

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at the University of Western Ontario
Fall/Winter 2012/13

Religious Studies 1027E, Section 571
Introduction to Catholic Theology
Mondays 1:30–4:30pm at St. Peter's Seminary, Room 102

Professor M. Minten Taylor
Office hours by Appointment

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to central themes of Catholic theology including revelation, faith, Jesus, Church, sacraments and morality.

B. GOALS

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

Knowledge:

- To understand the centrality of the Paschal Mystery and God's action within salvation history.
- To understand the relationship between scripture and Tradition.
- To understand the key principles associated with biblical authorship and interpretation.
- To understand the major moments of Jesus' earthly ministry.
- To understand the fundamental principles associated with the action of the Trinity.
- To understand the social mission and communal nature of the Church.
- To understand Christian moral principles and how they are to be utilized in concrete decision-making.
- To understand the significance of the sacraments in the Church's mission to manifest the presence of God's love in the world.
- To understand the development of doctrine in the Church, and be aware of the major historical and modern sources that demonstrate these teachings.

Skills:

- To be able to integrate the various realms of theology.
- To be able to enter into theological dialogue, to listen to other opinions, to use philosophical concepts, and to apply wisdom to today's issues.
- To be able to articulate the Catholic understanding of the economy of salvation.
- To read and analyze primary documents in their context.
- To be able to see the relationship between theory and practice.

Attitudes:

- To embrace a sense of wonder in the mysteries of the faith and to accept that our comprehension will never be complete in light of the nature of theology.
- To foster sensitivity towards the religious attitudes and beliefs of others.
- To appreciate the Catholic faith, its traditions, and its teachings.

C. ASSESSMENT

1. Short Reflection Assignment (5% of final mark)

Date: Monday, October 1st, 2012

2. Mid-Term Exam (20% of final mark)

This in-class exam will be in lieu of a scheduled Christmas exam. It will have short answer questions and one essay question.

Date: Monday, December 3rd, 2012

3. Research Paper (20% of final mark)

This is a formal essay of eight pages (including bibliography) and it will be based upon a limited number of TBA subject areas.

Due: Monday, March 11th, 2013

4. Presentation (15% of final mark)

Informal seminars will be done individually (or in groups of three to four students depending on class size). All are required to prepare for and to present the material and a two-page class summary handout is required. The seminar topic is to be chosen by the groups from a list of potential topics, with seminar dates coinciding with course material.

Topic sign-up will be done in-class, based upon a lottery system, on **Monday, September 24th, 2012**

5. Final Exam (40% of final mark)

Essay format.

Date TBA by UWO Registrar's Office (during the April examination period).

D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS

1. Marthaler, Berard, *The Creed* (Connecticut: Twenty Third Publications, 1993).
 - Available at both the UWO bookstore and chapters.ca
2. Flannery, Austin, ed., *Vatican II Council: The Basic Sixteen Documents* (Northport, New York: Costello Publishing Company, 1996).
OR, download for free: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/
3. A Bible (Suggested: New Jerusalem Bible or the New Revised Standard Version [Catholic Edition]).
4. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (*available online*)

**Additional readings/selections of text may be added throughout the course.*

E. COURSE STRUCTURE (Tentative)

A guideline for your reading is listed for each section.

The selections from the Catechism (C.C.C.) are quite extensive – it is strongly suggested that you read them but it is not required.

SECTION 1: Introduction

(Reading: Marthaler, Introduction and chp 1, *Dei Verbum* {Vatican II doc. } C.C.C. ARTICLES 51-184)

Introduction: What is Catholicism?
Revelation and Faith
Scripture as a Theological Source
The Interpretation of Scripture
The Use of Scripture in the Church

SECTION 2: The Christian God

(Reading: Marthaler, chp 2&3, Genesis chp #1-3, C.C.C. ARTICLES 199-324)

God as Father
God as Creator

SECTION 3: Quest for the Historical Jesus

(Reading: Marthaler, chp 4-5, 8-12, 15, Luke 1-2, Mathew 1-2, C.C.C. ARTICLES 430-455, 522-534)

Infancy Narratives and the Historical Jesus
Biblical and Early Understandings of Jesus
The Preaching and Ministry of Jesus
The Death of Jesus

SECTION 4: “Fully Human, Fully Divine”

(Reading: Marthaler, chp 6-7, 13-14, 16-17, 23, Luke 24, John 20-21, C.C.C. ARTICLES 456- 483, 599-623, 638-658, 988-1060)

Redemption and the Incarnation
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: The Trinity
The Resurrection, Eschatology, and the Return of Jesus
Ascension and the Birth of the Church

SECTION 5: Historical Theology

(Reading: Marthaler, chp 18-20, Acts of the Apostles)

The Pauline Missions
The “Theologies” of the Early Church
The Church Fathers and the Rise of Christianity
Church History: The Whirlwind Tour (4th Century to 19th Century)

SECTION 6: The Life of the Church

(Reading: Marthaler, chp 21-22, 24, *Lumen Gentium* chp 1-4, C.C.C. ARTICLES 748- 780, 1210-1666)

The Renewal of the Modern Church: Vatican II
The Nature and Mission of the Church
Ecumenism

The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
The Sacraments of Vocation: Marriage and Holy Orders
The Sacraments of Healing: Sacrament of the Sick and Reconciliation
Catholic Liturgy and Catholic Devotion

SECTION 7: Moral Theology and Catholic Bioethics

(Reading: TBA)

The Basics of Moral Theology

Social Justice

Evangelium Vitae

Issues of Human Life: Contraception and Natural Family Planning

More Issues of Human Life: Genetic Testing and Reproductive Technologies

Issues of Human Death: Abortion, Euthanasia, Suicide, and War

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

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. 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. After ten days an assignment will be worth 0%, but will still need to be submitted in order to receive a grade in the course. Assignments may be submitted to the seminary receptionist during office hours and must be date-stamped. Extensions will only be offered for the most serious situations—not a lack of planning—and the appropriate documentation will be required for any extension.

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.

Marks: Student marks, either temporary or final, will not be made available via e-mail. Due to privacy laws, these marks can also no longer be posted. Students are required to attend class in order to pick-up marked assignments during the year and can receive their final marks from the UWO website sometime in May 2012.

Seminars: Seminars cannot be rescheduled. Students are advised to plan ahead for this project, as failure to be in class and participate in one's seminar will result in a zero grade.

Also:

- 1. Texting in class is unbelievably rude, distracting, and unnecessary. Do not text during lectures, seminars, or discussions. If you must use electronic communication devices during class, please leave the room.*
- 2. Emails will be answered as soon as possible during business hours, Monday to Friday.*