

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT
Course Descriptions 2018-2019

Service Requirement

Religion credit is dependent upon satisfactory completion of service hours.

Freshmen: Fifteen hours of community service.

Sophomores: Thirty hours of community service outside Lauralton Hall.

Juniors/Seniors: Fifteen hours of community service each year, of which at least ten hours must be outside Lauralton Hall. Five hours may be served within the Lauralton Hall community.

(0102) Freshman Religion – The Bible & Jesus Christ

Year

1 Credit

Required of freshmen

Recognizing that incoming freshmen have varying degrees of familiarity with Catholicism, the year begins by orienting students to the basic beliefs and practices of Catholicism as they pertain to the Sacred Scriptures. It does not assume any previous knowledge of the subject. Students are provided with an introduction to the Sacred Scriptures and to the unfolding of salvation history, with a particular focus on Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of salvation history. It explores Divine and natural Revelation, inspiration, and Biblical interpretation. Students will come to know the people of salvation history and the role of the Scriptures in the life of faith for the individual and for the entire Church. The second half of the year provides an in-depth study of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity. Students will work toward a deeper understanding of Divine Revelation, the Trinity, and salvation through the life and teachings of Jesus.

(0202) Sophomore Religion – The Paschal Mystery & The Church

Year

1 Credit

Required of sophomores

The goodness of creation, original sin, and the promise of a Messiah are the starting points for this year, which explores our salvation through the life, suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. The course also explores how the Paschal Mystery impacts our daily lives, our prayer, and our participation in the life of the Church. After an in-depth look at the Paschal Mystery, the second half of the year will provide students with an overview of the Catholic faith in an effort to deepen our awareness of what it means to be a people of God. The mission, identity, structure, and origin of the Church are explored. Special emphasis is placed on the different responses required of all members of the church, including the laity, the clergy, the hierarchy, and those in religious life. They will also engage in a discussion of the seven sacraments and the global presence of the Church as a light to all people.

(0362) Junior Religion 1 – Morality

Semester 1

.5 Credit

Required of juniors

This course addresses how a relationship with Christ and the Church can lead to choices that are in accord with God's plan. It emphasizes the way that choices (both large and small), habits, and patterns of behavior affect the student's relationships with God and others. Course topics include happiness, virtues, vices, love, sin, honesty, alcohol and drug abuse, sexuality, and more. Activities in class help students come to a better understanding of how attentiveness to these areas of human development serves as a basis for sound moral decision making.

(0372) Junior Religion 2 – Peace and Justice

Semester 2 .5 Credit

Required of juniors

This course explores the Christian call to peace and justice that stems from the life and teachings of Jesus and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The goal of the course is to empower students to promote the Reign of God in the world today as compassionate disciples and thoughtful citizens capable of eliminating injustice. After a brief overview of the history of Catholic Social Teaching, the class explores local and global issues, including discrimination, poverty, and a consistent ethic of life, in relation to the principle of the life and dignity of the human person. Special attention is paid to the way that the individual's choices impact the common good.

(0472) Senior Religion 1 – Women Responding to the Call of Jesus Semester 1 .5 Credit

Required of seniors

One of the core values of a Mercy education is concern for women and women's issues. The purpose of this course is to help students understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. Christian women throughout history are studied as exemplars of how diverse gifts can be used in the service of God and others. The course begins with women of the Bible, then considers women's roles in the early Church. It continues with an exploration of medieval mystics and the history of active religious sisters. It also examines the task of theology, the roles of Eve and Mary in the Bible and the Christian imagination, and the situation of women in the US and around the world in conjunction with the Christian call to justice.

(0482) Senior Religion 2 – Comparative Religions

Semester 2 .5 Credit

Required of seniors

As the culminating course in the Religion curriculum, Comparative Religions examines the universal questions that underlie the world's major religious traditions. The core of the course is dedicated to the study of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Chinese religious traditions (including Confucianism and Taoism). Comparisons to Christianity are made throughout the course. After looking at the historical and philosophical foundations of these traditions, students then examine current practices and events. This course teaches an appreciation of diversity and respect for the values of these religious traditions while modeling constructive interreligious dialogue.