

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***  
**First Semester 2016-2017**

**Pastoral Theology 5574**  
**Catechetics**  
**Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Room 115**

Lecturer: Joe Bezzina, [jbezzina@ldcsb.ca](mailto:jbezzina@ldcsb.ca) or [jbezzina@uwo.ca](mailto:jbezzina@uwo.ca)  
Office hours by Appointment

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course explores the theory and practice of catechetics. Emphasis is placed on developing skills for: facilitating faith development across the life span, designing program models to meet the need for a variety of pastoral contexts, and developing catechetical approaches for parish and diocesan settings.

**B. GOALS**

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

1. To understand the nature of catechesis within the Church's mission of evangelization.
2. To recognize the elements of good pedagogy of faith, in the spirit of divine pedagogy.
3. To be able to choose appropriate elements of methodology, in keeping with the spirit of divine pedagogy, and suitable for children, youth and adults.
4. To analyze diverse circumstances and be able to adapt the principles of catechetical theory to meet the needs arising from this diversity.
5. To respect the various roles and responsibilities in catechetical ministry, and the importance of facilitative structures.

**C. ASSESSMENT**

1. Attend all classes, read required readings prior to class, and participate in discussions. 10%
2. "In Your Own Words" Presentation (IYOWs): Prepare and deliver a 10 minute presentation based on a piece of assigned reading. Your goal in the presentation is to explain in your own words:
  - The reading's key theme(s).

- “The point” of the reading – what, in your view, is the central idea of the reading.
- “The take away” – articulate a question arising from the reading which you think is important for your audience to consider.

More information about In Your Own Words (IYOWs) will be provided.

Three (3) IYOWs x 10% = 30%

**NB: Please submit a one page, type-written summary of your presentation. Point-form is fine.**

3a. Develop a brief essay based on an area or question in catechetics that is of particular interest to you. Confirm your topic in consultation with the Instructor. Focus the paper according to the following:

- Describe the central theme/question and its significance for the Church;
- Analyze your theme/question from the perspective of the relevant resources (theories, ideas, practices);
- Describe the practical outcomes for catechetical and pastoral activity that follow from your analysis.
- No longer than 2500 words. Due November 23, 2016. 40%

3b. Preparation for essay and a 20 minute presentation on your essay.

- Presentations Date: November 16, 2016. 20%

More information about the essay and presentation will be provided.

**Note:** There is no final exam.

## **D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS**

### **A. Required:**

*General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) – You are strongly encouraged to purchase a copy of this text and to bring it to each class. At the same time, a copy will be placed on reserve in the A.P Mahoney Library.

NB: The GDC is our main “textbook.” However, over the course of the term additional required readings will be assigned in the following forms:

Selections from *The Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church* (it's assumed that students have access to a copy of both texts, in either online or hardcopy formats).

Other primary source material will be placed on the Library Reserve Shelf of distributed as handouts, as needed.

**B. Recommended:** (see below)

**E. SCHEDULE, TOPICS & READINGS or STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
September 14	Introduction – From Evangelization to Catechesis	
September 21	Introduction – Catechesis today	GDC nos. 14-33 and 77-91;
September 28	Catechesis in the Church's Mission of Evangelization /History of Catechetics	GDC nos. 36-76;
October 5	IYOW#1 and Mission/History con't	<i>"Much remains to be done to improve religious education"</i>
October 12	The Content of Catechesis	GDC nos. 92-136; Other readings TBD
October 19	IYOW#2 and The Content of Catechesis con't	
October 26	NO CLASS	
November 2	Methods in Catechesis	GDC nos. 137-214; Other readings TBD
November 9	IYOW#3 and Methods in Catechesis con't	
November 16	Presentations begin	Recommended Reading: Pope John Paul II Apostolic Exhortation: <i>Catechesi Tradendae</i> (On Catechesis In Our Time)
November 23	Paper Due  The Catechists and	Pope Francis. <b>The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church.</b> <i>"Being with Christ: Address to the Participants at the Congress on Catechesis"</i> .

	Presentations if needed	Pages 15-20
November 30	Catechesis within the Mission of Evangelization	Readings: GDC nos. 215-285; Other readings TBD
December 7	Practical Matters: Review and Conclusions	Recommended Reading: Mary Byrne. <u>Catechesis in a Multimedia World: Connecting to Today's Students.</u>

## F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND 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 Web site: [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)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection 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>.”

**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 plagiarism checking.

**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://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>

## **For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically:**

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

## **The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is**

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/currentstudents/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.

## **G. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Congregation for the Clergy, *General Directory for Catechesis*, Vatican, 1997.

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccatheduc\\_doc\\_17041998\\_directory-for-catechesis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_17041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html)

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[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decree\\_19651207\\_ad-gentes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html)

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([http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc\\_con\\_cclergy\\_doc\\_14041990\\_acat\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc_con_cclergy_doc_14041990_acat_en.html))

*Why Catholic?* A concrete process for the New Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation