

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION II 5242B**

**The Eucharist**  
**January – April, 2024**

**Wednesdays 9:30 am – 11:20 am**  
**Room 144**

Lecturer: Fr. Al Momney  
Cell : 519-902-6440

[amomney@uwo.ca](mailto:amomney@uwo.ca)

Appointments available upon request

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a study of the theology of the Eucharist developed in its biblical, systematic, and ecumenical sources, explaining the themes of sacrament, sacrifice and communion.

**B. GOALS**

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

**Knowledge**

1. To understand the place of the Eucharist within the life of the Church.
2. To know the key biblical themes which underpin the Church's teaching on the Eucharist.
3. To understand the main lines of the Patristic and Medieval contributions to the Church's Eucharistic tradition.
4. To grasp the content and meaning of key Magisterial teachings on the nature of the Eucharist.
5. To be familiar with some of the contemporary theological developments on the sacrament of the Eucharist.

**Skills**

1. To be able to articulate clearly in preaching and teaching the Church's key teachings on the nature of the Eucharist.

**Attitudes**

1. To appreciate more fully the significance of the Eucharist in the life of the individual Christian and in the communion of the Church.
2. To deepen within the student a love and personal adherence to the gift of the Eucharist.

## C. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Based on the teachings of (1) Pope John Paul's *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, (2) Pope Benedict XVI's *Sacramentum Caritatis*, and (3) The Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos. 1322-1419), each student will be required to submit either (a) a one-session presentation to Eucharistic ministers on the topic of eucharistic theology, OR, (b) a one-session R.C.I.A. presentation on the Eucharist. Whether for R.C.I.A. or for Eucharistic Ministers, the presentation is to include any prayers, musical suggestions, discussion questions, and timeline that would be used. The theological content of the evening is to be typed out in long form, with sources cited. This assignment will have the value of 35% of your final mark. It is due at the beginning of class on **February 21, 2024**.
2. Each student will be asked to join into a team of two (or three if necessary), and to give a 30-minute presentation on one of the topics listed below. The text of the presentation will be submitted after the presentation is given. The presentation and text together are worth 35% of the final mark. The presentations will be given in the following order:
  1. The Theology of Eucharist in Ecumenical Dialogues (Mar. 6)
  2. The Question of Intercommunion (Mar. 6)
  3. The Theology and Practice of Eucharistic Adoration (March 13)
  4. A defense of the Real Presence in the face of Protestant criticisms (March 13)
  5. The contribution of contemporary theologians: Pope Benedict XVI (March 20)
  6. The contribution of contemporary theologians: Scott Hahn (The Lamb's Supper) (March 20)
  7. The contribution of contemporary theologians: Bishop Robert Barron (March 27)
  8. The contribution of contemporary theologians: Lawrence Feingold (March 27).
3. There will be a 15-minute oral exam at the end of the term on selected parts of the course, worth 30% of the final mark.

## D REQUIRED READINGS

1. Course packet (available at University Bookstore)
2. Pope John Paul II, Letter, *Dominicae Cena*, 1980.

3. Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 2007
4. Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*
5. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos. 1322-1419).

## **E. COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Section I: Nomenclature**

Titles for the Sacrament

### **Section II: Situating the Eucharist**

- A. The Eucharist Within Salvation History
  - i. The Eucharist in God's Plan For The Transformation Of The World
  - ii. The Eucharist as Co-Extensive With All Of History
- B. The Eucharist Within the Life of the Church
- C. The Eucharist Within the Complex of the Sacraments of Initiation

### **Section III: The Eucharist in the Tradition of the Latin Church**

- A. The Eucharist in the Scriptures
  - Old Testament Background to Eucharistic Theology
  - Eucharistic Theology of the New Testament
    - The Institution Narratives
    - The Eucharistic Theology of St. Paul
    - The Eucharist in John
- B. Patristic Theology
  - The Eucharist as Presence
    - Ante-Nicene Fathers
    - Post-Nicene Fathers
  - The Eucharist as Sacrifice
    - Ante-Nicene Fathers
    - Post-Nicene Fathers
  - Eucharist as Foundation of the Church
- C. Developments of Eucharistic Doctrine in the Medieval Period
  - Debates Concerning the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
    - First Eucharistic Controversy
    - Second Eucharistic Controversy

- Lanfranc
- The Term ‘Transubstantiation’
- The Teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas
- The Medieval Understanding of the Finality of the Real Presence

#### D. The Eucharist and the Council of Trent

- Medieval Theology and the Eucharist as Sacrifice
- The Reformation Critique
- The Teaching of Trent

#### E. The Second Vatican Council and Contemporary Theological Debates

- Vatican II
- The Eucharistic Presence of Christ and *Mysterium Fidei*
- Theological Developments in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Theology
  - The recovery of memory and mystery
  - The re-evaluation of transubstantiation
  - The sacrificial nature of the Eucharist
  - The Eucharist and the Church

### Section IV: Various Issues Concerning Eucharistic Theology, Teaching, and Practice

- A. The Theology of Eucharist in Ecumenical Dialogues
- B. The Question of Intercommunion
- C. The Theology and Practice of Eucharistic Adoration
- D. A Defense of the Real Presence in the face of Protestant Criticisms
- E. The contribution of contemporary theologians (Pope Benedict XVI)
- F. The contribution of contemporary theologians (Bishop Robert Barron)
- G. The contribution of contemporary theologians (Scott Hahn, *The Lamb's Supper*)
- H. The contribution of contemporary theologians (Lawrence Feingold)

### F. FURTHER INFORMATION

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University's website (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>). Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof.

#### Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/unocom/meantalhealth> 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 Accessibility Services (formerly 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: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>.

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

### **Academic Offenses**

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 webpage: [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).

### **Policy on Accommodation re: Medical Illness**

Students are to see the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).