

## SYT 114i Introduction to Sacraments and Christian Initiation

### Intersession 2020

### Course Outline

#### Class Start Date & End Date

May 1, 2020 – June 17, 2020.

#### Internet Course

**Instructors Name:** Rev. Stephen Hero, STL, SLL  
**Office:** Rector's Office, St. Joseph Seminary  
**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday, by appointment  
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#### Course Description

A historical, scriptural and theological study of the Church's developing understanding of the notion of Sacrament through five main periods: New Testament, Patristic, Scholastic, Modern, and Contemporary. A close study of the theology of Baptism and Confirmation as Sacraments of Initiation with their goal in the Eucharist. Liturgical renewal and the R.C.I.A. process. Cultural, pastoral, and ecumenical considerations.

#### Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** – To enable students to think through theologically the Church's teaching on the Sacraments in general as well as in particular.
- b) **Cultural Context** – To help students distinguish between the unchanging Tradition regarding the Sacraments and the developing ritual expression of Christian Initiation in the various times and places including Canada today.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** – To promote a deeper, conscious, and more actual participation in the Mystery of Christ through the Sacramental celebrations of the Church.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** – To enable students to understand and dialogue about current issues in pastoral ministry regarding Baptism, Confirmation and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

#### Course Assignments and Evaluation

- a) Readings: Each student is responsible for all the assigned readings for each class.
- b) Discussion Forums: There are six graded forum discussions scheduled through the course. Students must make a post by Wednesday 10 AM, at the latest, each week that there is a forum. Their combined grade – assigned at the end of the course – will account for **20% of the final grade**. Assessment will be based on whether the entries by students demonstrate **both** knowledge and understanding of the reading material **and** pertinence as to the

discussion topic / question. Please also pay attention to grammar and expression. 'Entries' mean both your own answer to the forum discussion topic (approximately 100 words on average per forum discussion) AND your contributions to discussions with others.

- Entries to at least six forum discussions, that *consistently* demonstrate these two aspects, will be graded 85%;
  - Entries to at least six forum discussions, that *occasionally* demonstrate these two aspects, will be graded 80%
  - Entries to between four and five forum discussions will be assessed 70% if they demonstrate consistently these two aspects; 60 % if only occasionally.
- c) Essays must be submitted in a PDF format on the date indicated in the course schedule. All essays will be graded according to the following schema: 70 % for content and 30% for style and expression. For an "A" (85%) the written work must be clear, well-organized and contain few if any grammatical and/or spelling mistakes. The difference between an A and A- is usually attributable to a deficiency in style. For a "B" (75%) the written work demonstrates a suitably clear presentation of the material and is adequately organized with a minimum number of grammatical and / or spelling errors. For a mark of "C+" (68%) or less the writing is not very clear nor are the ideas expressed or organized very well and there are a good deal of grammatical / spelling errors.
- d) The professor will check the Moodle platform once a day, i.e. each morning by 10 AM (except Sunday).
- e) Four 3 page essays (750 words), double-spaced, as assigned, worth 15% each.
- f) Six Discussion Forum Posts of 100 words each (See above "b") worth 20% of total grade.
- g) Final take home exam of about 8 pages (2000 words), double-spaced, worth 20% of total grade. Due Wednesday, June 24 at 10 AM.

### Textbooks

MATTHEW LEVERING AND MICHAEL DAUPHINAIS, EDS., *Rediscovering Aquinas and the Sacraments: Studies in Sacramental Theology*, Hillenbrand Books, Chicago/Mundelein, IL 2009.

ROGER W. NUTT, *General Principles of Sacramental Theology*, Catholic University of America Press, Washington, DC 2017.

REV. PAUL HAFFNER, *The Sacramental Mystery*, Revised Edition, Gracewing, Herefordshire 2008.

### Recommended Reading

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Revised Edition, Concacan, Ottawa 1999.

*The Rite of Baptism for Children*, Concacan, Ottawa 1989.

*The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Concacan, Ottawa 1987.

### Course Requirements

This class is offered in an online format for undergraduate students. As a course in the Intersession period, students should keep in mind that this class is offered in a condensed or accelerated format, (i.e. instead of taking place over 12/13 weeks, it is offered over 7 weeks.) The weekly material then is equivalent to two weeks of work in a class offered in the Fall or Winter semesters. Students must carefully follow the instructions for each week of the course, complete the readings, activities, and

discussion forums as indicated in the course assignments section and course schedule. The written assignments are meant to help the students to assimilate and integrate the class material into their life and ministry; online discussions are meant to be true learning experiences and to help form a community of learning as well. The main course textbook, *The Sacramental Mystery*, is a basic introduction to the Sacraments. The other texts for the course (Roger Nutt's *General Principles of Sacramental Theology* and Levering/Dauphinais' *Rediscovering Aquinas*), as well as online notes and readings, will complement and deepen what is given in the basic catechetical text.

## Course Schedule

**NOTE: It will be beneficial to read the chapter(s) in Haffner's book each week prior to reading the other texts. Haffner will give straightforward background to the discussion in the other texts.**

### May 1 – May 7 Introduction to Sacraments in General: Signs of Christ and the Church

For May 6, read the professor's online notes, HAFFNER, *Sacramental Mystery*, pages 1 – 28, and NUTT, *General Principles*, pages 1 – 96.

Discussion Forum #1 posted by Wednesday, May 6 at 10 AM on this Question: "It is often said that God's grace is not restricted by the Sacraments. How are the Church's Sacraments the privileged means of grace and encounter with God?"

### May 8 – May 14 Sacramental Causality, Grace, Character and Institution

For May 15, read the professor's online notes and NUTT, *General Principles*, pages 97 – 192, and submit a 3 page Essay (750 words) due by Friday, May 15 at 10 AM on the Topic: "How has Nutt's book *General Principles* deepened your appreciation of the Sacraments as Efficacious Signs?"

### May 15 – May 21 Baptism and Confirmation

For May 20, read HAFFNER, *Sacramental Mystery*, pages 29 – 87 and DAUPHINAIS / LEVERING, *Rediscovering Aquinas*, pages 14 – 38.

Discussion Forum #2 posted by Wednesday, May 20 at 10 AM on this Question: "With reference to the readings, how are Baptism and Confirmation both essential for our Christian living?"

### May 22 – May 28 Liturgical Renewal of Christian Initiation: the RCIA

For May 27, read professor's online notes, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, "Christian Initiation, General Introduction," pages xi – xv and 3 – 14, the initiation rites of the Easter Vigil (these brief excerpts from the RCIA ritual book will be posted online), and Kavanagh *The Shape of Baptism*, Chapter 5 (posted online).

Discussion Forum #3 posted by Wednesday, May 27 at 10 AM on this Question: "Read through the rites of initiation of the Easter Vigil. Which symbol/element of Baptism/Confirmation speaks most to you? Why?"

3 Page Essay (750 words) due by Friday, May 29 at 10 AM on this Topic: "Is the theology of Baptism and Confirmation expressed more clearly in adult initiation? How?"

### May 29 – June 4 Holy Eucharist

For June 3, read HAFFNER, *Sacramental Mystery*, pages 89 – 133 and DAUPHINAIS / LEVERING, *Rediscovering Aquinas*, pages 39 – 64.

Discussion Forum #4 posted by Wednesday, June 3 at 10 AM on this Question: “Based on Socias’ chapter in *Sacraments*, how is the Mass/Eucharist the source and summit of the Christian faith?”

3 Page Essay due by Friday, June 5 at 10 AM on this Topic: “In reference to the reading *Rediscovering Aquinas*, p. 39 – 64, how does St. Thomas explain the Eucharist as a sacrifice?”

### **June 5 – June 11      Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Anointing of the Sick**

For June 11, read HAFFNER, *Sacramental Mystery*, 135 – 191, the professor’s notes, and DAUPHINAIS / LEVERING, *Rediscovering Aquinas*, pages 65 – 84.

Discussion Forum #5 posted by Wednesday, June 10 at 10 AM on this Question: “Both Penitent and Priest are part of the efficacious sign of the Sacrament of Penance. How is Matter (the Penitent’s Contrition, Confession, and Satisfaction) and Form (the Priest’s Absolution) a visible sign of what God is doing in this Sacrament?”

### **June 12 – June 17      Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony**

For June 17, read HAFFNER, *Sacramental Mystery*, 193 – 261 and DAUPHINAIS / LEVERING, *Rediscovering Aquinas*, pages 85 – 113.

Discussion Forum #6 posted by Wednesday, June 17 at 10 AM on the Topic: “Based on the week’s two readings, what is the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage?”

3 Page Essay due by Friday, June 19 at 10 AM on the Topic: “Give a personal reflection on the key ideas in Levering’s chapter “Holy Orders and Ecclesial Hierarchy in Aquinas” in *Rediscovering*, pages 85 – 113.

### **June 22 – 26      Intersession Exams**

Take Home Exam due by Wednesday, June 24 at 10 AM.

## **General Academic Information**

### Late Submission Policy.

Late assignments **will not** be accepted unless an extension (previous to the due date) has been granted for serious reasons.

### Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

### Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

### Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to

automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

### Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

*NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.*

### Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

### Written Assignments - Style and Format

Papers shall be typed, 12 point, double-spaced, and of the length specified using *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* 7th Ed. By Kate L. Turabian, published by University of Chicago Press, 2007, for the layout of the papers, including the title page, footnotes and bibliography.

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

### Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

### Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

### Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

### Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

### Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already

registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email [doreen.bloos@newman.edu](mailto:doreen.bloos@newman.edu) .

### **Bibliography**

A detailed bibliography will be available on the first day of class. See the resources listed under “Announcements” on the Moodle page.