



2022-23 Theology Department



Strong Values
STRONG WOMEN

THEOLOGY

FRESHMEN

Required Courses

Sacred Scripture, Our Story (*1 credit*)

SOPHOMORES

Required Courses

Church History: Moments in the Life of the Church (*.5 credit*)

Life in Christ (*.5 credit*)

JUNIORS

Required Courses

Living the Gospel through Catholic Social Teaching (*.5 credit*)

Living the Gospel through Catholic Social Teaching in Action - Summer Course (*.5 credit*)

World Religions (*.5 credit*)

SENIORS

Required Courses

One credit of Theology is required senior year, selected from the elective courses listed.

Elective Courses

The Challenge of Discipleship (*.5 credit*)

Death, Dying, and Living (*.5 credit*)

ACC God-Talk: Ultimate Questions in Theology (*.5 credit*)

ACC Women's and Gender Studies (*.5 credit*)

THEOLOGY

GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Theology Department is to provide the opportunity, atmosphere, and education for students to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith and to engage their faith in fostering a commitment to make the world a more just and peaceful place in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will interpret Sacred Scripture to grow in understanding of the Christian tradition and one's role in salvation history.
2. Students will examine the nature and ultimate reality of the human person as revealed in Christ Jesus, described in Scripture and understood through our shared human experience.
3. Students will understand the nature and content of sacramentality in community, in experience, personal faith life, and in the Catholic Church.
4. Students will be able to describe the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and articulate how this spirituality is rooted in right relationship and expressed through social justice.

REQUIREMENTS

Four credits in Theology are required for graduation.

HONORS COURSE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Any senior student with a 3.0 GPA or higher is eligible to enroll in two honors courses, *ACC God-Talk: Ultimate Questions in Theology* or *ACC Women's and Gender Studies*. At times exceptions are made for students who do not meet the GPA requirement but exhibit a strong work ethic and interest in the subject matter. This requires departmental approval. To be eligible for ACC courses, students must meet the criteria of the Dual Credit program through SLU.

THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

TH SACRED SCRIPTURE, OUR STORY

Grade 9	1 credit	Year-long course
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We begin Sacred Scripture, Our Story with a unit on the history and heritage of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the founders of our school. Our Story invites students to better understand all of salvation history as revealed in Sacred Scripture. Students will reflect on thematic considerations which run through both Old and New Testaments, such as God's unconditional love, unfailing mercy, invitation to freedom, and eternal presence. During first semester, students will seek truth about God, humans, our relationship to God, and our role in salvation history in the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures. During second semester, students will consider their own developing image of Jesus, study Jesus as a man of history, and reflect on Christ as the God of their faith. Students will delve into the New Testament, particularly the four gospels, and discover its message for them. All Scripture will be taught as a source of reflection and guidance for living in our contemporary culture, calling us to be more and more open to the life of God that is within each of us. The corresponding courses in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* are *The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture*, *Sacred Scripture*, and *Paschal Mystery*.

Prerequisite: none

THEOLOGY

THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

TH CHURCH HISTORY: MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Grade 10

.5 credit

Semester course

This course examines the history of Christianity from its beginnings at Pentecost to the contemporary situation of our present day. Students will study the early, medieval, and modern periods of Church history. The course will emphasize significant movements, central figures, crucial events, major controversies, and important ecumenical councils that have shaped the contours of Christian history. Special attention will be paid to the development of sacraments and the evolution of Church teachings. Likewise, this course will foster a deeper understanding of the Church as both a historical and sacramental presence in the world, and cultivate an appreciation for the relevance of Christianity's past to its present. The

corresponding courses in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* are *History of the Catholic Church*, *Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church*, and *Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Christ*.

Prerequisite: none



TH LIFE IN CHRIST

Grade 10

.5 credit

Semester course

This course is designed to encourage sophomore students to grow in faith and confidence while developing skills to navigate life in our ever-changing world. Students will apply what they learned as freshmen and continue their study of the early Christians found in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. Building on the belief that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, students will be challenged to recognize the dignity of self, others, and creation and learn how to participate daily in the building of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Students will review the difficult concept of free will, and practice making healthy and life-giving decisions. The all-girl classroom provides a unique opportunity for students to examine and openly discuss real issues facing teenage girls today. Topics will include authentic friendships, the impact of media, handling expectations, avoiding alcohol/drugs, healthy dating relationships, and understanding human sexuality. The corresponding courses in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* are *Life in Jesus Christ* and the *Mission of Jesus Christ*.

Prerequisite: none

THEOLOGY

THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

TH LIVING THE GOSPEL THROUGH CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Grade 11

.5 credit

Semester course

This course examines the response of Catholics and the Catholic Church to present and emerging social injustices as well as the challenges of the modern world. Responses and injustices are examined through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching to recognize the human dignity of all people. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of local, national, and global injustices. The course instills awareness that fuels a growth in living our Catholic faith. The corresponding course in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* is *Living as Disciples of Jesus Christ in Society*.

Prerequisite: none

TH LIVING THE GOSPEL THROUGH CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN ACTION SUMMER COURSE *Offered for Summer of 2022 (June 6 - July 8 (Off July 4))*

Rising Grade 11, 12

.5 credit

Summer course

**Students register for this course in February, 2022.*

This course examines the response of Catholics and the Catholic Church to present and emerging social injustices as well as the challenges of the modern world. Responses and injustices are examined through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching to recognize the human dignity of all people. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of local, national, and global injustices. The course instills awareness that fuels a growth in living our Catholic faith. Students will be required to engage in class for five weeks in the summer; two weeks of in person class, one week of travel on a social justice/service-based trip to Appalachia, the US/Mexican border, or similar opportunity, followed by two additional weeks of course work. Additional travel cost is required. The corresponding course in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* is *Living as Disciples of Jesus Christ in Society*.

**Service completed throughout this course will count towards a student's yearly service hour requirement.*

Prerequisite: Sacred Scripture, Our Story, Church History: Moments in the Life of the Church, and Life in Christ.

TH WORLD RELIGIONS

Grade 11

.5 credit

Semester course

After a basic introduction to the common elements of religion: worship, revelation, and community, this course examines some indigenous religions as well as the religions of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Emphasis is placed on origins, major concepts, scriptures, and important rituals of each religion in comparison to what the students know of their own faith. The corresponding course in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* is *Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues*.

Prerequisite: none

THEOLOGY

THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

TH CHALLENGE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This course is designed to challenge seniors to be real about what they believe about God, self, others, and the world. Students will explore the often misunderstood gift of free will all humans experience because of the love of God. Students will discuss and work together, learning how to take responsibility for their own life and choices while recognizing God's presence in all situations. The all-girl classroom will allow the opportunity to talk about dating and sexuality in a safe and comfortable environment. Students will practice various methods of prayer and will have the opportunity to reflect on values to prepare for the challenges of life in college and beyond. The corresponding course in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* is *Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ and Society*.

Prerequisite: none

TH DEATH, DYING, AND LIVING

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This course initiates an exploration of death, dying, and the integral relationships they play in life. The stages of death, dying, and grieving are examined, as well as the attitudes regarding the process of death. Students will conduct interviews regarding wisdom and life advice from elders. In addition, certain moral dilemmas, such as suicide and extraordinary means of maintaining life, are considered in light of contemporary moral teaching of the Catholic Church. All of these help us to better understand and fully live our lives.

Prerequisite: none

TH ACC GOD-TALK: ULTIMATE QUESTIONS IN THEOLOGY

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This course is designed for the theology student who wishes to be challenged at the collegiate level. This capstone course seeks to build an advanced understanding of theology by addressing the ultimate questions at the heart of theology and religion. In dialogue with Jewish and Christian scripture, as well as classic and contemporary spiritual autobiographies written from within the Christian tradition and beyond, students will wrestle with the nature of faith; the nature, existence, and personhood of God; the nature and ends of creation and human life; evil and salvation, and other matters of ultimate concern. This course aims to stimulate engagement with and reflection on the kinds of questions that matter most in order to deepen students understanding our relationship with God, our place in the universe, and the nature of the human condition.

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or departmental approval

Registering for college credit is optional for this course.

Students have the opportunity to earn 3 college credits for this semester course through SLU:

THEO 1600 God-Talk: Ultimate Questions in Theology

THEOLOGY

THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



TH ACC WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

When we improve the lives of women, we improve the lives of children and men. This course places women and gender at the center of inquiry. Using the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, we will discuss some of the historical foundations, theories, political manifestations, and social injustices that are the cause of oppression for all people, locally, nationally, and globally. We will engage the questions: How can we rid the world of oppression and how can we work to change social structures to bring about equity for all of God's people? This course also has a service learning component. The corresponding course in the *USCCB Curriculum Framework* is *Living as Disciples of Jesus Christ in Society*.

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA or departmental approval

Registering for college credit is optional for this course.

Students have the opportunity to earn 3 college credits for this semester course through SLU:

WGST 1900 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies