

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

**PASTTHEO 5574: CATECHETICS**

Fall 2019

Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Room 108

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office hours: by appointment

## **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.

## **GOALS**

The course will assist students to grow in the following 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 structure.

## **TEXTS**

Congregation for the Clergy, *General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)*. Available online at [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccatheduc\\_doc\\_17041998\\_directory-for-catechesis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_17041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html). Hard copy available on reserve in the SPS library.

John Paul II, *Catechesi tradendae (CT)* Available online at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_16101979\\_catechesi-tradendae.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_16101979_catechesi-tradendae.html). Hard copy available on reserve in the SPS library.

Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium (EG)*. Available online at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html). Hard copy available on reserve in the SPS library.

Other brief readings may be added and supplied.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Participation (10%)

It is expected that students attend each class and participate in a way that is active, informed and respectful.

### Discussion starters (25%)

For each class noted below, each student is to prepare a “discussion starter” question. The question may be based on any part of the readings and should be a question that the student believes will provoke worthwhile and thought-provoking discussion within the context of the class. Along with the question, the student is to write up an explanation, of no more than a paragraph, providing the background or rationale behind the question. The write up of the question and its explanation is to be submitted to the instructor at each class. **Discussion starter classes: Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15.**

### Practical Project: Proposal Presentation (25%)

Each student will deliver a presentation on a topic in catechetics that is of personal interest. The goal is to provide an overview of the ideas, questions and concepts that will form the basis of the Practical Project: Final Submission. Therefore, it is not expected that the ideas presented will be fully fleshed out, and feedback from your peers and instructor should help you in this regard. Presentation length: 20 minutes (including time for Q and A). Written component due at end of presentation. **Proposal Presentation classes: Nov. 12, 19, 26.**

*It is highly recommended that students consult with the instructor about the topic of the Practical Project Presentation before the presentation date.*

### Practical Project: Final Submission (40%)

Each student is to prepare an outline of a lesson plan, workshop plan, or series of sessions on any topic of the student’s choosing, intended for a hypothetical audience of a particular demographic in the Church. The project should be well-designed, grounded in good catechetical theory and employing appropriate strategies for learning. It should include the following:

1. Outline of the logistical parameters (number of sessions, time allotted to each, etc.)
2. Overview of content to be covered
3. Statement of pastoral purposes for learning this content
4. Resources to be employed (readings, learning materials, etc.)
5. Description of learning activities to be used

The project should be creative and well-planned. Length: Between 8-10 pages. **Practical Project: Final Submission due December 10.**

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept. 10	introduction	----
Sept. 17	evangelization & catechesis	<i>GDC</i> , 14-33, 36-76
Sept. 24	nature & purpose of catechesis	<i>GDC</i> , 77-91
Oct. 1	content of catechesis	<i>GDC</i> , 92-136
Oct. 8	pedagogy	<i>GDC</i> , 137-162
Oct. 15	adaption to those to be catechized	<i>GDC</i> , 163-192
Oct. 22	RCIA	handout
Oct. 29	catechesis in schools	guest speaker
Nov. 5	break	----
Nov. 12	sacramental preparation	handout
Nov. 19	adult faith formation	handout
Nov. 26	youth	handout
Dec. 3	the task concerns us all	<i>GDC</i> , 214-232; <i>CT</i> , 62-71; <i>EG</i> , 163-175

## 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 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.

Requests for extensions must be made well in advance and with good cause (e.g. illness, multiple overlapping assignments, extenuating familial situations). In the event that an extension is granted, a Request for Extension form is filled out by the instructor and the student, and is then forwarded to the Dean of Theology.

**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-ofstudents/>

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.