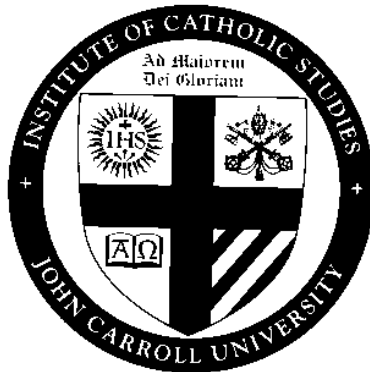


# The Institute of Catholic Studies



## Spring Courses 2022

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# 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 2022

### **HS 305-1: Rome: City of Emperors, Popes and Saints (HUM)**

Dr. Paul Murphy (W 5:00PM-7:45PM)

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth examination of the history of culture of the city of Rome from its origins to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will focus on the institutions and historical figures that have played prominent roles in the shaping of the city, its culture, its religion, and its politics. The course requires a spring break tour of Rome from March 3 – March 12, 2022.

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

Dr. Beth Rath (TR 11:20am-12:35pm)

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 11:00-11:50am)

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

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.

**TRS 205: The New Testament (EGC)**

**Section 41 (TR 2:55 -4:10pm)**

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 271.51: Christian Spirituality**

Andrew Cera, SJ (TR 8:00am-9:15am)

The interior life studied from the perspective of spiritual freedom and transformation grounded in the life and teaching of Jesus. Probes the deepest longings of the heart and their relationship to human and spiritual fulfillment. Involves experiential learning.

**TRS 309.51: SPTP: Earliest Churches of Rome**

Dr. Sheila McGinn (W 5:00pm-7:40pm)

A deep dive into the apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans and the churches who received it. This weekly flipped classroom seminar features a LARP simulation of issues and concerns important to the various house churches in mid-first century Rome.

**TRS 326-51: History of the Idea of Evil**

Dr. 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 332: Christ and Pascal Mystery**

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

Study of the principal developments in theological reflection on the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ in the New Testament and in later church tradition; consideration of how contemporary Christology is both affected by and responds to crucial concerns of today's culture.

**TRS 337.51: Globalization, Theology and Justice**

Deborah Zawislan (MW 3:30pm – 4:45pm)

Surveys and analyzes contributions of Catholic theology and tradition on issues related to globalization, such as economics, demographic shifts, ecology, consumerism, migration, human trafficking, and interreligious conflict. Approached through the lens of Catholic social teaching, possible responses are evaluated based on the principle of the common good and the potential impact upon the most vulnerable members of society. *Involves service learning.*

**TRS 363.51 Bioethics (HONORS)**

Dr. Paul Lauritzen (MWF 11:00am-11:50am)

The course will examine all four areas of bioethics, Health Care Ethics Consultation, Research Bioethics, Public Policy Bioethics and Cultural Bioethics.

**TRS 339: SPTP: Faith and Science**

Fr. Don Serva, SJ (MWF 9:00-9:50am)

Examine the interaction between science and religion as conflict, contrast, contact, or confirmation. How can these four approaches apply to the evolution/creationism controversy? Can we explore the question of how God works by appreciating the new ideas that science brings?

# 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.