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.
HS 113.51: Saints and Scoundrels: The Jesuits from Renaissance to Revolution (ISJ)
Dr. Paul Murphy (TR 3:30pm-4:45pm)

Will examine the Society of Jesus, one of the most prominent, notorious, talented, and despised groups in the modern world. We will seek to clarify the historical and cultural significance of the Society of Jesus, the largest religious order in the Catholic Church. This will include study of their founder, Ignatius of Loyola, their place in the world of Renaissance and Reformation learning and culture, the works of the Jesuits in Asia and Latin America during the period of European expansion from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, the roles played by the Jesuits during the Enlightenment and French Revolution, the suppression of the Society of Jesus in the eighteenth century, the place of the Society in the modern world, particularly their reaction to Liberalism in Western society and their role in the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

HS 216.51 Spanish Armada
Dr. Anne Kugler
TR 2:00pm-3:15pm

Early modern European political and cultural world as seen through the lens of the clash between Spain and England in the later sixteenth century.
HS 263: Italian History 1914-1957
This course is being offered in Rome

Surveys of Italian history from WW I to the early years of democracy after WW II. Focuses on nationalism and the experience of war; the emergence of fascism, social change, and attempts to establish an imperial presence under Mussolini; Italy as a theater of war from 1943 to 1945; the establishment of democracy at the end of WW II; postwar reconstruction and Italy's commitment to European and international cooperation. THIS COURSE IS TAUGHT IN ROME AS PART OF JCU'S VATICAN CITY ROME PROGRAM.

HS 373.51: Women in the Catholic Church in the Americas
Dr. Maria Marsilli
TR 12:30-1:45pm

Explores the role that Catholicism and the Catholic Church played in shaping women’s roles in colonial Latin America (1500-1800). Examines lives of famous female saints and sinners, as well as women intellectuals who found an ambiguous role in nunneries. Demonstrates the influence of Catholicism in constructing gender norms that defined orthodoxy and deviance for women in their social and spiritual experiences.

LT 201.51: Intermediate Latin
Kris Ehrhardt, PhD
MF 2:00pm-3:15pm

Continued study of Latin grammar and syntax, including the uses of the subjunctive. Acquisition of reading skills through the intermediate-mid level.

PL 230-Christian Thinkers
Being taught in Vatican City
PL 240-41: 17th and 18th Century European Philosophy (PLKR)
Dr. Beth Rath
TR 11:20am-12:35pm
This section meets at Borromeo Seminary.
Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

This course explores central themes in political philosophy and natural theology from the 17th and 18th centuries.

PL 265-51: Existentialism and Phenomenology (PLKR)
Dr. Nathalie Nya
TR 12:30-1:45pm
Main figures in the existential and phenomenological movements, such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty, and Marcel.

PL 307: Philosophy of Religion
Section 51 Meets MWF 11:00am-11:50am (Honors)
Section 52 Meets MWF 12:00pm-12:50pm
Dr. Walter Stepanenko
Philosophical problems of religion, such as the nature and ground of religious beliefs, the nature of religious experience, the relation of religion and science, the existence of God, immortality, and evil.

Dr. Beth Rath
TR 2:55-4:10pm
This course meets at Borromeo Seminary.
Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

One popular idea circulating in the mainstream is that religion and science are fundamentally incompatible. In this course, we will try to relieve the alleged science OR religion dilemma. To do this, we focus
on the question of what science actually proves with respect to theological claims. Some of the themes that we investigate in this course include: the origins of the universe, cognitive psychology of religious belief, human uniqueness and immortality, artificial intelligence, moral responsibility and neuroscience, and the historical Adam.

**PL 395-41: Metaphysics (PLKR)**
Dr. Joel Johnson
TR 9:55-11:10am

This course meets at Borromeo Seminary.
Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

This course is an investigation of metaphysical themes, such as realism, idealism, universals, substances, causation, and beauty with applications to topics in theology. The first half of the course is focused on issues pertaining to being as such and the possibility of concrete individuals. The second half of the course covers two main topics: 1) substance and 2) beauty. The course draws from ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary thinkers.

**PL 396.41: Epistemology (Theories of Knowledge)**
Dr. Joel Johnson
TR 1:30pm-2:45pm

This course meets at Borromeo Seminary.
Permission to take this course is required from the instructor.

Examination of the nature and sources of knowledge and the means for establishing knowledge claims. Readings from classic works and contemporary writers
A survey course introducing the scholarly study of the New Testament. As a course in the Catholic Studies curriculum, it will be grounded in the biblical scholarship and teachings of the Catholic Church. Specifically, it will explore the historical and cultural milieu that shaped the New Testament, its nature and composition, its religious and theological developments, and its significance for Catholics today.

This course offers an overview of Roman Catholic theology, based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as well as a look at various themes and issues since the Second Vatican Council that find their roots and explanation in the Catechism. There will be an emphasis on gaining competency to catechize on the topics of Sacred Scripture, Christology, Paschal Mystery, Sacraments, Church, and vocations.

Examines the historical context, biblical foundations, theological meanings, and ecclesiastical purposes of the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Students learn the CST framework in this class and then apply it in the linked business class to examine and evaluate the systems and decisions of real businesses in the contemporary world. *Forms a Core Link with AC 100 Catholic Social Teaching in Business.*
**TRS 321: History of the Papacy**  
This course is being offered in Rome

Origins of the papacy in the Roman world; growth of papal influence in the Early Middle Ages; decline of the papacy and rise of Protestantism; Counter Reformation; the popes and the absolute monarchs; the Enlightenment attacks; responses to European revolutions; the papacy and European totalitarianism; the papacy and the Third World; the popes and modern democratic trends.

**TRS 324 History of Christmas**  
Nathaniel Morehouse, PhD  
Section 51 Meets TR 11:00am-12:15pm  
Section 52 Meets TR 12:30-1:45pm

Origins of the feast; gospel infancy narratives; apocryphal traditions; Christology; Christmas in Medieval art and drama; cult of Saint Nicholas; origins and growth of Christmas music; Puritan attack on the feast; decline of the feast in 18th century; impact of the Industrial Revolution; the establishment of modern Christmas; modern commercialization; contemporary developments.

**TRS 336.51: Faith and Science**  
Fr. Don Serva  
MWF 9:00am-9:50am

Explores the historical controversies and contemporary conversations surrounding the relationship between religious belief and modern science, with particular attention to evolution and ecology.
This course will focus on contemporary lived expressions of three of the world’s most ancient and revered religious traditions of spiritual wisdom, namely Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity as they have developed and are primarily lived in the religio-politico-cultural context of East Asia today.

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.

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.
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.