Course Description

An intense course designed to acquaint the student with the fundamental teachings related to the Creed and Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church.

Required Texts

All assigned readings for the course will be taken from Sacred Scripture and the following required textbooks.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Revised Edition.
Bible

Documents cited in reading assignments may be obtained on-line. Otherwise, they will be distributed in class.

Additional Bibliography

If you are interested in a specific area, you will find additional information in the following books found in UST library.


Course Objectives/ Student Learning Outcomes

It is hoped, that within this curriculum, the student will be able to
grasp a basic understanding of the fundamental truths of the Catholic faith
Specific learning skills include:
- an understanding of articles drawn from theological journals
- an ability to compare and contrast content of articles of various approaches to fundamental teachings of the faith
- draw from articles taken from theological journals the thesis, development of thesis, conclusion of various writers
- Research skills by way of documentation
In regard to a specific writing outcome, students will
- understand a Catholic doctrine (or the connections between particular Catholic doctrines) at a genuinely theological level, and express their understanding in clear and effective analytical writing.

Assignments, Examinations, Grading

There will be two major tests during the semester. Together they are worth 37.5% of the semester grade. Unannounced quizzes will be given on the reading assignments for the day.
The written assignment consists of 2 (3-3311) complete four-page typewritten assignments on topics given in class. These short papers are each worth 10% of your grade. Your quizzes are worth 15 of the final grade.
At the end of the course there will be a final comprehensive examination, worth 25% of the final grade. This examination will include both objective and essay questions.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used:
A - 90 - 100        C - 70-79         F 59 and below
B - 80 -  89         D - 60-69

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to follow the norms for academic honesty here at the University of St. Thomas. Any offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists. Such offenses will be dealt with according to the criteria found in the current catalog

Counseling and Disability Services

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustment or accommodations needs to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162. The student is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class.

Class Attendance and Extensions

Regular class attendance is necessary for success in the course. Class roll will be checked at each meeting. Students who miss more than two lectures, without the consent of the instructor, cannot participate fully, and their grades will be adjusted accordingly.
Make-up tests (which are always longer and more difficult) will be given only in the very rare case when doing them on the designated date is absolutely impossible. (A doctor's note or something comparable is in order when a test is missed.) Prior arrangements must be made with the professor.

Due dates for written assignments are clearly designated here on the syllabus. Failure to turn in a written assignment on time will result in a lowering of grade for that assignment. Late assignments will be accepted only within a designated time period.

_Catechism of the Catholic Church_ - CCC (paragraphs)

Most italicized documents may be found in the _Vatican II_ text or on line. Otherwise, I will provide a copy of that excerpt.

1. Monday  Introduction  
   January 23  **Man’s Capacity for God**  
               CCC: 26-49  
               **Revelation: God addresses humanity**  
               CCC: 50-73, 74-100  
               _Providentissimus Deus_ (Leo XIII)  
               **Mediating Revelation: Scripture and Tradition**  
               CCC 101-141  
               VII: _Dei Verbum_: 750-65

2. Monday  **The Church:**  
   January 30  Prefiguring of the Church in the Old Testament  
               Symbols of the Church  
               Four Marks of the Church  
               Charisms  
               CCC:748-897;  
               VII: _Lumen Gentium_: 350-58  
               The Church's Teaching Authority  
               Catholic Church Structure: Ministry of Members of the Hierarchy  
               CCC: 748-870;  
               VII :_Gaudium et Spes_: 939-47

3. Monday  **The Lord God and His Attributes**  
   February 6  CCC: 26-49, 50-64, 198-231, 268-278;  
               _Deus Caritas Est_ - (Pope Benedict XVI)  
               **The Human Person Created in the Image of God**
The Fall of Humanity: Original Sin  
CCC 279-314, 315-54; 355-421  
*Spe Salvi* - (Pope Benedict XVI)

4. Monday  
**Virginal Conception; Jesus Christ: True God and True Man**  
February 13  
CCC: 422-86  
**Public Ministry of Jesus**  
Paschal Mystery: Passion and Death of Jesus  
Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus  
Judgment; Communion of Saints  
CCC: 512-682; 946-62;  
*Redemptoris Hominis* (John Paul II)

5. Monday  
**The Holy Spirit: Lord and Giver of Life**  
February 20  
CCC  683-747;  
*Dominum et vivificantem* (John Paul II)  
**Assignment 1 Due During Class**

6. Monday  
**Three Distinct Persons in One Divine Nature**  
February 27  
CCC: 238-67  
*De Trinitate* (St. Augustine) Excerpt: 14.8.11;14.12.15  
**Test I**  
**The Blessed Mother:**  
Prefiguring of Mary in the Old Testament  
Titles of Mary  
CCC: 484-511; 963-75;  
VII: *Lumen Gentium*: 413-23;

7. Monday  
March 6  
**The Blessed Mother:**  
Blessed Virgin Mary: Mother of Jesus and of the Church  
CCC: 478-511; 963-75; 2673-2682  
*Redemptoris Mater* (John Paul II)  
**Ecumenical Efforts:**  
CCC:820-822;  
Historical Development
Unitatis Redintegratio: 452-71;
Orientalium Ecclesiarum: 441-52;
Nostra Aetate: 738-43;
Ut Unum Sint (John Paul II)

Late/Last Day: Accepting Assignment One during Class

8. Monday
March 20

The Life of Prayer

Old Testament

New Testament: Christ and the Life of Prayer
Vigilance of Prayer
The Our Father

Kinds of Prayer
Degrees of Prayer
CCC: 2558-2865
Life of Virtue
Lumen Fidei (Pope Francis I)
Life of Grace
CCC: 1803-1845
CCC: 1987-2029

9. Monday
March 27

Liturgy:

VII: Sacrosanctum Concilium 1-40
Liturgy and Personal Prayer of Christians
Liturgy: Work of the Trinity
CCC: 1066-1112; 1135-1209;
Summorum Pontificum (Pope Benedict XVI)

Sacraments and Sacramentals

Summa Theologica III:60-65 (excerpts)

Christian Initiation: Baptism and Confirmation
CCC: 1113-1134;1213-1321; 1667-79;
Historical Development - Antiquity:
Justin: Apology I:61.65.66
Hippolytus: Apostolic Tradition:XVI-XXIII
Cyril of Jerusalem Mystagogical Catechesis :Lectures 1-5

10. Monday

Eucharist
April 3  
Prefiguring of Eucharist in the Old Testament  
Institution  
Development of the term transubstantiation &  
other necessary terminology: theology, vestments, vessels  
CCC: 1322-1419  
*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper* (Brant Pitre) Excerpts  
**Assignment 2 Due During Class**

11. Monday  
Eucharist  
April 10  
Review of the celebration of the Eucharist  
Spiritual Fruits of the Eucharist  
CCC: 1322-1419  
*Sacramentum Caritatis* (Pope Benedict XVI)  
**Vocations: Holy Orders, Religious Life and Lay Apostolate**  
Holy Orders, Religious Life  
CCC: 1533-1600  
*VII: Presbyterorum Ordinis*: 863-902;  
*VII: Lumen Gentium*: 402-07; *VII: Perfectae Caritatis*: 611-55;  
*Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* (Pope John Paul II)  
Lay Apostolate  
CCC: 897-945  
*VII: Apostolicam Actuositatem*: 766-99  
**Late/Last Day: Accepting Assignment Two during Class**

12. Monday  
**Matrimony: Fidelity, Fruitfulness, Indissolubility**  
April 17  
Scripture, Preparation for Marriage  
CCC: 1601-1666  
*Casti Connubii* (Pope Pius XI)  
**TEST 2**

13. Monday  
Matrimony: Fidelity, Fruitfulness, Indissolubility  
April 24  
Matrimony as Sacrament; Annulment and Divorce  
CCC: 1601-1666  
*Familiaris Consortio* (Pope John Paul II)  
*VII: Gaudium et Spes* 949-57
14. Monday  Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation

May 1  CCC: 976-987;1420- 1498;

*Dives in Misericordia* (Pope John Paul II)

Sacraments of Healing: Anointing; Christian Funerals
CCC 1499-1532; 1680-1690

Exam Preparation

**Final Exam** Monday, May 8 6:00-8:30 pm

*Reports I and II*

Each student is responsible for two (3311:three) reports during this semester. Each of these reports should pertain to the subject matter under discussion during that time period.

The student is expected to choose two articles from a given topic in the selections below.

Read each of these two articles and then in a four-five page report compare and contrast the thesis, development of thesis and conclusion. Follow this with an evaluation which addresses the clarity, focus and benefit of each article. Each report should have a title page followed by four or five pages of text and a bibliography page. Use Chicago Manual of Style for citations.

Listed below are articles which the student may use for each of the two or three reports.

Please note the policy pertaining to Academic Dishonesty in the Handbook is in operation at all times.

All reports are due during the assigned class period. Assignments are not accepted by e-mail. Students will lose points for reports turned in late. After a certain interim of time, the late article will not be accepted.

The student may find these articles in the UST library. They may not be checked out so you will have to photocopy the articles. Please turn in a copy of your two articles with the report.

**Report I**

**Christology**


Year of Mercy


World Youth Day


St. Thomas Becket


Papacy


Ecclesiology


Mariology


Families


Report II

Women and Ordination


Prayer/Spirituality


Priesthood/Religious Life


**Eucharist**

John Paul II. “Ecclesia de Eucharistia - The Church of the Eucharist” Vatican Web Site: vatican.va

**Penance/Reconciliation**


**Abortion**


**Immigration**


**Catholic Social Teaching/Poverty**

