

St. Peter's Seminary/King's University College  
at *the* University of Western Ontario

**SACRTHEO 5142A**

## INTRODUCTION TO SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

Fall 2017, Mondays, 9:30 to 11:30  
Room AH2

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office hours: Mondays, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a theological, historical, biblical and liturgical examination of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. Sacraments are more than just mechanical ways in which to experience God in Christian liturgy — what has been traditionally defined as “a visible sign of an invisible reality.” Indeed, the seven Sacraments of the Catholic tradition are privileged and graceful theological/liturgical expressions of the living of our faith. By studying the historical development, central beliefs and communal practices of the Sacraments, students will learn to articulate the nature of the sacramental system in Catholic worship and to define the key concepts and understandings and religious practices, including the role and duties of the minister, that are part of the discourse of sacramental theology.

### GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills, and attitudes:

#### *Knowledge*

1. familiarity with various theological understandings of the sacraments through history, especially in the Roman Catholic tradition
2. facility with key theological concepts that pertain to sacraments in general, and theological issues pertaining to each sacrament

### *Skills*

1. theologically-informed understanding of some of the key issues in pastoral practice of the sacraments
2. ability to interpret and explain each sacrament, aware of important contemporary currents in theology of sacraments
3. ability to critically evaluate the theology of sacraments presented in pastoral and catechetical practice, raise critical questions, and develop more adequate formulations where needed

### *Attitudes*

1. a well-developed sense of the place of a sacramental worldview for personal spirituality and ecclesial identity
2. care and concern for the importance of sacraments in Catholic faith and practice

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The above goals will be met by:

1. well-prepared and vigorous “full, conscious, and active participation” in class discussions
2. a research paper, on a topic of the student’s choosing, due **November 7**
3. a short paper, analyzing a pastoral or catechetical resource or article, due **December 5**
4. an oral exam, on the course readings and class discussions, to be scheduled in the examination period

Grading will be determined as follows:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| research paper: | 30% |
| short paper:    | 20% |
| oral exam:      | 40% |
| participation:  | 10% |

## TEXTS

### Required:

- Driscoll, Michael S. "Symbol, Mystery, and Catechesis: Toward a Mystagogical Approach," *Liturgical Ministry* 7 (Spr 1998): 67–75.
- Irwin, Kevin W. "A Sacramental World — Sacramentality as the Primary Language for Sacraments," *Worship* 76, no. 3 (May 2002): 197–211.
- Martos, Joseph. *Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church*. Updated and expanded ed. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2014.
- Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, chapters I & II.

### Recommended:

- Belcher, Kimberly Hope. *Efficacious Engagement: Sacramental Participation in the Trinitarian Mystery*. Collegeville, Minn: Michael Glazier, 2011.
- Johnson, Maxwell, ed. *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2012.
- Larson-Miller, Lizette. *Sacramentality Renewed: Contemporary Conversations in Sacramental Theology*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Michael Glazier, 2016.
- Martinez, German. *Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments*. New York: Paulist Press, 2003.
- Mitchell, Nathan. *Meeting Mystery: Liturgy, Worship, Sacraments*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006.
- O'Neill, Coleman. *Meeting Christ in the Sacraments*. Revised ed. New York: Alba House, 2002.
- Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter With God*. London: Sheed & Ward, 1963. (Reprint: 1987)
- Schmemmann, Alexander. *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2002.

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

| Date         | Topic   | Required Reading                       |
|--------------|---|--|
| September 11 | Introduction                                  |  |
| September 18 | Sacramentality & Symbol                       | Irwin and Driscoll articles            |
| September 25 | Christ As Sacrament & The Church As Sacrament | <i>Lumen Gentium</i> , chapters I & II |

|             |  |                           |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|
| October 2   | Ritual In Human Life                           | Martos, chapter I         |
| October 9   | <i>Thanksgiving; no class</i>                  |                           |
| October 16  | Sacraments in History:<br>Patristic & Medieval | Martos, chapters II & III |
| October 23  | Sacraments in History:<br>Reformation to Today | Martos, chapters IV & V   |
| October 31  | Baptism & Confirmation                         | Martos, chapters VI & VII |
| November 7  | Eucharist                                      | Martos, chapter VIII      |
| November 14 | Reconciliation                                 | Martos, chapter IX        |
| November 21 | Anointing of the Sick                          | Martos, chapter X         |
| November 28 | Marriage                                       | Martos, chapter XI        |
| December 5  | Holy Orders                                    | Martos, chapter XII       |

## ASSIGNMENTS

### *Research Paper*

Write a research paper of approximately ten (10) pages on any topic or issue in sacramental practice and theology, chosen in consultation with the instructor. A major portion of it must be grounded in documented research, and material covered in class and in the course readings may prove helpful. This paper should demonstrate not only awareness of the pastoral issues involved, but also an historically-informed treatment of relevant concepts in sacramental theology. This paper will be due on November 7.

### *Short Paper*

Write a short paper, of no more than five (5) pages, on the sacramental theology (whether implicit or explicit) of one (1) particular sacrament, as presented in a pastoral or catechetical resource or article. Describe and critically evaluate the theology presented. Your evaluation should be historically, theologically and pastorally informed, based on relevant material from class discussions and course readings. This paper will be due on December 5.

## UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS & SUPPORT SERVICES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

### *Submission of Assignments*

It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

### *Plagiarism*

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense.

Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for textual similarity review with the software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### *Citation and Formatting on Assignments*

According to the policy adopted by the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary, all citations, references and bibliographies in written assignments are to follow the formatting prescribed in the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Footnotes are to be used, rather than author-date references in the body of the text. Please review and consult the summary provided by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary at <https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf> for further information.

### *Selection and Registration of Courses*

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

### *Support Services*

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan): <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King's, is available at <http://tinyurl.com/nln6kpb>.

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>.

The web site for Academic Support Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>.

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.