

FND 120 – Exploring the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Winter 2021

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Class begins Monday, January 11 at 8:30am

Class ends Wednesday, April 14 at 9:50am

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Monday and Wednesday mornings 8:30-9:50am

Instructors Name: Rev. Andrew Schoenberger, STL
Office: Formator’s Office, St. Joseph Seminary
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, by appointment
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Email: Andrew.schoenberger@stjoseph-seminary.com
Skype: N/A

Course Description

This course presents an introduction to Catholic belief and practice by means of a study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students will thoroughly consider each of the Catechism’s four parts: on Faith, on Liturgy, on Life in Christ, and on Prayer. Select texts from Church fathers and doctors as well as other magisterial and conciliar documents may be drawn upon to illuminate the Catechism’s own systematic presentation.

Course Objectives

B.A. Program Students

- a) Broad familiarity with the contributions of Catholicism to Western Culture.
- b) Knowledge of major Western philosophical disciplines, and especially Thomism.
- c) Skills in reading, writing and oral communication.
- d) Skills in logical analysis and research.
- e) Opportunity for Growth in Christian discipleship.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. Class Participation - 15%

Not only are students expected to come to class with the readings prepared, assigned students will be asked to bring discussion questions to each class for the purpose of our common learning. These marks will be given according to the following:

1. General preparedness (1/3 = 5% of final grade)
2. Questions prepared for discussion (2/3 = 10% of final grade)

2. Chapter Summary - 15%

A three (3) page summary of the Church's understanding of the relationship between Faith and Reason based upon CCC #36-38, 156-159 and Chapter VI of *Fides et Ratio*, by Pope Saint John Paul II, on *The Interaction Between Philosophy and Theology*. Identify the main points with a special focus on Philosophy's role in deepening our understanding of the faith and explain how this understanding will influence your personal approach to the study of theology.

1. Captures and articulate the main points of the chapter (80%)
2. Personal reflection on how this will influence the student's approach to theology (20%)

3. Research Paper - 35%

A seven (7) page research paper that explores a dogma of the faith as expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This exploration should include:

1. An explanation of the dogma as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the original council/magisterial declaration so as to reveal the student's understanding of it. (30%)
2. An understanding of the history surrounding the defining of the dogma (70%)
 - a. When and where was it defined?
 - b. What challenges were posed to the faith that necessitated its definition?
 - c. What was at stake if the challenges/heresies were not addressed?
3. Must reference primary sources.
4. Must cite at least two secondary sources.

Possible Topics:

1. The Most Holy Trinity
2. The Two Natures of Christ
3. The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
4. Justification
5. Sacred Images

4. Reflection Paper - 10%

A two (2) page reflection paper about how the Catechism's teaching on Divine Providence (paragraphs 302-314) influence how you understand your vocation and your place in the world.

1. Shows an understanding of the Church's teaching on Divine Providence (50%)
2. Applies this understanding to one's own personal life of faith. (50%)

5. Final Exam – 25%

Textbooks

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1997

OR

Catechism of the Catholic Church: Full Text and Theological Commentary Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2019

The Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: A Compendium of Texts Referred to in the Catechism of the Catholic Church San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1994.

Recommended Reading

Vatican II. *The Documents of Vatican II*. (may be found online www.vatican.va)

Course Requirements

This course comprises 36 hours of instruction and seminar-style discussion. Students must attend all classes and are expected to prepare for each week by doing the assigned readings and being able to participate in the class discussions. The two written assignments are means to help the student develop skills in writing and research and, along with the final exam, to grow deeper in understanding Catholicism's contribution to Western Culture.

Late Submission Policy.

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

Course Schedule

| | Date | Texts to be read | Themes and potential questions | Assignments |
|-----|------------|---|---|-------------|
| I | Jan. 11 | | Introduction | |
| | Jan. 13 | CCC #27-43 Gaudium et Spes #19-21 | Man's Capacity for God | |
| II | Jan. 18 | CCC #153-165 CCC #166-184 | The Characteristics of Faith We Believe | |
| | Jan. 20 | CCC #668-682 CCC #731-747 | He will come to Judge the Living and the Dead The Spirit and the Church in the Last Days | |
| III | Jan. 25 | CCC #811-856 | I believe in the Holy Catholic Church (One, Holy, Catholic) | |
| | | CCC #857-896 | The Church is Apostolic | |

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| | Jan. 27 | | | |
| IV | Feb. 1 | CCC #988-1050 | I believe in the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting | <i>Fides et Ratio</i> Chapter 6 Summary Due Feb. 3 |
| | Feb. 3 | CCC #1077-1112 | The Liturgy - Work of the Holy Trinity | |
| V | Feb. 8 | CCC #1113-1134 CCC #1200-1209 | The Paschal Mystery in the Church's Sacraments Liturgical Diversities in the Church | |
| | Feb. 10 | CCC #1420-1498 | Sacrament of Reconciliation | |
| VI | Feb. 15-19 | READING WEEK | | |
| VII | Feb. 22 | CCC #1536-1600 Presbyterium Ordinis #16 | Holy Orders | |
| | Feb. 24 | CCC #1601-1666 | Marriage | |
| VIII | Mar. 1 | CCC #1499-1532 CCC # 1667-1690 | Anointing of the Sick Sacramentals and Christian Funerals | Research Paper Due March 3 |
| | Mar. 3 | | REVIEW CLASS | |
| IX | Mar. 8 | CCC #1699-1748 | The Dignity of the Human Person | |
| | Mar. 10 | CCC # 1749-1802 | Morality | |
| X | Mar. 15 | CCC #1803-1876 | The Virtues and Sin | |
| | Mar. 17 | CCC # 1877-1948 | The Human Community | |
| XI | Mar. 22 | CCC #1949-2029 | The Moral Law, Grace and Justification | Divine Providence Reflection Paper Due March 24 |
| | Mar. 24 | CCC #2083-2195 | You shall love the Lord your God... | |
| XII | Mar. 29 | CCC #2566-2649 | The Revelation of Prayer | |
| | Mar. 31 | CCC #2650-2696 | The Tradition of Prayer | |
| XIII | Apr. 7 | CCC #2697-2756 | The Life of Prayer | |
| XIV | Apr. 12 Apr. 14 | | REVIEW WEEK | |
| XV | | Final Exam | | Final Exam |

General Academic Information

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 | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|
| Grade Meaning | Grade | Grade Point |
| Excellent | A+ | 4.0 |
| | A | 4.0 |
| | A- | 3.7 |
| Good | B+ | 3.3 |
| | B | 3.0 |
| | B- | 2.7 |
| Adequate | C+ | 2.3 |
| | C | 2.0 |
| | C- | 1.7 |
| Marginal | D+ | 1.3 |
| | D | 1.0 |

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|------|---|-----|
| Fail | F | 0.0 |
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Written Assignments - Style and Format

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 Aichters, 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:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)