

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Note: Mercy's Theology curriculum reflects a full implementation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' curriculum framework for secondary religious education.

Introduction to Scripture Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 F

This introductory course provides an overview of theological inquiry and philosophical foundations of religion. Special attention will be paid to the ancient Hebrew Scriptures and the history of the Judeo-Christian worldview. This course will place special emphasis on reading scripture responsibly, using tools of critical analysis to perform Exegesis, and interpretation of ancient text.

Introduction to Christology Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 F

In the second semester the person of Jesus Christ will be examined through a study of the Trinity and the mystery of the Incarnation. A special focus will be placed on the teachings of Jesus through the Christian Scriptures and their impact on the lives of modern Christians.

The Paschal Mystery Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 SO

In the first semester students will examine the mystery of the Incarnation through a close study of the Paschal Mystery. This course seeks to answer one fundamental question: "Why did Jesus have to die?" Concepts of love, evil, and the afterlife will also be explored. Students also will learn of the roles of prayer and discipleship in personal redemption.

The Church Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 SO

The second semester focuses on the history and mission of the Church as the continuation of Christ's mission on Earth. Through analysis of the scriptural basis of the Church and its key doctrinal beliefs, students will be challenged to consider their own role within the Church and their responsibility for its future.

The Sacraments Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 J

In the first semester students will discuss how they can encounter Christ in a full and real way through the sacraments. Students will examine the scriptural and historical development of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick), and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Holy Orders and Marriage), and how they serve as ongoing opportunities to encounter Christ throughout their lives.

Christian Morality Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 J

The second semester focuses on Catholic moral teaching. By doing in depth analysis of the basic precepts of a Christian lifestyle, both those found in Scripture (the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes) as well as those handed down from the Church, students will be able to apply traditional teachings to moral decision making in their daily lives.

Catholic Social Teaching Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 S

In the first semester students will be presented with an exposition of the social teaching of the Catholic Church and challenges students to apply gospel values to situations of social injustice. The course will begin with a discussion of God's plan for humanity and the Church's response to its role as promoters of charity and justice. Focus will be placed on the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching, foremost among them the life and dignity of the human person. The social dimensions of the Commandments and the Beatitudes will be addressed and will serve as foundations for analysis of specific issues of injustice.

Exploring World Religions Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 S

The second semester will offer students an opportunity to expand their knowledge of faith traditions beyond their own. After a review of the foundation of the Catholic Church, students will briefly study the historical development of other Christian communities and the ecumenical movement that arose in light of the Second Vatican Council. The course will focus on the relationships between Christianity and the other monotheistic religions, Judaism and Islam. Non-monotheistic religions will also be addressed. The course will culminate with a discussion of the challenges of dialogue and unity among people of differing faiths.

The Frances Warde Service Learning Credit: 0.50

As part of the Religion Program each student is required to participate in a service learning experience for 50 hours. This is an opportunity for the student to practice her faith by becoming directly involved in the real concerns of her local community. In conjunction with the field work, students will meet to discuss their service experience and its impact on their lives. This program provides a unique learning opportunity for understanding the works of mercy as well as the works of justice.