

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**at *The University of Western Ontario***  
**Second Semester 2015-2016**

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

Lecturer: Joe Bezzina, [jbezzina@office.ldcsb.on.ca](mailto:jbezzina@office.ldcsb.on.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 knowledge, skills and attitudes:

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 15 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.

*IYOW #1*

*Reading:* Select a passage from Scripture

*Audience:* Adults in a parish-based bible study group

*Due:* in class on January 27<sup>th</sup>

*IYOW #2*

*Reading:* Select a passage from Scripture

*Audience:* Adults in RCIA

*Due:* in class on February 10<sup>th</sup>

*IYOW #3*

*Reading:* Select a passage from the Catechism

*Audience:* Either an elementary or secondary school class

*Due:* in class on March 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 March 9, 2016. 30%

3b. Make a 20 minute presentation on your essay. Date: March 9 and March 16. 30%

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

#### **D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS**

##### **A. Required:**

*General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) – 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 or 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>
January 6	Introduction – From Evangelization to Catechesis	
January 13	Introduction – Catechesis today	GDC nos. 14-33 and 77-91; <i>“Much remains to be done to improve religious education”</i>
January 20	Catechesis in the Church’s Mission of Evangelization /History of Catechetics	GDC nos. 36-76;
January 27	IYOW#1b and Mission/History con’t	Other readings TBD
February 3	The Content of Catechesis	GDC nos. 92-136; Other readings TBD
February 10	IYOW#2 and The Content of Catechesis con’t	

February 17	NO CLASS	
February 24	Methods in Catechesis	GDC nos. 137-214; Other readings TBD
March 2	IYOW#3 and Methods in Catechesis con't	
March 9	Paper Due and Presentations begin	Recommended Reading: Pope John Paul II Apostolic Exhortation: <i>Catechesi Tradendae</i> (On Catechesis In Our Time)
March 16	The Catechists and Presentations if needed	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> ". Pages 15-20
March 23	Catechesis within the Mission of Evangelization	Readings: GDC nos. 215-285; Other readings TBD
March 30	Practical Matters	Recommended Reading: Mary Byrne. <u>Catechesis in a Multimedia World: Connecting to Today's Students.</u>
April 6	Review and Conclusions	

## 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/ccclergy/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccatheduc\\_doc\\_17\\_041998\\_directory-for-catechesis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccclergy/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_17_041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html)

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