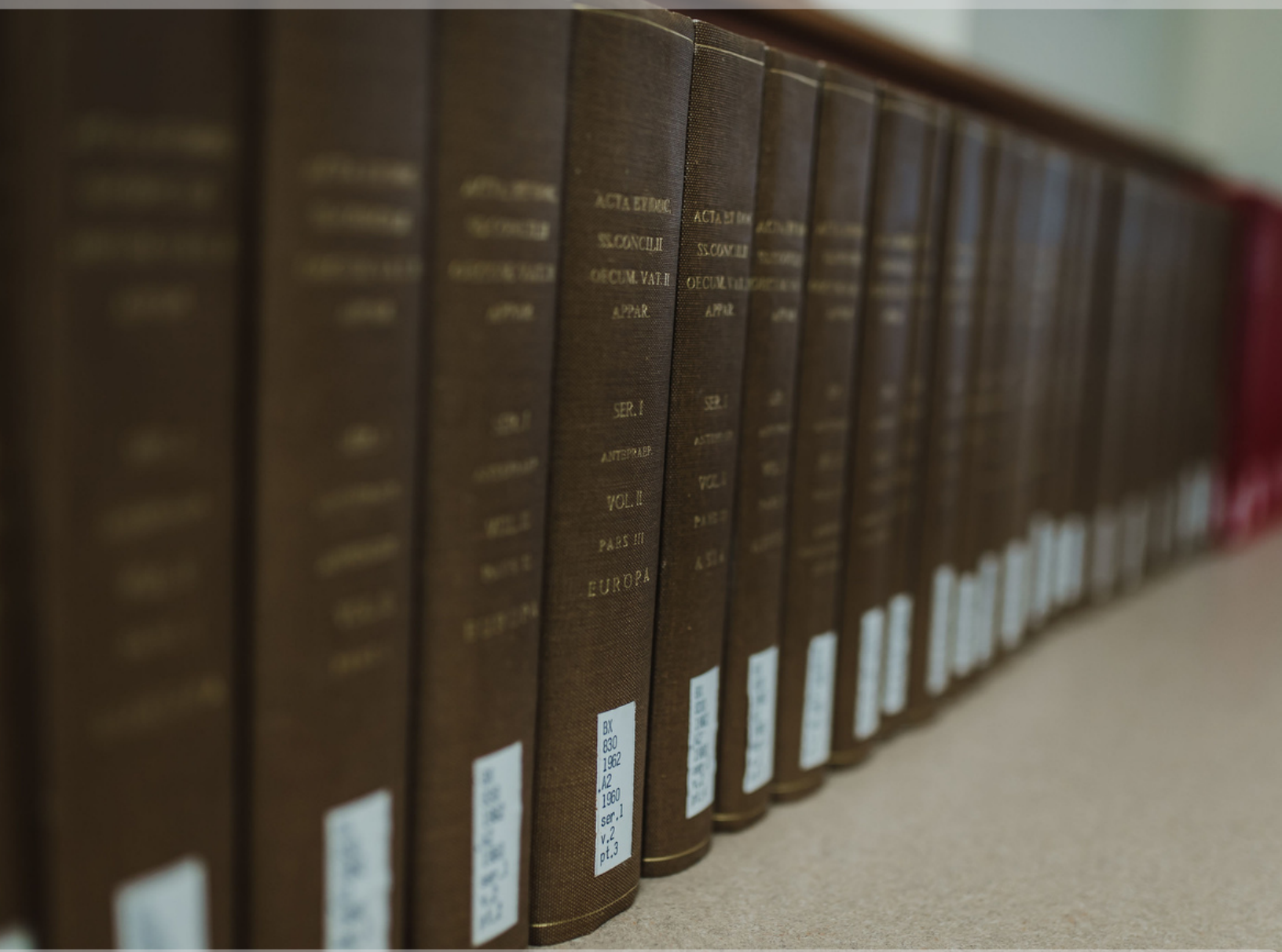


COURSE CATALOG

2022 – 2023



**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, SCHEDULING
INFORMATION, AND DEGREE
PROGRAM CHECKLISTS**

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Introduction to the *Course Catalog*

The St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry *Course Catalog* is a document of record issued every academic year containing information related to the courses offered throughout the curriculum. This document sets out the “beating heart” of the School: its mission to form and to educate takes place primarily in the classroom, in the midst of an encounter between faculty and students as they seek together ever greater knowledge and love of God.

The *Catalog* is intended to be supplemental to the *Student Handbook*, where information including admissions and enrollment policies, degree requirements and curricula, and academic policies and procedures can be found. The *Catalog* is not intended to be and should not be relied upon as a statement of the School's commitments to its students. The School reserves the right to make changes of any nature to this *Catalog*, including but not limited to rescheduling classes, canceling classes, or requiring alternatives for scheduled courses, with notice of such action provided as is reasonably practicable under the circumstances.

The 2022-2023 *Course Catalog* contains a record of courses that have been offered in the last three years (since 2019). Recent renaming or recategorizing of courses is noted within the relevant descriptions. Descriptions for older and retired courses may be available upon request to the Registrar.

Academic Calendar

The St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry *Academic Calendar* is a document of record issued every academic year to outline important academic dates and deadlines. The current Academic Calendar may always be found at stbernards.edu/academic-calendar. St. Bernard's academic year begins each Fall and is composed of the following semesters: Fall-Spring-Summer. Summer is further divided into Summer Session I and Summer Session II.

2022 Fall Semester

August	12	Fall 2022 Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
	20(Sa)	Academic Convocation and New Student Orientation for the Opening of the Academic Year
	29(M)	Classes Begin
September	5	Labor Day (No classes)
	23(F)	Last day to add/drop courses
October	10	Columbus Day (Classes are held)
	21(F)	Last day to withdraw with a 'W'
		Last day to change from audit to credit, credit to audit Registration opens for Spring 2022 courses
November	4	Priority Spring 2023 Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
	11	Veterans Day (Classes are held)
	23 – 27	Thanksgiving Break (No classes Wednesday-Friday)
December	8	48 th Annual Otto A. Shults Lecture
	16	Spring 2023 Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
		Last day of classes for Fall 2022
	21(W)	Fall 2022 grades due
	12/23-1/2	Christmas Break – School is Closed

2023 Spring Semester

January	9(M) 16	Classes Begin Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No classes)
February	3	Last day to add/drop courses
March	3 24 31	Last day to withdraw with a 'W' Last day to change from audit to credit, credit to audit Registration opens for Summer 2022 courses Submission of thesis to Readers Written Comprehensive Exam <i>Viva voce</i> Comprehensive Exam/Thesis Defense Priority Summer 2023 Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
April	4-10 15 28	Holy Week/Easter Break (Tuesday through Easter Monday) Graduates' Colloquium Last day of classes Final copy of thesis due Final Summer I Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
May	3 5	Spring 2023 Grades due Commencement

2023 Summer Session I

May	15(M) 26 29	Classes Begin for Summer Session I Last day to add/drop courses Memorial Day (No classes)
June	9	Last day to withdraw with a 'W' Last day to change from audit to credit, credit to audit

	23	Summer Session II Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
	30	Last day of classes
July	6	Summer Session I grades due

2023 Summer Session II

July	3	Registration opens for Fall 2023 courses Independence Day Observed (No classes)
	5	Classes begin
	14	Last day to add/drop courses Priority Fall 2023 Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
	28	Last day to withdraw with a 'W' Last day to change from audit to credit, credit to audit
August	18	Final Fall 2023 Admissions and Financial Aid Application Deadline
	23	Last day of classes
	25	Summer Session II grades due

Theology Courses

Prefix Key

Area A: Biblical Theology

Area B: Historical Theology

Area C: Systematic Theology

Area D: Pastoral Theology

A202 - Old Testament

(offered every Fall)

Introduction to the Old Testament introduces exegetical methodology and theology of the Old Testament. Students will consider the fruits and the assumptions of exegesis, using and examining its methodologies both as helpful tools and as products of a particular era. Hebrew poetry and narrative, ritual and ethical instruction, prophecy, historiography, and novella will be analyzed as literature, and students will also examine the development of traditions within the texts of the canon. Since Sacred Scripture is double-authored, by both man and God, and interpreted in the context of the Catholic Church, this course will also emphasize the theology of the Old Testament, with a special focus on the People of God, and will read spiritual readings of the Old Testament from the Church Fathers to present. *3 Credits.*

A203 - New Testament

(offered every Spring)

New Testament will introduce students to the literature, history, and theology of the New Testament. It focuses on key books of the New Testament with a primary focus on Jesus of Nazareth, the four canonical gospels, and the development of early Christianity. *3 Credits.*

A205 - Introduction to Biblical Studies

(offered every Summer)

The sequence of Sacred Scripture courses at St. Bernard's is meant to instill habits and skills of reading the Bible that will nourish the spiritual life of the student and candidate for

ministry. This first course lays a foundation for all other Scripture courses. It intends to head off simplistic and hackneyed interpretations of *Dei Verbum* and instead to pursue the development of a rigorous ecclesial hermeneutic. Students will learn the practical building blocks and essential theoretical principles for a Catholic theological approach to the interpretation of Sacred Scripture. Topics treated include biblical geography, biblical history, biblical languages, biblical narrative, the framework of theology, textual criticism, historical criticism, biblical canon, patristic interpretation, the four senses of Scripture, philosophical hermeneutics, and *Dei Verbum*. *3 Credits.*

A301 - Pauline Letters

The apostle Paul wrote the earliest Christian literature in the Bible. His conversion and mission to the Gentiles shaped and defined the early Christian community and his theology is a basis for early Christian doctrine. In this course, students will read portions of Acts of the Apostles, all of Paul's letters, and the pseudepigraphal letters in his theological tradition along with readings that introduce the historical and geographical setting of each letter and the theological significance of the corpus. *3 Credits.*

A311 - The Synoptic Gospels

The New Testament texts that figure most prominently in the life of the Church are the Synoptic Gospels, that is, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which tell the story of Jesus in largely the same way. These are the gospels that shape the three-year lectionary cycle of the

Church. This course introduces students to these central texts, to the figure of Jesus in them, and to their early Christian authors and audiences. *3 Credits.*

A317 - Theology of Luke/Acts

It is the purpose of this course to acquaint students with the general content of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In addition, students will become familiar with the common themes of Lucan theology through the study of the text. Attention will be given to the distinctive contribution of Luke-Acts to the New Testament and biblical theologies. Topics include God, Jesus, the Spirit, salvation, the church, women, the poor, and the gentiles in Luke-Acts. *3 Credits.*

A319 - Johannine Literature

Johannine Literature guides students in in-depth study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles. Students will read the Fourth Gospel with Patristic, Medieval, and Modern commentators and secondary literature treating its historical, literary, and theological dimensions. Students will also compare the Gospel of John with the Synoptics and study its relationship to 1, 2, and 3 John. *3 Credits.*

A322 - Isaiah

An in-depth look at the book of Isaiah with special reference to its composition, unity, socio-historical background and key theological perspectives. *3 Credits.*

A327 - Biblical Wisdom Literature

An exploration of the search for wisdom in classical biblical wisdom literature, with an emphasis on such topics as the quest for meaning, happiness, and coping with unanswered questions. This exploration will be compared with contemporary searches as revealed through human experience, life's tasks, joys, and disappointments, and, above all, in the human search for God. *3 Credits.*

A328 - The Psalms

Introduction to the Psalm collection in the Old Testament as well as an in-depth study of selected Psalms with particular reference to their literary types, setting in life and theological content. The theology and spirituality of the Psalms for our times will be explored. *3 Credits.*

A330 - Prophets

This course surveys the history, literature, and theology of the prophetic corpus. Students will situate the prophets in their historical context by reading key sections of the historical books of the Old Testament (1-2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah). Students will then turn to the prophetic books themselves and study either key portions of the prophetic books or whole books (e.g., Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel). While working through the prophetic books, particular attention will be paid to their criticism of social injustice and the ways in which their message prepares the way for the Gospel. *3 Credits.*

A411 - Elementary Greek I

A thorough and rapid introduction to the forms and grammar of the Greek language, with a focus on examples from the New Testament and Septuagint. *3 Credits.*

A412 - Elementary Greek II

Building on A411 - Elementary Greek I, A412 is a thorough and rapid introduction to the forms and grammar of the Greek language, with a focus on examples from the New Testament and Septuagint. *3 Credits.*

A413 - Elementary Hebrew I

A thorough and rapid introduction to the forms and grammar of Biblical Hebrew. *3 Credits.*

A414 - Elementary Hebrew II

Building on A413 - Elementary Hebrew I, A414 is a thorough and rapid introduction to the forms and grammar of Biblical Hebrew. *3 Credits.*

A/B370 - Archaeology and the Bible

(offered every other Summer: 2023, 2025)

This course brings together texts from the Bible and archaeological remains from the ancient world. We will study the methods archaeologists use to interpret artifacts and discuss what role the Bible has had in the framing of archaeological questions. We will discover how archaeological artifacts can enrich our understanding of the Bible and explore the role of modern politics in archaeological debates. The course will focus on a period of over fifteen hundred years, from the Late Bronze Age (1550 BC) through the early Roman period (70 AD), and will cover such matters as stratigraphy, ceramics typology, iconography, sacred space, text materiality, and forgeries in order to build a richer understanding of ancient Israel and early Christianity. *3 Credits.*

A/B374 - The Archaeology of Iron Age Levant

(offered every other Summer: 2024, 2026)

Through the successful completion of this course, the student will gain an exposure to the archaeology and history of the Levant in the Iron Age (approximately 1200-500 BCE, including into the Persian period). Through readings, discussions, lectures, and visits to important Iron Age archaeological sites, a multi-faceted knowledge of the principal cultural developments of this part of the world will be developed and how archaeology contributes to our shared appreciation and understanding of the past. Issues of historical and scholarly debate will be considered as well as areas of general consensus. The complicated relationship of text with archaeology must also be encountered, and Iron Age Jordan provides several examples for our exploration. *3 Credits.*

A/C320 - Biblical Covenants

The Eucharistic cup is “the blood of the new and eternal covenant.” What is a covenant and why do we speak of the Eucharist as a covenant? In this course, students will

examine the form and meaning of each biblical covenant with careful attention to the language used in each case. Students will read selections from Genesis, Exodus, Samuel/Kings, and the prophets, the Gospels, and Paul, along with historical and theological treatment of these texts. The broad theological theme of covenant will also help students to bring together a variety of theological themes of Scripture across the corpus. *3 Credits.*

A/B451 - What is Scripture Saying? Explorations in Patristic and Medieval Exegesis

What does it mean to read Scripture well? Prior to becoming Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Ratzinger suggested that it involves integrating the best of pre-Modern ('Method A') and Modern ('Method B') approaches into a new 'Method C.' In this class, we will take our cue from this 'Method C' proposal and turn to the Church's past, examining how different Patristic (Origen and St. Augustine) and Medieval (the Victorines and St. Thomas Aquinas) interpreters of Scripture understood and went about their task, with particular attention to the meaning and function of the various senses of the text. We will then consider how their methods, combined with more contemporary methods, might help us be more faithful readers and interpreters of Scripture today. *3 Credits.*

A/C370 - Catholic Biblical Ethics

This course will examine the foundation of Catholic moral theology in the Bible. Students will examine both recent treatments of ethics in the Bible and Patristic efforts to read the Old Testament ethically to help elucidate a Catholic hermeneutic. The Second Vatican Council's rejoinders to root ethics in the Bible will also be examined on a path to understanding ethics as a response to divine encounter. *3 Credits.*

A/D325 - The *Song of Songs* and Mystical Commentary

The *Song of Songs* has for millennia been the source of mystical reflection. As an allegory, it has illumined Israel's relationship to God, the Church's relationship to Christ, and the individual believer's growth in faith, hope, and love in divine encounter. In this course, we will examine the poetics and mystical

commentary of the *Song* with a special focus on the commentaries of Origen, Hildegard of Bingen, Bernard of Clairvaux, Theresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Jeanne-Marie Bouvier de la Motte-Guyon. *3 Credits.*

A510 - Thesis

Thesis in Area A: Biblical Theology. *3 Credits.*

B301 - The Gift of Meaning: The History of the Church

(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

“All those in history who have really done anything with the future have had their eyes fixed upon the past” (G.K. Chesterton). This course will provide a survey of Church history, tracking the Church of God across time and space from Pentecost to our present day. The course content will privilege a theological approach to history: it will investigate the historical unfolding of the Church’s doctrines, charisms, and spiritualities, and will assess the temporal development of the institutional Church. The investigations undertaken will be accompanied by a determined effort to learn from history for the sake of the present. *3 Credits.*

B/C204 - History of the Church: Early Centuries

An in-depth exploration into the socio-historical events that shaped early Christianity from the first through the fifth centuries. Utilizing primary resources (in translation) this course will chart the dynamic growth of the Christian movement from its Jewish origins within the Roman Empire to its dominance throughout the Mediterranean world. We will explore the Church’s theological, liturgical and devotional growth as well as institutional developments. *3 Credits.*

B/C208 - Key Movements in the History of the Church

This course looks at significant historical movements that impacted the life and years of the Church from its earliest times through the Reformation. Some topics to be covered are the spread of Christianity, Benedict and his Rule, Celtic Christianity, the Mendicants, Martin Luther and the mystics of the 15th-16th Centuries. Students will be asked to relate the various movements to their experience of the Church today. *3 Credits.*

B/C310 - Catholic Social Teaching

(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

This course examines the development of Catholic Social Teaching from an historical and theological perspective. Students will become familiar with the numerous social documents of the Church, beginning with *Rerum Novarum*. The content and implications of these documents will be discussed and evaluated. The life and work of Dorothy Day and other key figures in the area of Catholic Social Teaching will be offered as examples of how we can integrate social teaching into our ministries and spirituality. (Formerly “History and Practice of Catholic Social Thought.”) *3 Credits.*

B/C350 - Philosophy for Theologians

This course introduces the basic principles, language, and approaches that philosophy has historically contributed to the approach to and service of theological study and reflection. The course prepares students to engage in theological discourse, fostering the logical, epistemological, ethical, and metaphysical framework necessary to the approach, understanding, development, and maintenance of theological positions consistent with the Catholic intellectual tradition. *1 Credit.*

B/C375 - The Drama of Self-Gift: The Moral Teaching of Pope St. John Paul II

Pope St. John Paul II became one of the world’s leading public figures at such a crucial time in the history of the Church, as he consistently affirmed the truth and beauty of the Gospel. This course will examine his moral teachings by focusing primarily on his own writings as primary sources, critically reading and discussing voices of opposition within the Church and seeking to understand the foundations of his thought. John Paul II showed us by the example of his own life and writings that the Christian life is – in imitation

of the Savior – a sacrifice, a self-gift, out of love of God and neighbor. This course will seek to develop this theme as we investigate the depth of the saint's writings. *3 Credits.*

B/C380 - Source and Summit: Reflecting on the Eucharist at the Heart of the Church

Identified by the Second Vatican Council as the “Source and Summit” of the Christian life, this course will reflect on the nature and significance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. Combining both an historical and thematic approach, we will examine the developing understanding of the sacrament of the Eucharist through time, as well as theological themes of Eucharistic spirituality, including: the significance of the Eucharist to Ecclesiology, the Eucharist and the Marian and Petrine dimensions of the Church, the understanding of the three-fold nature of the Body of Christ, the Eucharist as sacrament, etc. We will rely on the reflections of the Fathers, the Councils, recent papal encyclicals, among other texts. *3 Credits.*

B/C385 - Divine Providence: The Plan of God and the Meaning of History

In *The Dialogue*, Catherine of Siena writes: “everything comes from love, all is ordained for the salvation of man, God does nothing without this goal in mind” (§138). What does it mean that everything comes from love and is ordained for our salvation? How can we recognize and understand the divine logos, the divine wisdom, that directs and orders history and our own lives? Will God’s plan truly “unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth” (Eph 1:10)? This course will contemplate the mystery of divine providence through a study of scripture, the magisterium, the saints, theologians across the ages, and Doctors of the Church. The above questions will frame our inquiry, and our attempted answers will require extensive conversations on the nature of creation, the dynamic of redemption, the meaning of time

and history, and the dramatic relationship between divine and human freedom. *3 Credits.*

B/C410 - Patristics: Introduction to the Church Fathers

This is an introductory course on the writings of the Fathers of the Church and their important contribution to the formation of orthodox Christian theology. The focus of the course is to introduce these early Christian theologians as the great teachers of Christian doctrine and highlight their contribution through the Fathers’ explanation of the Christian dogma, and their refutation of heresies. Students will study patristic texts arranged historically and through the common classifications of the Fathers. For example, the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, the Latin Fathers, the Alexandrians (both the Fathers of Alexandria, such as Clement of Alexandria, and the great teachers such as St. Athanasius and St. Cyril of Alexandria), and the Cappadocian Fathers (i.e., St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nazianzus). *3 Credits.*

B/C430 - Catholic Spirituality and Culture

In the 20th century, Hans Urs von Balthasar and many others emphasized the need for a return to a ‘kneeling theology,’ in which the concerns of spirituality/mysticism would be reunited with the concerns of theology, and in which the theologian would reunite his or her work with prayer (especially contemplative prayer). This ‘retreat course’ provides the opportunity to pursue a ‘kneeling theology’ through the study of primary and secondary texts in the Catholic intellectual tradition, while simultaneously being enveloped in an atmosphere and a practice of prayer. The course will be co-taught by professors at St. Bernard’s and monks of the Abbey of the Genesee. The texts will be explored thoughtfully and prayerfully, in order to discern the shape and the spirit of Catholic spirituality and the culture it generates. The course readings will also be considered in relation to one’s own personal experience and

in relation to the mysteries of the Catholic faith. *3 Credits.*

B/C450 - Beauty, Liturgy, Glory: Towards a Philosophical and Theological Aesthetics

In his *Letter to Artists*, Pope St. John Paul II draws upon the following statement by St. Macarius the Great: “the soul which has been fully illumined by the unspeakable beauty of the glory shining on the countenance of Christ overflows with the Holy Spirit... it is all eye, all light, all countenance” (§6). What does it mean for the soul to be illumined by the unspeakable beauty of the glory shining on the countenance of Christ? How can we begin to understand the relationship between divine glory and the more typical experience of earthly beauty? How does this encounter with beauty most sublime affect clarity and depth of sight and right regard (*recta ratio*) of the soul in relation to the whole of existence and to/of its summit in Christ Jesus? This course will gesture towards these mysteries by considering questions and themes relevant to philosophical and theological aesthetics. The nature of aesthetic experience, the relationship between truth, goodness, and beauty, and the role of beauty in liturgy will be explored. Sources for the course will include key philosophical and theological texts as well as examples of ancient, medieval, and modern art. *3 Credits.*

B/C451 - Wounded by Beauty: The Gift of the Life and Thought of Luigi Giussani to the Church and the Modern World

Msgr. Luigi Giussani was a man, in the words of Joseph Ratzinger, “wounded by the desire for beauty” and “kept the gaze of his life, of his heart, always fixed on Christ.” The course introduces the life and thought of the Italian priest, theologian, educator, and Servant of God, Monsignor Luigi Giussani, the founder of the Catholic ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation. By studying Giussani’s famous “PerCorso” trilogy and his other important texts and lectures, the course

explores Giussani’s engaging Catholic proposal to the questions of the modern world: What is man? What is freedom? How can we recover a true sense of what we are in a world where it seems that we have lost God and our humanity? Why is it still reasonable to be a Christian today? *3 Credits.*

B/C461 - Tolkien the Artist: Creativity and the Image of God

“We make because we are made in the image of a Maker” (J.R.R. Tolkien). What is the role of creativity in human life? Is it just an incidental addition, reserved for those with a particular skill set or extra time? Or is it something that speaks to the heart of what it means to be a human person? This course will explore the work and thought of the beloved author, J.R.R. Tolkien, a devout Catholic and a devoted Artist, to see how he himself answers this question. We will uncover Tolkien’s understanding of the role of creativity and what it shows us about our relationship with creation, ourselves, and God the Creator. *3 Credits.*

B/C462 - Twentieth-Century Catholic Literary Imagination

Some of the best fiction of the 20th century was written by Catholic authors. In this course we will explore the work of writers like Flannery O’Connor, Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene, and Muriel Spark, focusing on the ways faith influenced their portrayal of life in the modern era. We will explore themes of virtue and vice, the startling choice of belief in the bloodiest century in history, and the humor, hope, and challenge these works still bring to contemporary readers. *3 Credits.*

B/C470 - Secularism and the Relevance of Belief

“Secularism” is the epochal phenomenon that has determined over the past centuries a progressive emancipation of society and culture from the centrality of religion in general and Christianity in particular. While some tend to interpret secularism as a merely

political phenomenon, this course explores the genesis, development, and nature of secularism understood as a broader spiritual attitude of the West, born in modern times and still shaping our minds today. More precisely, the course puts to test the interpretative thesis that the process of secularization of the West began when the Christian experience could not be perceived any longer as the “concrete universal” of Europe. The authors that will be discussed include contemporary theorists of secularization such as Trueman, Benedict XVI, De Lubac, Taylor, Del Noce, Giussani, D.L. Schindler, Schmemmann, as well as classics such as Kant, Hegel, Comte, Feuerbach, Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud. *3 Credits.*

B/C491 - Political Theology, Religious Freedom, and the Second Vatican Council

What is the relationship between Christianity and politics? How should we understand the interplay between the authority of the state and the authority of the Church? In what way can a definition and a proper exercise of religious freedom be articulated, particularly in our contemporary context? With these questions in mind, this course will engage in a theological exploration of the history, the foundations, and the disputed questions of political theology. The Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Religious Freedom, *Dignitatis humanae*, will be a touchstone for the course. The investigations into various dimensions of political theology will yield frequent opportunities to reflect upon contemporary political, cultural, and theological developments. *3 Credits.*

B/C492 - Catholicism and Political Imagination: Governance, the Good, and the Crisis of Liberalism

What is the nature and scope of the “Catholic political imagination”? How does Catholic teaching relate to political philosophy and governance? This course will engage these

questions by way of a theological and philosophical discussion of the relationship between the Catholic intellectual tradition and political philosophy. Major contributions to political philosophy will be considered alongside saints and theologians whose writings pertain to the common good and political governance. Particular attention will be given to reflection upon our own political context and the unfolding debate about the nature of political Liberalism. *3 Credits.*

B/D390 - Hellscape: Geographies of Punishment, Prayer, Penance, and Purgatory

In this course, we will investigate the theological maps people use to understand various forms of suffering. We will begin in Sacred Scripture by looking at punishments that remove people from places, then examine the shady netherworld in the biblical Lament tradition, and then study the early images of Hell as an after-worldly place of punishment. We will see how these images of Hell develop alongside practices of penance and prayer in Christianity, including the role of Hell in Christ’s descent and ascent, the theology of Purgatory, Dante’s mapping out the afterlife by combining schemes from Virgil and Thomas Aquinas, and the gnostic contrast in the Mandaic afterworld journey in *Diwan Abatur*. The course will end with modern post-apocalyptic depictions of punishment, corruption, cities, disasters, and lament using film, literature, and music, including Cormac McCarthy’s *On the Road*, the Coen brothers’ *A Serious Man*, and Pope Francis’ pandemic-era *Urbi et Orbi*. Throughout the course, we will build a theology of suffering, with special attention to the role of punishment, in light of the development of Sacred Tradition. *3 Credits.*

B510 - Thesis

Thesis in Area B: Historical Theology. *3 Credits.*

C215 - Introduction to Theological Studies
(offered every Spring)

This course orients students to the various aspects of Catholic theological studies and the way Catholic theology functions in the faith community. Key issues such as faith, revelation, scripture, tradition, the magisterium, and theological method are explored with an eye to how they are integrated into the entire discipline of theology. The course aims at helping to develop a framework in which to understand how one engages in theological reflection. Specific theological terms will be defined and discussed. (Formerly “Orientation to Theology.”) 3 Credits.

C216 - Grace, Nature, and Christian Anthropology

(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

This course will examine Christian Anthropology through the lens of the relationship between nature and grace. After a consideration of the “problem” of anthropology in modernity, we will consider the following themes: predestination (of Jesus Christ and of the human person in Jesus Christ), the human person as *imago Dei*, human nature in relation to grace, the meaning of the person, the meaning of sexual difference, original sin, and justification. 3 Credits.

C217 - Fundamental Moral Theology

(offered every other Fall: 2022, 2024)

This course introduces the fields of moral theology and Catholic Social Thought. Students will contemplate the purpose of moral theology and Catholic Social Thought in the life of the Church, their methods, and the problems they address. Topics will include sin and conversion, vice and virtue, methods of moral decision making, and the development and practice of Catholic Social

Thought. (Formerly “Moral and Social Teachings.”) 3 Credits.

C226 - Liturgical and Sacramental Theology

(offered every Fall)

An historical, anthropological and theological investigation of Christian worship and sacrament with special attention to the Roman Catholic Sacraments of baptism and Eucharist; historical overview of liturgical practices, texts, and theology from Jewish and scriptural origins to the 20th-century reforms of the Second Vatican Council; basic principles of liturgical and sacramental theology; and groundwork for interpreting liturgical documents and ritual texts from pastoral practice, multi/inter-cultural concerns, and ecumenical considerations. (Formerly “Worship and Sacraments.”) 3 Credits.

C228 - Ecclesiology and the Theology of Ministry

(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

A historical and theological overview of the Christian understanding of ecclesiology and ministry, with the Second Vatican Council as a primary point of reference. Topics include: the foundations of ecclesiology and ministry in the New Testament, the expressions of ecclesiology and ministry in the history of the Church, Apostolic succession, the nature of and relationship between the hierarchy and the laity, the local and the universal Church, and the Church and the world. Ecumenical engagement will also be addressed through the course. (Formerly “Theology of Church and Ministry.”) 3 Credits.

C302 - Christology and Trinitarian Theology

(offered every other Fall: 2023, 2025)

This course examines and explores the nature of the Christian God as unity and Trinity. It focuses on God's reality as creator, as redeemer in the person of Jesus who we proclaim the Christ, and as unifier and advocate in the person of the Spirit. Since the very nature of God implies "communion" the social implications of Trinity are a focal point for the course. The work of various theologians will be explored and there will be a focus on the early Ecumenical Councils of the Church. (Formerly "Theology of the Trinity.") *3 Credits.*

C319 - Introduction to Apologetics

(offered every other Spring: 2024, 2026)

St. Peter wrote, "always be prepared to make a defense (*apologian*) to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence..." (1 Peter 3:15). In an attempt to take St. Peter's exhortation to heart, this course examines the major aspects of apologetics, the theological effort to defend and explain the Catholic faith. Topics covered will include: the relationship between faith and reason, the challenges posed by atheism and secularism, dialogue with other religions and ecclesial communities, and the meaning of human sexuality. The nature and history of apologetics will also be explored, with a special emphasis on cultivating a "New Apologetics" to accompany the "New Evangelization," so as to successfully address the questions and doubts specific to our age. *3 Credits.*

C344 - Mary, Mother of God

(offered every other Spring: 2024, 2026)

An introduction to Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. The course will explore Mary's historical, and theological significance from a Catholic perspective, providing an overview of her role in scripture, doctrine, and devotion. Particular attention

will be given to dogmatic formulations and artistic expressions over the centuries.

3 Credits.

C368 - The Problem of Suffering: Is it God's Fault?

Human suffering continues to be a challenging and difficult reality for all people, including those who profess to have a deep faith in God. This course offers a broad perspective in its exploration of the theological "problem" of suffering. Students will gain an understanding of the way the issue of God and suffering is treated in the Christian tradition. Areas to be explored are the dilemma of Job, the pathos of God, the Holocaust, redemptive suffering and other pertinent topics. *3 Credits.*

C/D202 - The Revelation of God: Doctrine, Liturgy, and Sacraments (Catechism 1 and 2)

(offered every Fall)

This course introduces us to those teachings that are central to the Catholic Faith as guided by Part One of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "The Profession of Faith" §§1-1065, and to the liturgical practices and sacraments of the Catholic Faith as guided by Part Two of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery" §§1066-1690. (Formerly cataloged as CT671.) *3 Credits.*

C/D203 - The Drama of Life in Christ: Action, Contemplation, Communion (Catechism Parts 3 and 4)

(offered every Spring)

In his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul boldly proclaims: "to live is Christ" (1:21). What does it mean to live life in Christ and for Christ, who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6)? This course provides an extended meditation upon the demands of life in Christ through an exploration of (a) the Christian understanding and realization of the moral life as guided by Part Three of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* ("Life in Christ"

§§1691-2557) and (b) the practice, life, and purpose of Christian prayer as guided by Part Four of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (“Christian Prayer” §§2558-2865). (Formerly cataloged as CT673.) 3 Credits.

C/D325 - Vatican II as a Pastoral Council: The Memory that Generates the Future

Pope St. John Paul II said that the Second Vatican Council was “the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century . . . [and] a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the century now beginning” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, §57). This course aims, first, to survey the breadth and plumb the depths of the teachings of Vatican II, in particular through a thorough of its four primary Constitutions (*Dei Verbum*; *Lumen Gentium*; *Sacrosanctum Concilium*; and *Gaudium et spes*) in order to better appreciate - and thereby receive anew - that “great grace.” The second fundamental aim of this course is to understand the uniqueness of the Second Vatican Council in terms of the “pastoral.” Relatively unique among all of the twenty preceding Ecumenical Councils of the Church, Vatican II was not convened to combat one particular heresy, or address an isolated controversy or claimant to teaching authority. Neither was it merely “pastoral” (i.e., not doctrinal, and therefore subject to error and not binding). Vatican II’s chief aim, according to its convener Pope St. John XXIII, was for the Church to “reaffirm that teaching authority of hers which never fails . . . that the sacred heritage of Christian truth be safeguarded and expounded with greater efficacy” (*Opening Address to the Council*, 11 October 1962). To understand the sense in which the Council itself sees and implements this particular end in its Constitutions is to arrive at a concept of the “pastoral” which has the vitality, virility, and vivacity to thwart the lamentable divide in present ecclesial discourse between alternative hermeneutics of continuity or rupture, instead arriving at a hermeneutic of reform in continuity. 3 Credits.

C/D329 - The Gospel of Life: Life Issues and Contemporary Challenges

An exploration of the nature, demands, and consequences of the Gospel of Life, “that ‘new’ and ‘eternal’ life which consists in communion with the Father, to which every person is freely called in the Son by the power of the Sanctifying Spirit... [in which] all the aspects and stages of human life achieve their full significance” (*Evangelium Vitae*, §1). After beginning with an overview of theological anthropology (centered upon key sources in Scripture and Tradition), the course then addresses moral issues concerning the beginning of life, its end, and each stage in between. These issues include, but are not limited to: abortion, contraception, violence and war, economic injustice, and euthanasia. The general aim of the course is two-fold: (1) to grant the student proficiency in engaging these challenges and (2) to identify the Church’s teaching on each issue, as well as the foundation of each teaching in the Gospel of Life. 3 Credits.

C/D330 - Unless You Become Like Children: Catholicism, Culture, and the Child

In an attempt to understand Jesus’ words “unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 18:3), this course will explore the theological significance of childhood, the unique nature of the child (as different from the adult), and the catechetical implications of these findings for today’s youth. Beginning with an analysis of our culture’s current ‘rejection of childhood,’ this course will explore, through scriptural analysis and theological investigation, how the goodness of childhood is ultimately affirmed in the person of Jesus. Turning then to practical implications of our findings, this course will look at the work of Dr. Maria Montessori and others to reveal the God-given nature of the child, addressing popular topics such as freedom and discipline, rewards and punishments, responsibility and education.

Finally, the course will conclude by exploring the question of catechesis of the youth, arguing for a renewed Christological approach. *3 Credits.*

C/D331 - Contemplation and Cultivation: Towards and Integral Ecology

In his 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato si'*, "On Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis makes an impassioned appeal for an "integral ecology." This course will consider integral ecology from within theological anthropology, with particular reference to the metaphysics of gift. After a consideration of the philosophical underpinnings of the dominant modern and post-modern approaches to ecology, we will explore various sources for an integral Catholic vision. The role of the body, the use of technology, and the value of human work will be considered with a focus on agriculture as a paradigm. Key texts will include recent papal writings, the book of Genesis, John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, and works by Wendell Berry, Hildegard of Bingen, and Stratford Caldecott. *3 Credits.*

C/D333 - Catholic Bioethics at the Beginning of Life

(offered every Fall)

This course concentrates on bioethical topics and ethical principles that are most relevant at the beginning of human life. It commences with a biological examination of the beginnings of embryonic life, leading to an in-depth discussion of abortion, artificial contraception, natural family planning, NaPRO Technology, in vitro fertilization, gamete donation, surrogate pregnancy, fetal research, and other related topics. All topics are grounded in a discussion of the history of Catholic health care and fundamental Church teaching on natural law, human status, the human act, conscience, theology of the body, and the common good. Common secular arguments opposed to Church teaching in these areas are critiqued. All issues are considered in a highly practical light, with emphasis on real-life applications in pastoral,

academic, and health care settings. This course will benefit health care professionals, clergy, chaplains, pastoral workers, life science researchers, ethics committee members, and 'Catholics in the pew' who are interested in learning more about applying Catholic bioethical principles to real-life situations that they and their loved ones routinely encounter. *3 Credits.*

C/D334 - Catholic Bioethics at the End of Life

(offered every Spring)

This course examines a range of issues and controversies, from the determination of death itself, to euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, advance directives, hospice and palliative care options, organ donation, extra/ordinary care, and artificial nutrition and hydration. Topics are grounded in a broader discussion of Church views on suffering and death. Additional cutting-edge bioethical issues such as gender dysphoria, artificial wombs, CRISPR gene editing, and COVID-related ethics, are considered, alongside classic landmark ethical cases, and helpful narratives from the rich history of Catholic health care. Secular bioethical frameworks and arguments are examined. Issues are considered in a highly practical light, with emphasis given to real-world applications in pastoral, academic, and health care settings. *3 Credits.*

C/D363 - Marriage and Holy Orders: Sacraments at the Service of Communion

"Two...sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §1534). This course will explore these sacraments at the service of communion. Within the context of general ecclesial teaching on the nature and role of the sacraments, the specific scriptural, historical,

doctrinal, and moral dimensions of Marriage and Holy Orders will be surveyed to provide a thorough understanding of each. Attention will be paid to the way in which these sacraments shape one's day-to-day life and one's overall mission in the Church. Contemporary difficulties and concerns will also be addressed. *3 Credits.*

C/D365 - Theology of the Body: Sexuality and the Sacred

Today we find ourselves struggling to understand and navigate everything that has to do with gender and sexuality. Why is this? Why is life in the body so hard? In fact, we live in the wake of a profound modern divorce between God and his creation, meaning and matter (Descartes), that has facilitated the vast expansion of man's technological mastery over his world (Bacon). And even as post-modernity has decried modernity's worst fruits—world wars, the arms race, the destructive global consumerist culture—we find ourselves nevertheless unable to re-discover the inherent purpose of the material order. A struggle to impose meaning has ensued—with the body as its most sensitive battleground. This course seeks to understand the malaise in which we find ourselves and to explore in depth an answer that has been proposed from the heart of the Church. In Pope St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, we will consider the human body as "sacramental" and the human person as inherently structured to express and receive love. We will discover a corresponding depth in the vocations to marriage and celibacy. And we will consider what this means for our experience lived "in" the body and not despite it. *3 Credits.*

C/D380 - The Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell

This course seeks to unfold the Catholic Church's rich teaching regarding the four "Last Things": Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. This course will reflect on questions surrounding the nature of death and sin, the

relationship between finite freedom and providence, the relationship of time and eternity, the Last Judgment, Heaven, and the mystery of Christ's Descent into Hell on Holy Saturday. Its ultimate aim is to provide an overview of Catholic eschatology through a reflection on the meaning and substance of the theological virtue of Hope. The course will oscillate between a consideration of doctrinal and magisterial texts and representations of the eschatological questions in the popular imagination. *3 Credits.*

C/D383 - Practical Atheism: Modern Unbelief, the Problem of Evil, and the Theology of Atonement

This course aims to explicate the problem of unbelief as a multifaceted phenomenon. Both the "practical atheism" of Christians, the "atheist humanism" of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the "Christian atheism" that arises as a theological response to the problems of the former two. In Part One of the course we will begin with an exploration of key figures of the 19th and 20th centuries, the so-called "masters of suspicion" (Nietzsche, Feuerbach, Freud), and will articulate precisely what is novel about modern atheism. In Part Two we will turn to the foundational text of Judeo-Christian monotheism, the Book of Genesis. There, we will unfold the doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo* as a response to the surrounding pagan mythologies, and will therefore seek to situate nascent Jewish faith as a more sophisticated belief system. With Joseph Ratzinger as our guide, Catholic Christianity will be presented as the true religion in the context of world religions, with the attendant nuance demanded by *Nostra aetate* and other recent magisterial pronouncements. Part Three will turn to the writings of Fyodor Dostoevsky to pose once again the question of unbelief, but from the perspective of Christianity. In this new light, we will see the sense in which a true atheism – rebellion – is only possible now because of the mystery of Christ's death and Resurrection. Part Four will explore a

theology of Atonement, seeking to understand the mystery of God the Father and his role in the Paschal Mystery of Christ's redemption, specifically as a response to the problem of evil and the Christian rebel elucidated in Part Three. Overall, the course aims to present the mystery of Christ's redemption as the fundamental and singularly comprehensive response to the phenomenon of unbelief and the problem of evil. *3 Credits.*

C/D397 - The Whole Breadth of Reason: Faith, Science, and Technology

Are faith and science compatible? What is the appropriate way to respond to the exponential growth of technology in our time? This course is designed to provide an understanding of science and technology within the intelligence of faith. Students will learn how having a Christian philosophical foundation allows for a truer vision of science and technology in contrast to contemporary naturalistic worldviews. It will offer a framework for students to think about and relate to modern technologies and contemporary issues, in order to have "the courage to engage the whole breadth of reason" (Pope Benedict XVI, "The Regensburg Address"). Topics will include, but are not limited to: scientism, the nature of science, contemporary medicine, genetic engineering, and artificial intelligence. *3 Credits.*

C/D398 - Catechesis and the New Evangelization: Content, Method, and Challenges

(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

In *Catechesi Tradendae*, Pope St. John Paul II contends that "the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ..." (§5). Taking this statement as a point of departure, this course explores the nature, content, and method of catechesis. It does so in the context of the call for a New Evangelization, which proposes a renewed emphasis on the Church's missionary nature and the mission-character of discipleship

itself. After addressing the history of catechesis and its sources in Scripture and Tradition, the course will focus upon the Church's penetrating reflection on catechesis in the 20th and 21st centuries. Attention will be given to present-day challenges, as well as recent catechetical models which attempt to address these challenges. The general aim of the course is to answer two fundamental questions: (1) "what is catechesis?" and (2) "how can catechesis bear fruit in our age?" *3 Credits.*

C/D431 - Sacraments of Initiation and RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), or *Ordo Initiationis Christianae Adultorum* (OICA), is the process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church, as well as those baptized in a different faith tradition who wish to become Catholic, or baptized Catholic, but never confirmed. The Rite is designed for adults over the age of 18 who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. This rite includes the celebration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist and also all the rites belonging to the catechumenate. During the RCIA process, candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices. This course is intended for individuals leading the RCIA process on a diocesan or parish level, and will cover, in depth, the sacraments of Christian Initiation (baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist), historical, sacramental, and spiritual aspects, along with practical application of other disciplines of theology. *3 Credits.*

C/D460 - Faith, Fiction, and Film: The Drama of Belief

"Every genuine art form in its own way is a path to the inmost reality of man and of the world. It is therefore a wholly valid approach to the realm of faith, which gives human

experience its ultimate meaning” (Pope St. John Paul II, *Letter to Artists*, §6). This course will explore how the art forms of fiction and film approach the realm of faith, reverencing its mystery and disclosing its richness. Beginning with a theological discussion of the relationship between Catholicism and art, the course will move to enjoy and reflect upon recent examples of fiction and film that have explored the drama of belief. Works of fiction

by Flannery O’Connor, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Graham Greene, and films by Karen Blixen and Xavier Beauvois will be explored.

3 Credits.

C510 - Thesis

Thesis in Area C: Systematic Theology.

3 Credits.

D202 - Liturgical Practicum for the Permanent Diaconate

An introduction to the theological and pastoral principles underlying the liturgical celebrations of the Church, the official documentation guiding the liturgical life of the Church, and the skills necessary for the preparation of, and presiding at, the worship of the Church. Special emphasis will be given to the role and ministry of the Deacon in the various rites of the Roman Catholic liturgical tradition. *3 Credits.*

D203 - Homiletics I

This course will provide a theoretical and practical introduction to homiletics, focusing in particular on (a) the biblical foundations of preaching, (b) the dogmatic basis of preaching, (c) and preaching method. The purpose of the course is to discern a homiletic approach that is excellent in both content and style, with emphasis upon the ecclesial and liturgical context of the act of preaching. Examples of preaching from the tradition will be considered as models and inspiration for the homiletic task in our age. Finally, the course seeks to instill in the student an ever-deepening love for the Word of God as proclaimed in the Church. *3 Credits.*

D204 - Homiletics II

This course will continue the introduction to lectionary-based preaching in Eucharistic and other liturgical settings, considering the tools and resources for homily preparation, the meaning of the liturgical calendar, and the nature of the Liturgy of the Word. A preaching practicum is included. *3 Credits.*

D207- Canon Law and Ministerial Leadership

(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

An introduction to Canon Law, especially as applicable to parish ministry. A particular

focus will be given to the canon law of marriage. In addition to a brief summary of the history and development of Canon Law, and a brief survey of the structure of the Roman Curia, an overview will be given according to the organization of the *1983 Code of Canon Law*:

- I. General Norms (canons 1–203)
 - II. The People of God (canons 204–755)
 - III. The Teaching Function of the Church (canons 756–833)
 - IV. The Sanctifying Function of the Church (canons 834–1258)
 - V. The Temporal Goods of the Church (canons 1259–1310)
 - VI. Sanctions in the Church (canons 1311–1399)
 - VII. Processes (canons 1400–1752).
- 3 Credits.*

D211 - Discernment and Formation for Ministry

(offered every Fall)

This course is an introduction to formation for diaconal ministry. The first half of the course is an exploration of the historical development of and the theological basis for the diaconate. Special attention will be given to the unity and relation of the four dimensions of formation and the deacon in his state in life (either marriage or celibacy). The second half of the course will focus on the integration of the spiritual and human dimensions of formation through attention to one's lived encounter with God in and through the daily circumstances of life. To aid one in this pursuit of holiness through life—which is to “seek God in all things”—key aspects of Ignatian spirituality will be explored, including the importance of spiritual accompaniment, the function of spiritual direction, the basic principles of discernment of spirits, and the practice of the daily examen. *3 Credits.*

D214 - Spiritual Formation

(offered every Fall)

This course seeks to approach the world of prayer in its unity with lived experience. Beginning with a consideration of the witness of the Son of God who “teaches us how to pray” in and through his relationship to the Father in the Holy Spirit, we will then move to consider the lives and prayer of various saints, including Ignatius of Antioch, Anthony of the Desert, Benedict of Nursia, Bernard of Clairvaux, Teresa of Avila, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis de Sales, Thérèse of Lisieux, Charles de Foucauld, Teresa of Calcutta, and Madeleine Delbrel. Attention to each figure will include awareness of their place in the history of Catholic spirituality as well as a “practicum” in their way of prayer. *3 Credits.*

D217 - Pastoral Care

(offered every other Fall: 2024, 2026)

This course is designed as a beginning course in pastoral care and serves as an introduction to understanding its basic principles and methods. The course addresses the traditional and changing definitions of pastoral care and the various issues that have emerged. In the broadest sense, pastoral care includes liturgy, administration, catechesis, as well as visitation and counseling. This course will look at the varying roles for both clergy and laity, while especially focusing on interpersonal skills and effective communication skills, particularly empathy. *3 Credits.*

D218 - Issues in Pastoral Care

(offered every other Fall: 2023, 2025)

This course examines a variety of issues surrounding pastoral care and ministry in the parish. We will examine the theology of pastoral ministry, as well as exploring stages of faith development, ministering to Gen Z, family ministry, Eucharistic affiliation, and the current USCCB Strategic Initiatives. *3 Credits.*

D302 - Pastoral Field Education

(offered as needed)

Pastoral Field education is a sustained immersion experience in which a student can discover, test, and develop their gifts for ministry, with the guidance of a qualified supervisor and the support of regular theological reflection with their advisor. It assists students in the acquisition of skills and self-knowledge in the context of faith, tradition, and active ministry; it also plays an essential role in fostering “a general integration in the formational process forging a close link between the human, spiritual, and intellectual dimensions in formation” (*National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, §126). *3 Credits.*

D510 - Thesis

Thesis in Area D: Pastoral Theology. *3 Credits.*

Catholic Philosophy Courses

CP430 - Minding the Cave: The Call to Truth and Goodness in Plato's *Republic*

What is the good? What is truth? What does it mean that human beings are rational? What is wisdom and what does it have to do with human happiness? In reflecting on these questions, it is not difficult to see how very often the good is reduced either to individual taste or to the product of procedural agreement; how truth is identified with appearances and mere subjective opinions; how reason is misunderstood for a mere instrument for the accumulation of information and power; and how wisdom is usually understood as the pastime of few enthusiasts, often because happiness has been identified with some rudimentary form of pleasure. In his *Republic*, Plato brings up once again these questions – What is the good? What is truth? What is reason? What are wisdom and happiness? – and proposes to us a life-changing journey made of philosophical questioning, successful and unsuccessful arguments, illuminating dead-ends, puzzling irony, daring reflections on politics and art, and much more. In the *Republic* we find one of the most comprehensive expositions of Plato's views on philosophy, which challenge beyond measure the contemporary assumptions on and reductions of the good and the true. If the horizon of our life is often vitiated by self-undermining prejudices and limiting views – the “cave,” as Plato says – what Plato offers is nothing else than a call to a renewed, liberating understanding of what genuine goodness and truth are. Thus, the aim of the course is to journey with Plato and ask once again what does it mean to be human through a reading of his masterpiece, the *Republic*. *3 Credits*.

CP601 - Introduction to Catholic Philosophy

(offered every Fall)

This course centers the student upon the discipline of philosophy as it has been developed and practiced within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. The methods particular to philosophical investigation will be examined as the philosopher seeks to articulate the nature of wisdom, how it can be attained, and especially incorporated into the entirety of one's life. The student will understand the differences between philosophy, the sciences, and theology, as well as their respective complementarities, with a focus upon the supportive and illuminative role that philosophy plays in theological education. *3 Credits*.

CP605 - Beyond Deception: Logic and the Freedom of the Mind

(offered every Spring)

An examination of the three activities that define reason (Understanding, Judgment, and Discursive Reasoning), and the development and practice of the techniques that perfect them (definition, the judgment of truth and falsity, the manipulation of propositions, and the formation of a sound argument). The course considers the defects that commonly affect sound reasoning (fallacies), the distinction between sound and cogent reasoning (deductive vs. inductive reasoning) and the criteria that govern the difference between the two, and lastly what constitutes Normative Persuasion Dialogue and how such is to be distinguished from other speech acts. *3 Credits*.

CP611 - Our Search for Meaning: The Beginning of the Greatest Conversation (Ancient Philosophy)

(offered every other Fall: 2024, 2026)

A survey course from the beginning of philosophy with the pre-Socratics, through

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and ending with the Cynics, Skeptics, Epicureans, Stoics, and Neoplatonism. In particular, those problems posed by Heraclitus, Parmenides, Socrates, and Plato that are important to the philosophical tradition will be considered, Aristotle's philosophy will be surveyed as a whole, and the themes that are central to post-Aristotelian philosophy will be examined. *3 Credits.*

CP612 - History of Philosophy: Medieval
(offered every other Spring: 2023, 2025)

A survey course beginning with St. Augustine, through the rise of Scholasticism, and to its end. Emphasis is placed upon the thought of St. Augustine, Boethius, St. Anselm, St. Bonaventure, St. Thomas Aquinas, Blessed John Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham. The relations between faith and reason, and metaphysical, anthropological, and ethical teachings will be emphasized as they develop the thought received from the ancient Greek philosophers and prepare the way for the rise of modern philosophy. *3 Credits.*

CP613 - History of Philosophy: Modern and Contemporary

(offered every other Summer: 2023, 2025)

With regard to the modern era, this course will survey the main philosophers of the rationalist, empiricist, and Kantian traditions, from Descartes through the nineteenth century. This will introduce the student to the authors of the 19th and 20th century studied in the contemporary era who respond to the major themes/positions of the modern era. It is with regard to the latter that this course explores the two major school of philosophy in the contemporary era, namely analytic philosophy, on the one hand, and phenomenology and existentialism, on the other. *3 Credits.*

CP614 - Epistemology

(offered every other Fall: 2023, 2025)

This course will consider the nature of knowledge, whether the human mind can

know things as they really are, the twofold nature of human cognition (normative and empirical/rational and sensual), the relationship between the human person's empirical and normative knowledge, the different kinds of knowing as well as their degrees, the different approaches to truth, belief, and error, and the metaphysical underpinnings of different approaches to the aforementioned concerns. *3 Credits.*

CP621 - Philosophy of Nature
(offered Summer: 2023, 2025)

This course offers an examination of the ancient and medieval accounts of the natural world, specifically their understanding of nature, change, space, time, purpose, chance, and the principles upon which they rest. This is perhaps the most fundamental of all philosophy courses and, together with logic, establishes the vocabulary basic to the whole of the Catholic philosophical tradition. *3 Credits.*

CP631 - Metaphysics
(offered every Fall)

This course examines the basic concerns and principles that undergird the whole of reality and guide the way by which we think of the ultimate things to which the mind can aspire: existence, essence, the categories of being, the transcendentals, the analogy of being, and the existence and creative activity of God. *3 Credits.*

CP641 - Philosophy of God
(offered every other Summer: 2024, 2026)

This course concerns the natural ascent of the human mind to a knowledge of the existence and the attributes of God – can God's existence be proven, and can our language at least begin to represent God's attributes without falling purely into metaphorical language or simple anthropomorphisms. *3 Credits.*

CP651 - Philosophical Anthropology

(offered every other Spring: 2024, 2026)

This course investigates the philosophical discussion surrounding the human person. We appeal to the major writers on this subject with an emphasis upon the Socratic, Platonic, Aristotelian, Augustinian, and Thomistic traditions, engaging primary original texts themselves and also their incorporation into modern models of the human person, particularly the personalism of Pope St. John Paul II. Among the aspects considered in this course are the following: what is meant by “body” and “soul”; how has relation that exists between the two been articulated; how do we distinguish and understand the difference between the human person’s animality and his rationality; how do we describe human cognition, choice/free will, the human person’s affective life, and the social and spiritual aspects of our humanity; what is meant by the human person being made to the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27); can it be shown that the human person survives his death? *3 Credits.*

CP661 - Ethics

(offered every other Summer: 2023, 2025)

This course will articulate the general components necessary to a sustained, unified, and useful investigation into the moral life. With a privilege accorded to the Socratic, Platonic, Aristotelian, Augustinian, and Thomistic traditions, the course will consider the question of human purpose, namely to be happy, and the means that must be marshalled in order to achieve this happiness. Among the

components to be examined are the following: how virtue, vice, and habit are related to the development of human character; how do we understand free choice and the many and varied roles that both reason and will play in the realization of a free choice; what is meant by conscience and its role in the moral life; is the society we live in and the friendships we enjoy necessary to the realization of a happy life; can the purely secular approach to human happiness succeed or must this be realized within a religious context? *3 Credits.*

CP671 - Classic Texts in Catholic Philosophy

(offered every Spring)

This course introduces the students to a close reading of a classic work from the Catholic philosophical tradition. For this reason, the works that may be studied include texts from the ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary age. According to the model presented in *Fides et Ratio* by Pope St. John Paul II, “faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.” The classics of philosophy selected for this course are examples of the attitude described in the encyclical letter, either because they present an understanding of reason that is open to faith or because they present in an exemplary way the modality in which philosophical reason works once informed by faith. This course is the capstone course for the Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy. *3 Credits.*

Other Courses

I350 - Introduction to Research

A basic introduction to the process and issues of theological research with particular attention to (a) methodologies, (b) strategies, and (c) skills. The student will become familiar with various approaches to research in general and theological research in particular. The student will acquire a variety of skills ranging from compiling research bibliography to evaluating scholarly work and writing a thesis proposal. *Variable Credits.*

I400 - Graduates' Colloquium

A capstone experience consisting of written and oral reflection among peers at the end of one's graduate study, intended for students of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies, Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy programs. *Non-Credit.*

I500 - Independent Studies

Independent studies will be listed on a student's transcript with a title that indicates the nature and content of study. *Variable Credits.*

MACOMP - Comprehensive Examinations

A capstone experience for the Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree program consisting of a written exam and a *viva voce* (spoken) exam. *Non-Credit.*

P900 - Portfolio

A capstone experience for students in all graduate degree programs. *Non-Credit.*

W500 - Academic Research and Writing

This course is intended for students who have never written or have been long removed from the task of writing a research paper. It will focus on research methods and techniques with an emphasis on: selecting a topic, identifying sources, as well as writing and grammar principles and style. Students will be afforded guidance and suggestions on how to compose a research document written on a scholarly level. Students will also receive helpful information for constructing theological questions and arguments. *Variable Credits.*

Graduate Degree Program Checklists

The following Graduate Degree Program Checklists are intended to assist the student in tracking curricular planning and progress.

The *Student Handbook* is the primary document to consult for information about degree programs at St. Bernard's. The Checklists distill the information in the *Student Handbook* into a helpful resource that may be consulted and utilized personally and within the context of advising meetings. The following Checklists may be found below:

- ❖ Master of Arts in Theological Studies (All Course Track)
- ❖ Master of Arts in Theological Studies (Thesis Track)
- ❖ Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy (Systematic Track)
- ❖ Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy (Historical Track)
- ❖ Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy (Pre-Theologate Track)
- ❖ Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
- ❖ Master of Divinity



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) Curriculum Checklist
All-Course Track
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

15 Courses (45 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
C215 - Introduction to Theological Studies		
D214 - Spiritual Formation		
Courses in Area of Concentration		
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		

Courses in Other Areas (at least one from each other Area)		
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
Comprehensive Exams (Non-Credit, Pass/Fail)		



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) Curriculum Checklist
Thesis Track
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

15 Courses (45 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
C215 - Introduction to Theological Studies		
D214 - Spiritual Formation		
Courses in Area of Concentration		
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		

Courses in Other Areas (at least one from each other Area)		
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
A/B/C/D510 - Thesis I		
A/B/C/D511 - Thesis II		
Comprehensive Exams (Non-Credit, Pass/Fail)		



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy (MACP) Curriculum Checklist
Systematic Track
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

12 Courses (36 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
CP601 – Introduction to Catholic Philosophy		
CP605 – Logic		
CP661 – Ethics		
CP631 – Metaphysics		
Systematic Courses		
CP614 – Epistemology		
CP621 – Philosophy of Nature		
CP651 – Philosophical Anthropology		
General Electives		
(1)		
(2)		

(3) <i>OR</i> Thesis I		
(4) <i>OR</i> Thesis II		
Capstone Course		
CP900 – Classic Texts in Catholic Philosophy		
Graduates' Colloquium (Non-Credit)		



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy (MACP) Curriculum Checklist
Historical Track
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

12 Courses (36 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
CP601 – Introduction to Catholic Philosophy		
CP605 – Logic		
CP661 – Ethics		
CP631 – Metaphysics		
Historical Courses		
CP611 – History of Philosophy: Ancient		
CP612 – History of Philosophy: Medieval		
CP613 – History of Philosophy: Modern and Contemporary		
General Electives		
(1)		
(2)		

(3) <i>OR</i> Thesis I		
(4) <i>OR</i> Thesis II		
Capstone Course		
CP900 – Classic Texts in Catholic Philosophy		
Graduates’ Colloquium (Non-Credit)		



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophy (MACP) Curriculum Checklist
Pre-Theologate Track
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

15 Courses (45 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
CP601 – Introduction to Catholic Philosophy		
CP605 – Logic		
CP661 – Ethics		
CP631 – Metaphysics		
Historical Courses		
CP611 – History of Philosophy: Ancient		
CP612 – History of Philosophy: Medieval		
CP613 – History of Philosophy: Modern and Contemporary		
Systematic Courses		
CP614 – Epistemology		
CP621 – Philosophy of Nature		

CP651 – Philosophical Anthropology		
General Electives		
(1)		
(2)		
(3) <i>OR</i> Thesis I		
(4) <i>OR</i> Thesis II		
Capstone Course		
CP900 – Classic Texts in Catholic Philosophy		
Graduates' Colloquium (Non-Credit)		



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) Curriculum Checklist
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

15 Courses (45 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
C215 – Introduction to Theological Studies		
D214 – Spiritual Formation		
Area A: Biblical Theology		
A202 – Old Testament		
A203 – New Testament		
Area B: Historical Theology		
B Area Elective		
Area C: Systematic Theology		
C217 – Fundamental Moral Theology		
C226 – Liturgical and Sacramental Theology		
C228 – Ecclesiology and the Theology of Ministry		

C302 – Christology and Trinitarian Theology		
Area D: Pastoral Theology		
D207 – Canon Law and Ministerial Leadership		
D217 – Pastoral Care		
D302 – Pastoral Field Education		
D Area Elective		
General Electives		
(1)		
(2)		
Graduates' Colloquium (Non-Credit)		



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

Master of Divinity (MDIV) Curriculum Checklist
Projected Class of XXXX

Name: _____

24 Courses (72 Credits)	Semester/Year	Grade
Foundational Courses		
C215 – Introduction to Theological Studies		
D214 – Spiritual Formation		
Area A: Biblical Theology		
A205 – Introduction to Biblical Studies		
A202 – Old Testament		
A203 – New Testament		
Old Testament Area A Elective		
New Testament Area A Elective		
Area B: Historical Theology		
B301 – History of the Church		
B Area Elective		

Area C: Systematic Theology		
C216 – Grace, Nature, and Christian Anthropology		
C217 – Fundamental Moral Theology		
C226 – Liturgical and Sacramental Theology		
C228 – Ecclesiology and the Theology of Ministry		
C302 – Christology and Trinitarian Theology		
B/C310 – Catholic Social Teaching		
C/D333 OR C/D334 – Catholic Bioethics		
Area D: Pastoral Theology		
D207 – Canon Law and Ministerial Leadership		
D217 – Pastoral Care		
D218 – Issues in Pastoral Care		
D302 – Pastoral Field Education		
D303 – Pastoral Field Education II		
D Area Elective		
General Electives		
(1)		
(2)		
Graduates' Colloquium (Non-Credit)		



ST. BERNARD'S

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

For over 125 years, St. Bernard's has steadily pursued a course of dedication and service to Christ and His Church. Opened as a Roman Catholic Seminary in 1893 in the Diocese of Rochester and restructured as an Institute for Theological and Ministerial studies in 1981, St. Bernard's went on to open its doors in the Diocese of Albany. From there in 2011 it held its first class in the Diocese of Syracuse, and then in 2019 began its first ever online distance learning program allowing anyone anywhere to access graduate theology and philosophy degrees and certificates. In 2020, St. Bernard's expanded its diaconate and lay formation offerings to the Diocese of Buffalo, and in 2021 began providing diaconate formation for the Diocese of Allentown.

Our mission is to nurture the entirety of the human person through attention to the pastoral, intellectual, spiritual, and human pillars of formation with the hope that we may, in a definite and dedicated way, assist our students to understand the things of our Faith and to incarnate them in their day-to-day service to God's people and the world as a whole.

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