

Department of Catholic Studies
Master of Arts in Catholic Studies Program
Fall 2009 Course Descriptions (Sept. 9 – Dec. 18)

CSMA 500-01 Catholic Thought and Culture I
Fr. Michael Joncas

Tuesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

This interdisciplinary course begins exploration of the relations between Catholic faith and culture exhibited through works of imagination and intellect drawn from the New Testament through medieval periods. As part of the M.A. in Catholic Studies core curriculum, the course focuses on the multifaceted Catholic tradition but includes perspectives from Christians of other denominations and non-Christians selected to show the dialogue between Catholic thought and other cultural views and accomplishments. Primary attention will be given to works of literature, music, and art with some attention to philosophical and theological works selected especially for their contributions to articulating insights concerning the relationship between faith and culture. *This course fulfills a core requirement of the M.A. in Catholic Studies program.*

CSMA 525-01 Philosophical Foundations for Theology
Dr. Cathy Deavel

Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Since Christianity encountered the secular philosophies of the ancient world theology has been shaped and influenced by philosophy. Christian theologians have had to respond to challenges to their doctrines brought by philosophers and they have often adopted the conceptual frameworks and technical language of philosophy. As a result, even though theology and philosophy are distinct disciplines, a knowledge of philosophy is really necessary in order to understand theology. This course aims to provide a basic understanding of the philosophical concepts that constitute much of the foundation of Catholic theology, especially in the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Special attention will be given to Platonic and Aristotelean schools of thought.

CSMA 593-01 The Irish Catholic Experience at Home and Abroad
Mr. Jim Rogers

Mondays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Few, if any, European peoples have so identified with Catholicism as the Irish. This identification, in turn, has percolated into the creative literature, the political and social life, and the historiography of Ireland, particularly modern Ireland. This course will survey the varied intersections of faith and culture in Ireland and in its diasporic communities, and the shaping influence of Catholicism on Irish identity both at home and abroad, with special attention to the literary record.

The course will focus on the Irish experience after 1800. Broad themes that will emerge in a balanced selection of readings include the so-called "devotional revolution" of the nineteenth century, which cemented the linkage between Irishness and Catholicism; the emergence of a *de facto* confessional state in the Free State and the Republic of Ireland during the middle years of the twentieth century; the history of vocations in Irish Catholic life, and the images of the Irish priest offered in novels, films, and popular culture; the tensions between the insularity of parish-based Irish neighborhoods in America and engagement with the surrounding culture; and such high-profile historic moments as the presidency of John F. Kennedy and ancillary issues; the pope's visit to Ireland in 1979, and the changed position of the Catholic church in Irish social and political life of the past twenty to thirty years. In addition, the course will pay particular attention to autobiography and memoir as source materials; the final paper will be an examination of a particular memoir and how it demonstrates (or departs from) the themes raised elsewhere in the class.

CSMA 593-02 Literature in the Light of Theological Aesthetics
Dr. Michael Jordan/Ms. Liz Kelly

Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

We will read a variety of literary works of art together with selections from key works in theological aesthetics to arrive at an understanding of the mutual illumination of theology and the arts achieved through this field of inquiry. We will explore both the significant contributions to literary theory that can be derived from theological aesthetics and the deeper understanding of the dynamic relationship between faith and culture that emerges from such studies. Literary texts will be selected to enable us to explore pre-Christian and post-Christian literary works of art in addition to close study of works that are deeply rooted in a Catholic vision of the world. Please contact the instructor for more details about specific authors and texts that will be included in the course.

Undergraduate Course Offerings

These courses may be taken with special permission of the instructor and the graduate program director.

<u>Course/Section</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Meeting Times</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
CATH 306-01	Christian Faith & Mgmt Profession	8:00-9:40 TR	Naughton
CATH 308-01	Woman and Man	9:35-10:40 MWF	Kelly
CATH 356-01	Music and the Bible	1:30-3:10 TR	Staff
CATH 398-01	TBD	12:15-1:20 MWF	Staff
CATH 398-02	TBD	3:25-5:00 TR	Staff

CATH 306-01 Christian Faith and the Management Profession

What is a good manager and how does he or she contribute to the common good? This course pursues these questions within the Christian social tradition broadly understood through an exploration of the theological relationship between work as a vocation and leisure as contemplation. Within this theological context, the course examines the financial, organizational, technological, and cultural forces that managers and organizations encounter daily.

CATH 308-01 Woman and Man

This course examines the definition of “woman” and “man” from both the historical and the philosophical perspective. Readings and discussion center on the question of (1) whether there are important philosophical differences between women and men and (2) whether such differences are natural or socially constructed. The implications of various answers to those questions are then examined, with special attention given to the Catholic tradition’s reflections on the nature and ends of marriage, the character of priestly ordination, friendship between women and men, and human sexuality.

CATH 356-01 Music and the Bible

This course explores the social, cultural and religious contexts for music-making among biblical peoples and the primitive Christian communities. Students will learn to do detailed analysis of psalm and canticle texts in the Old Testament and acclamations, infancy canticles, God-hymns, Christ-hymns and psalmody in the New Testament. Implications for present-day worship and spirituality will also be addressed.

Course descriptions for other 300-level courses may be found online at <http://www.stthomas.edu/classes/>.