of the electives listed below. The electives offer students the opportunity to explore theological themes of the Catholic tradition through an interdisciplinary lens. In the spirit of “finding God in all things,” students will engage questions about God, truth, beauty, and justice and discover ways in which those questions permeate other disciplines.

TH 840 THEOLOGY 4 - WORLD RELIGIONS

One Semester Course

As a Catholic school in the Jesuit tradition, Saint Ignatius College Prep seeks to educate and to inspire faith-filled students who will engage the world around them in all of its diversity. This senior year, one-semester, required course introduces students to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam by engaging representative texts from within each of these four traditions. The approach outlined by *Nostra Aetate* provides the framework for interreligious dialogue for this course. Students practice the art and skill of informed, respectful, and faithful dialogue with the hope that they will graduate with the tools necessary to respond justly to common prejudices and misunderstandings. Ultimately, students will develop respect and appreciation for various religious perspectives while deepening their understanding of the Catholic faith. This is a one semester required course for all students not registering for Discipleship Social Justice TH 859/Service Learning SS 777, which incorporates this World Religions course.

The following senior semester Theology elective courses are:

- 841** Exploring Faith and Science
- 842** The Catholic Imagination
- 843** Restless Hearts: Journeying with the Spiritual Masters
- 844** Discipleship and Social Justice

TH 841 EXPLORING FAITH AND SCIENCE

One Semester Course

How should science and faith inform our experience of God, ourselves, and the world around us? In this course, students explore the interface between scientific reason and the Catholic tradition. Students investigate the ways in which science and faith complement one another in the human quest for knowledge, truth, and purpose. The course challenges students to examine medicine, bioethics, environmentalism, astronomy, and cosmology through the lens of faith. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to bridge the cultural divide that has created a false dichotomy between faith and science. Beyond the classroom, students are challenged both to see the world with wonder and to discover the truth that presents itself through the complementarity of science and the Catholic faith.

TH 842 THE CATHOLIC IMAGINATION

One Semester Course

How can the written word, the production of a film, the brush-strokes of an artist, and the strumming of a guitar reveal insights about the transcendentals of truth, beauty, and goodness? In this course, students explore Catholic theological themes such as creation, sin, Incarnation, and redemption through various works of literature, film, art, music, and theater. Through their examination and celebration of the humanities, students develop a deeper appreciation of the beauty of God, the sacredness of creation, the intrinsic dignity of the human person, and the call each one receives to put faith into action.

TH 843 RESTLESS HEARTS: JOURNEYING WITH THE SPIRITUAL MASTERS

One Semester Course

How can we use the inspiration of great spiritual masters to cultivate our own spiritual lives? This course provides students the opportunity to explore spirituality by engaging texts of the great female and male sages of the Catholic tradition. This investigation offers students tools for discernment as they navigate their daily lives and their sense of vocation. Students will engage Ignatian spirituality, as well as other “schools” of Catholic spirituality, in an effort to nurture their own faith and sense of purpose.

TH 844 DISCIPLESHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

One Semester Course

How can we live out Christ’s call to stand with “the least” in our response to systemic injustice in our world? This course challenges students to analyze contemporary issues of justice through the lens of Catholic social thought. Using Church documents, Vatican II, and the rich history of the saints and others who have fought for social change, students will learn how to apply the Catholic tradition to topics such as poverty, consumerism, immigration, racial justice, gender equality, war and peace, homelessness, globalization, and consistent ethic of life issues.

TH 859 DISCIPLESHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (with service learning)

Two Semester Course

Taken with Service Learning, Social Studies SS 777

This year-long, double-period course combines the content of the World Religions TH 840 and Discipleship and Social Justice TH 844 courses with a service-learning component. In addition to completing the classroom experience described above, students partner with various organizations in the area and form relationships with people at their service sites in an effort to put a human face on the issues they study in the classroom. This course runs for two semesters and will incorporate the required World Religions TH 840 content.