

# Catholic Studies

Catholic Studies is an interdisciplinary program consisting of courses which are devoted to the examination of topics, themes, or questions pertinent to Catholic history, doctrine, and faith in its various aspects, illustrations of which are found in literature, historical studies, philosophy, theology, and the social sciences.

## Major

- The Major in Catholic Studies is a four-part course of studies totaling 36 credit hours, which includes 18 credit hours in electives as indicated below:

### *Group I – Catholic History (3 credit hours)*

HIST 3213                      The Early Church

### *Group II – Catholic Theology (6 credit hours)*

RELG 2313                      Introduction to the Hebrew Bible  
 RELG 2333                      Introduction to the New Testament  
 RELG 2613                      Basic Issues in Theology  
 RELG 3323                      Book of Isaiah  
 RELG 3343                      Gospel of John  
 RELG 3353                      Christian Liturgy and Sacramental Life  
 RELG 3363                      Jesus of Nazareth - Christ of Faith  
 RELG 3373                      Jesus the Christ as Understood Throughout History  
 RELG 3623                      The God of Christians

### *Group III – Faith and Reason (6 credit hours)*

PHIL 2133                      Medieval Philosophy I  
 PHIL 2143                      Medieval Philosophy II  
 PHIL 3413                      God in Western Thought  
 PHIL 3523                      Thomas Aquinas: Knowledge, Being, and Human Being  
 PHIL 3553                      Augustine

### *Group IV – Faith and Values (3 credit hours)*

CATH 3213                      Catholic School Teaching and Contemporary Issues  
 PHIL 2213                      Introduction to Moral Philosophy  
 PHIL 3533                      Thomas Aquinas: Law, Morality, Society  
 RELG 2513                      Foundations of Christian Ethics

- Two compulsory 3 credit-hour reading/discussion courses in each of the student's third and fourth years:

CATH 3013                      Catholic Studies Seminar I  
 CATH 3023                      Catholic Studies Seminar II

- Nine credit hours in electives drawn from Groups I - IV above, and Group V Faith, Culture, and the Arts

### *Group V - Faith, Culture, and the Arts*

ENGL/CATH 2673              Literature and Catholicism I  
 ENGL/CATH 2683              Literature and Catholicism II  
 CATH 3823                      Special Topics in Catholic Studies II  
 CATH 3923                      Independent Study

## Minor

A Minor in Catholic Studies consists of 18 credit hours which must include:

1. CATH 2003 Introduction to Catholic Studies  
CATH 3013 Catholic Studies Seminar I  
CATH 3023 Catholic Studies Seminar II
2. Nine credit hours in electives, of which 3 credit hours must be from Group I – Catholic History, 3 credit hours from Group II – Catholic Theology, and 3 credit hours from Group III – Faith and Reason or Group IV – Faith and Values

### **CATH-2003. Introduction to Catholic Studies**

An introduction to the Catholic tradition through a consideration of what it means to be Catholic, and how this experience has been expressed historically and culturally in philosophy, theology, prayer, literature, personal and social morality, and art.

### **CATH-2013. The Sacraments: Spirituality & Story**

This course traces the shifts in practice and the development of ideas which shape the story of the seven sacraments. This will be complemented by a focus on the features in sacramental thought that serve the spiritual life.

### **CATH-3013. Catholic Studies Seminar I**

A group examination and discussion compulsory for, and normally restricted to, third- and fourth-year students majoring or minoring in Catholic Studies of select topics, texts, or authors important in the Catholic tradition. Prerequisite: CATH 2003 or permission of the instructor.

### **CATH-3023. Catholic Studies Seminar II**

A group examination and discussion compulsory for, and normally restricted to, third- and fourth-year students majoring or minoring in Catholic Studies of selected topics, texts, or authors important in the Catholic tradition. Prerequisite: CATH 2003 or permission of the instructor.

### **CATH-3213. Catholic Social Teaching and Contemporary Issues**

Rooted in scripture, philosophy, and theology, Catholic social teaching proposes principles of justice that emphasize the dignity of the human person, the value of economic and political institutions, and the importance of a common good. This course analyses these principles and their application to contemporary social, political, and economic issues, through particular reference to official documents of the Catholic Church. Prerequisite: CATH 2003 or permission of the instructor.

### **CATH-3813. Special Topics in Catholic Studies I**

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and the particular needs of students. The course will focus on a topic or area in Catholic Studies.

### **CATH-3823. Special Topics in Catholic Studies II**

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and the particular needs of students. The course will focus on a topic or area in Catholic Studies.

**CATH-3833. Catholic Religious Leadership**

This course will examine the Catholic perspectives on war and violence, comparing them to other traditions. Topics to be discussed may include: attitudes towards war and violence in scripture and in the early Christian church, liberation theologies and violence, just war theory, the justifications of terrorism and military intervention, nonviolence and pacifism, and the obligation to seek peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

**CATH-3923. Independent Study**

A course of independent study under the supervision of a faculty member which affords the student the opportunity to pursue an in-depth study of an area of interest through special reading or a research project. Arrangements may be made by agreement with a member of the faculty and the approval of the Coordinator.

*NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Coordinator for more information about current and planned course offerings.*