

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.

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)

CATH 2203	Global Catholicism
HIST 3213	The Early Church

Group II – Catholic Theology (6 credit hours)

CATH 2203	Global Catholicism
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 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: Augustine, Neoplatonism and Arabic Philosophy
PHIL 2143	Medieval Philosophy: Pre-Modern Modernity and the Rise and Fall of Scholasticism
PHIL 3413	God in Western Thought
PHIL 3523	The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas
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

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-2203. Global Catholicism

This course surveys the history, theology, ecclesiology, and practice of Catholicism outside of the European church. It will examine the differences between Asian, African, and Latin American theology, the evolving theology of mission in the Church, and the insights non-European Catholicism can provide for inter-religious dialogue, ecumenism, and understanding secularism. Attention will be paid to the historical role of the Catholic Church in European colonization, the distinctions between colonized and un-colonized Catholicism, and how encounters with non-European indigenous cultures has influenced Roman Catholic theology and practice. Prerequisites: none.

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.