

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

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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 (POLS 3843)

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.