

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
MICAH 6:8

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

THEO 200 1st Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This freshmen semester course is designed to give students from diverse religious upbringings and backgrounds an understanding of the basics of the Catholic faith, with a common vocabulary and unified vision of the whole of the Catholic heritage. This course is also designed to enable students to explore the meaning of the Catholic faith at a personal and affective level.

PREREQUISITE: None

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

THEO 201 2nd Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This freshmen semester course presents the study of the Hebrew Scriptures from the book of Genesis through the prophet Micah. It covers every book in what is called the “Old Testament.” The reading and understanding are based on a contextualist’s view of the scriptures, (i.e., one who seeks to understand the truths of scriptures by studying them in the context of the times and purposes for which they were originally written). The contextualist view also seeks to understand the Bible’s meaning for people today.

PREREQUISITE: None

CHRISTOLOGY

THEO 210 1st Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This sophomore semester course presents to the students the background of the “Jesus of History.” It describes the milieu into which he was born and the people from whom he came. It explores the origins and intent of the four Gospels and surveys the major themes of the Gospels. It presents the passion, death and resurrection accounts. Finally, the course traces how early Christians became aware that Jesus of Nazareth is truly the Son of God, the Christ of Faith.

PREREQUISITE: None

SACRAMENTS

THEO 211 2nd Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

“For Catholics, the seven Sacraments are as precious as the Gospel, and indeed are the Gospel put into bodily language.” (Thomas Bokenkotter, *Essential Catholicism*). Celebrating the Sacraments offers the student an opportunity to explore the rich tradition of sacramental theology and practice that is fundamental to Catholicism. This sophomore semester course seeks to engage students in an encounter with this essential dimension of Catholic life so that they can better appreciate the meaning underlying the Sacraments and the relationships between the Sacraments and their own life.

PREREQUISITE: None

CONSCIENCE AND MORAL DECISION MAKING

THEO 220 **1st Semester** **1/2 credit** **Q.P. 4**

This junior semester course is designed to lead the student in understanding what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the Catholic tradition. The primary focus of this course is on character development, with the question, "What kind of person am I becoming and what kind of person do I want to become?" being consistently reflected upon. The course offers a Christian answer to this question, centering on Jesus as the model of full humanness and looking at the virtues of Jesus as they can be seen in the lives of people past and present in the students' lives. Students will be instructed on how to develop the skills of moral decision-making. They will be given opportunities to practice and reflect on them within the classroom setting, as well as encouraged to use these skills in their daily lives.

PREREQUISITE: None

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

THEO 221 **2nd Semester** **1/2 credit** **Q.P. 4**

This junior semester course is designed to introduce students to the concept of social sin. It builds on the concept of personal sin that is introduced in *Conscience and Moral Decision Making*. Areas studied include various discriminations, the use of military strength, and poverty. The reality of these problems is outlined, and the Catholic Christian responses to them are then explained and examined. Students are encouraged to become active participants in living social justice through a variety of school and community service projects.

PREREQUISITE: None

CHRISTIAN LIFE CHOICES

THEO 230 **1st Semester** **1/2 credit** **Q.P. 4**

This senior semester course is designed to aid students in facing the challenges of young adulthood so that they can shape a future that is hopeful, healthy and full. The belief that underlies this course is, quite properly, that a Christian lifestyle is the optimal way to grow and to be fully alive.

PREREQUISITE: None

FAITH: DEVELOPING ADULT SPIRITUALITY

THEO 231 **2nd Semester** **1/2 credit** **Q.P. 4**

This senior semester course encourages students to gain the skills that they need to live out their faith as responsible adults. In this culminating high school faith experience, students will be asked to examine what they believe about God, their faith, and the Church. As they continue to develop their adult spirituality they must ask the questions, "Why do I believe what I do" and "How might I best live according to this faith system?"

PREREQUISITE: None

DESPERITUS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

THEO 240 **Full Year** **1 credit** **Q.P. 4**

The course is designed to develop spirituality and leadership. Its focus is to deepen student understanding of Liturgy and prayer, as well as teach them the skills needed to be leaders in their Church and community. The seminar will allow students to plan and implement Masses, prayer services, service projects and retreats for the high school. This course may be repeated for credit.

PREREQUISITE: Junior or senior with departmental recommendation