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.

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.

*Cathecism of the Catholic Church* - CCC (paragraphs)

Most italicized documents may be found in the *Vatican II* text or online. 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)

2. Wednesday   **Mediating Revelation: Scripture and Tradition**
    January 25   CCC 101-141
                    VII: *Dei Verbum*: 750-65

3. 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

4. February 1    **The Church's Teaching Authority**
    Wednesday      Catholic Church Structure: Ministry of Members of the Hierarchy
                        CCC: 748-870;
                        VII: *Gaudium et Spes*: 939-47

5. Monday    **The Lord God and His Attributes**
    February 6    CCC: 26-49, 50-64, 198-231, 268-278;
6. Wednesday  
**The Human Person Created in the Image of God**  
February 8  
The Fall of Humanity: Original Sin  
CCC 279-314, 315-54; 355-421  
*Spe Salvi* - (Pope Benedict XVI)

7. Monday  
**Virginal Conception; Jesus Christ: True God and True Man**  
February 13  
CCC: 422-86

8. Wednesday  
**Public Ministry of Jesus**  
February 15  
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)

9. Monday  
**The Holy Spirit: Lord and Giver of Life**  
February 20  
CCC 683-747;  
*Dominum et vivificantem* (John Paul II)

10. Wednesday  
**Three Distinct Persons in One Divine Nature**  
February 22  
CCC: 238-67  
*De Trinitate* (St. Augustine) Excerpt: 14.8.11; 14.12.15

11. Monday  
**The Blessed Mother:**  
February 27  
Prefiguring of Mary in the Old Testament  
Titles of Mary  
CCC: 484-511; 963-75;  
VII: *Lumen Gentium*: 413-23;

12. Wednesday  
**The Blessed Mother:**  
March 1  
Blessed Virgin Mary: Mother of Jesus and of the Church  
CCC: 478-511; 963-75; 2673-2682  
*Redemptoris Mater* (John Paul II)  
**Assignment 1 Due During Class**
13. Monday
March 6

Ecumenical Efforts:
CCC: 820-822;
Historical Development

Late/Last Day: Accepting Assignment One during Class

14. Wednesday
March 8

TEST ONE

15. Monday
March 20

Ecumenical Efforts

Unitatis Redintegratio: 452-71;
Orientalium Ecclesiarum: 441-52;
Nostra Aetate: 738-43;
Ut Unum Sint (John Paul II)

16. Wednesday
March 22

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

17. Monday
March 27

Life of Virtue

Lumen Fidei (Pope Francis I)
Life of Grace
CCC: 1803-1845
CCC: 1987-2029

18. Wednesday
March 29

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)
19. Monday  
**Sacraments and Sacramentals**
April 3  
*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

20. Wednesday  
**Eucharist**
April 5  
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**

21. Monday  
**Eucharist**
April 10  
Review of the celebration of the Eucharist
Spiritual Fruits of the Eucharist
CCC: 1322-1419

*Sacramentum Caritatis* (Pope Benedict XVI)

22. Wednesday  
**Vocations: Holy Orders, Religious Life and Lay Apostolate**
April 12  
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)

23. Monday  
**Lay Apostolate**
April 17  
CCC: 897-945

*VII: Apostolicam Actuositatem*:766-99

**Assignment II due during Class**
24. Wednesday  **Matrimony: Fidelity, Fruitfulness, Indissolubility**  
April 19  Scripture, Preparation for Marriage  
CCC: 1601-1666  
*Casti Connubii* (Pope Pius XI)  
**Late/Last Day: Accepting Assignment Two during Class TEST II**

25. Monday  **TEST II**  
April 24

26. Wednesday  Matrimony: Fidelity, Fruitfulness, Indissolubility  
April 26  Matrimony as Sacrament; Annulment and Divorce  
CCC: 1601-1666  
*Familiaris Consortio* (Pope John Paul II)  
VII: *Gaudium et Spes* 949-57

27. Monday  **Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation**  
May 1  
CCC: 976-987; 1420-1498;  
*Dives in Misericordia* (Pope John Paul II)

28. Wednesday  **Sacraments of Healing: Anointing; Christian Funerals**  
May 3  
CCC 1499-1532; 1680-1690  
Exam Preparation

**Final Exam** Monday, May 8 3:00-5:30 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 1

**Christology**


**Year of Mercy**


**World Youth Day**


**St. Thomas Becket**


**Papacy**


**Ecclesiology**


_______. "The Church as a Place of Forgiveness."*Communio* 16:2 (Summer, 1989):160-72.


**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
