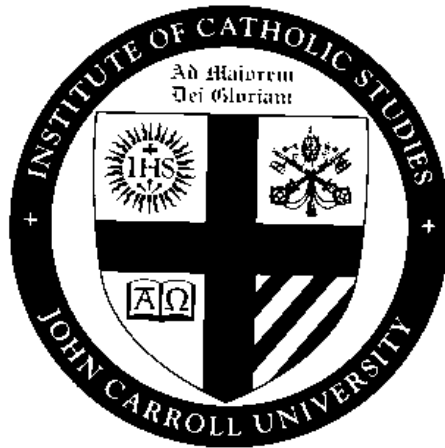


The Institute of Catholic Studies



Spring Courses 2021

The Aim of the Catholic Studies Program

The mission of the Institute of Catholic Studies is to provide students, faculty, and the larger community with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of how Catholicism and Catholics have interacted with the world, both shaping and being shaped by culture and society in the past and in the present. As Catholic and Jesuit, John Carroll University is an ideal home for such an undertaking.

Through an interdisciplinary Catholic Studies Program, the Institute provides opportunities for encounter with and formation in the Catholic intellectual tradition as expressed in many scholarly disciplines from philosophy to science. It offers courses and public events that highlight the contributions of Catholic intellectuals and scholars that explore the current conditions in which Catholics find themselves in the first decade of the twenty-first century.

By these undertakings the Institute offers students a solid interdisciplinary foundation for understanding the interaction of faith and culture in the past as well as for navigating their way in the future.

Catholic Studies Courses

Spring Courses 2021

AH 318: Northern Renaissance Art (HUM)

Dr. Gerald Guest (MWF 11:00-11:50am)

Art and architecture of Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the start of the Renaissance with emphasis on monumental church decoration, the secular art of the nobility, and the place of Jewish and Islamic art in medieval Europe.

IC 360: Dante's Divine Comedy

Dr. Santa Casciani (MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm)

Fulfills HUM requirement in the Core

Study in Modern English translation of Hell, Purgatory, and paradise focusing on theological issues and literary content. Dante is examined as both a supreme poetic craftsman and a Church Reformer.

HS 307-51: History of the Popes (ISJ)

Dr. Paul Murphy (MWF 10:00 – 10:50am)

History of the Popes, will examine the history of the papacy in its religious, social, political, and cultural aspects from ca. 1000 to the present. The papacy is one of the oldest continuing institutions in the West. Its history intertwines with the history of Europe and the World. A major goal of this course will be for students to grasp the ways in which the papacy and the popes have been influenced by and have influenced the world. Throughout the course, students will examine issues of social justice by examining the relationship of religion and religious change to cultural and social change. Acquiring an understanding of these issues is the primary goal of the course. Specific issues under examination will include: The rise of

papal monarchy and the changing role of the popes as teachers and controllers of church doctrine; the role of the popes in the Crusades; the popes and artistic patronage in the Renaissance and Baroque periods; the use of the Roman Inquisition to control religious expression; the Church and the emergence of democratic and revolutionary movements in the 19th and 20th centuries; and the place of the popes in a global context involving religious diversity, international conflict, and efforts at peacemaking in the 21st century.

HS 414-51: SPTP: The Catholic Experience

Dr. Paul Murphy (MW 3:30PM-4:45PM)

This capstone course for the Catholic Studies minor seeks to assist the student in synthesizing the learning across their courses of studies in the Catholic Studies Program. As a history course, it seeks to analyze various issues in Catholic thought and culture in historical context and as subject to historical development. Topics that will be addressed include the Catholic University and intellectual activity, the development of doctrine, current ethical issues in the areas of bioethics, war and peace, and issues confronting family life, and ministry.

PL 225-41: Medieval Philosophy and Logic (PLKR)

Dr. Joel Johnson (TR 9:55am-11:10am)

This section meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

This lecture and discussion-driven course explores central themes and problems in medieval philosophy. In particular, we consider medieval thinkers' attempts to address questions pertaining to faith and reason, the problem of universals, and human knowing. We pursue our

examination of medieval philosophy mainly through reading and discussing primary texts. Additionally, this course includes a unit on basic Aristotelian logic.

PL 246-41: 19/20 Century Philosophy (PLKR)

Dr. Joel Johnson (TR 2:55pm-4:10pm)

This section meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

Study of some major movements and figures of the period, such as German Idealism, dialectical materialism, atheistic humanism, positivism, pragmatism, existentialism, and phenomenology. Offered at Borromeo Seminary.

PL 304-41: Philosophy of the Human Person (PLVS)

Dr. Beth Rath (TR 1:30pm-2:45pm)

This section meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

Philosophy of human person, or philosophical anthropology, may be understood as the study of what human persons are, who human persons are, and, perhaps, what human persons are for. A central point of debate within the Western intellectual tradition is whether humans are teleological kinds of beings or more like machines. In other words, do human beings body and mind directly interact and express rational purposiveness and self-directedness, or are humans merely packages of genes and neuropsychological processes? How one answers this question and other questions pertaining to who and what human persons are have implications for one's conception of the self, human freedom, immortality, and many social and ethical issues. These sorts of questions will be taken up in this lecture and discussion-driven course.

PL 307-51: Philosophy of Religion (PLKR)

Dr. Walter Stepanenko

Section 51 (MWF 12:00-12:50pm) (H)

Section 52 (MWF 1:00-1:50pm)

Philosophical study of contemporary issues emerging from the cognitive science and evolutionary science of religion, such as the nature and reliability of religious belief, the internal coherency of atheism, and the viability of scientific explanations of religious experience. Questions addressed include: is religious belief innate and if so does that make atheism or theism more probable? Can we trust our religious experiences if we know that our brains produce our experiences? What is the difference between explaining something and explaining it away? Do atheists undermine their own position when they claim that our faculties evolved for survival rather than truth-tracking?

PL 308-41: Philosophy of God (PLKR)

Dr. Beth Rath (TR 9:55am-11:10am)

This course meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

This lecture and discussion-driven course uses philosophical reasoning to make sense of central tenets of the Nicene Creed. We will explore questions pertaining to God's existence, God's attributes, the Incarnation and Atonement, and the problem of evil. Our strategy, in part, will be to put pressure on central tenets of the Creed and then attempt to respond to these objections using philosophical argumentation. We will not prove Christian beliefs to be true; rather, we will aim to see what light philosophical argumentation can shed on them. The course includes readings from historical and contemporary philosophers.

PL 368-41: Ethical Theory (PLVS)

Dr. Joel Johnson (TR 11:20-12:35pm)

This course meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

Detailed examination of some of the major philosophical theories about the nature and justification of moral principles of rightness, obligation, and value. Special emphasis is given to the contemporary developments of such theories.

TRS 205: The New Testament (EGC)

Section 41 (TR 8:30 -9:45am)

Lisamarie Belz

This section of the course meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

Section 51 (MWF 11:00am-11:50am)

Dr. Sheila McGinn

Section 52 (MWF 12:00pm-12:50pm)

Dr. Sheila McGinn

Development and composition of the New Testament; the historical, cultural, and religious environments out of which it arose; and the various theological perspectives found within it.

TRS 263: Ecology, Religion & Justice (LINK)

Deborah Zawislan (MW 3:30pm-4:45pm)

Explores how the Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—are addressing the contemporary ecological crisis. Issues of eco-justice are approached through the interplay between faith, scholarship, and activism. Responses are evaluated using the

principle of the common good, assessing potential impact on the most vulnerable members of the global community. Topics include eco-theology, eco-feminism, globalization, migration, violence against women and children, food security, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. *Linked with SC 290.*

TRS 328-41: The Franciscan Movement

Fr. Michael Joyce (TR 1:30pm – 2:45pm)

This course meets at Borromeo Seminary.

Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

Franciscan movement from its origins with Francis of Assisi to its contemporary manifestations. Historical and spiritual aspects of the Franciscan phenomenon and its import for the Church today.

TRS 329: SPTP: Being Catholic in America

Dr. Kristen Tobey (T 5:00pm-7:45pm)

A case-based examination of lived experiences of Catholicism in the United States, from colonial times to the present day, exploring a variety of responses to the question of how to be Catholic in America.

TRS 334: Church and Sacrament

Dr. Edward Hahnenberg (M 5:00pm – 7:45pm)

Introduction to the concept and nature of “sacrament” and to the historical, liturgical, and theological development of the seven sacraments. Emphasis on sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation/Chrismation, Eucharist) with consideration of

sacraments of healing (Penance, Healing of the Sick) and of Church service/government (Matrimony, Holy Orders). Also examines the “sacramental imagination” and its role in the Catholic spiritual tradition

TRS 360: Catholic Moral Theology

Fr. James Bretzke, SJ (MWF 10:00-10:50am)

Methods for making informed and prudential moral decisions, in the interpersonal and social spheres, grounded in experience, Scripture, church teaching, and rational discourse. Addresses such topics as conscience; virtue; individual and social sin; the common good; political, economic, and social problems such as war and peace, poverty, and prejudice; and major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

TRS 362-51: History of the Idea of Evil

Nathaniel Morehouse (TR 12:30pm-1:45pm)

Problem of evil from its biblical origins to the modern period with emphasis on the interaction between religious beliefs and cultural forces. Topics include the Book of Job, the rise of Satan, Augustine and original sin, Satan in medieval art, Dante, Milton, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the demonic and Gothic, and modern theological and scientific approaches.

TRS 364-51: Christian Sexuality

Ms. Jessica Meruga (MWF 12:00-12:50pm)

The study of human sexuality, its meaning and mystery, and ethical issues related to sexual behavior and attitudes, all from a Christian perspective. Christian wisdom and wisdom of the ages in light of human experience and contemporary theories of the meaning and significance of sexuality. Special attention to the inherent relationship between spirituality and sexuality.

TRS 366: Social Justice and the Economy: Morality & Money

Megan Wilson-Reitz, MA (MWF 1:00-1:50pm)

Explores the relationships between religious ethics and economics by critically examining the religious, moral, and ethical assumptions underlying various economic systems. Employs the liberation hermeneutic of “human flourishing” as a lens to read and interpret relevant economic and theological texts. Involves service-learning. PJHR course.

TRS 369: SPTP: The Catholic Church and Racial Justice

Krista Stevens, PhD

Section 51 (TR 11:00am – 12:15pm)

Section 52 (12:30pm – 1:45pm)(H)

Racism and Social Justice delves deeply into the challenging realities of race, racism, white privilege, and the effects of all three realities. The class looks at racism through a theological lens that includes US Catholic Church history, social ethics, and the vocation of the theologian. Course resources include scriptural, historical, and theological texts, novels, movies, and music. Special attention will be given to the problems of race and racial injustice in Cleveland, Ohio.

TRS 371: Ignatian Spirituality

Fr. Andrew Cera, S.J.

Section 51 (TR 9:30am-10:45am)

Study of the life and writings of Ignatius Loyola and the spirituality that emerged from his religious experience, the dissemination of Ignatian spirituality through the creation of the Jesuit order, the mission and ministry of the first Jesuits, the development of Ignatian spirituality, and its contemporary relevance. Involves experiential learning.

TRS 375: Augustine's Spiritual Quest

Dr. Sheila McGinn

Section 51 (MW 3:30pm-4:45pm)

This course focuses on Augustine of Hippo as spiritual guide and model of an authentic Christian life. Historical analysis will provide the groundwork for spiritual and theological reflection on key works of the early Augustine (especially the Confessions and On Grace and Free Will).

TRS 430: Intro to Systematic Theology

Dr. Edward Hahnenberg

Section 51 (W 5:00pm – 7:45pm)

Consideration of concepts key to understanding how theology works: faith, revelation, scripture, symbol, tradition, community, and method. Explores how these concepts work in the writings of significant theologians. Places these thinkers within their historical and cultural worlds to help students reflect on what it means to do theology out of their unique commitments, contexts, and life experiences. A Core Advanced Writing in the Major and Oral Performance course.

Minor in Catholic Studies

Students who wish to pursue the *Minor in Catholic Studies* must complete 18 credit hours in approved Catholic Studies Courses distributed as follows:

- 1 course in Religious Studies
- 1 course in Philosophy
- 1 course in Humanities
- 2 electives in Catholic Studies
- 1 required capstone seminar

In fulfilling these requirements, three courses must be at the 300-400 level. If you are interested in pursuing the *Minor*, please call or e-mail Dr. Paul V. Murphy. Leave your name, phone number, e-mail address, and class year.

Students who have questions about the Catholic Studies Program or who would like more information, should contact the Director of the Institute of Catholic Studies.

Dr. Paul V. Murphy, Director
Institute of Catholic Studies

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