

THEOLOGY

The goal of the Theology program at Jesuit High School is to communicate to our students a clear understanding of the message of Jesus Christ as interpreted by the Roman Catholic tradition. We work to do this through engaging presentations that are sensitive to our students' various levels of maturity and faith development; that respond to their real religious needs and questions at this time in their lives; and that challenge them to be "people for others." Students are required to take eight semesters of Theology. One semester of credit is given when the Christian Service requirement is fulfilled. All students must take the *Peace & Justice* course some time in their junior or senior years, after they have begun their Christian Service.

FAITH FORMATION

2 SEMESTERS; REQUIRED OF ALL FRESHMEN

PREREQUISITE: NONE

One of the most vital parts of the Profile of the Jesuit High School Graduate at Graduation is "Religious." The purpose of this course is to orient the freshman student to this part of the Profile. The course will enable the student to understand, appreciate, and take responsibility for a wide range of religious experiences offered at Jesuit High School. Specifically, the course will introduce the student to the experience of faith, scripture, the nature of God, the person of Jesus, the Catholic Church, prayer, Jesuit spirituality, the sacraments, and Catholic morality.

HEBREW AND CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES

2 SEMESTERS; REQUIRED OF ALL SOPHOMORES

This full-year course will introduce the student to a survey of the Bible, focusing on major themes and people of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, with special emphasis given to Jesus' birth, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection. This course in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures will direct students to encounter the Bible from various perspectives: historical, cultural, theological, and personal. In doing so, the course will provide a basic understanding of practical, foundational uses of the Bible. It will encourage in students a reverent appreciation of Scripture as the source of the great heroic stories, wisdom, and revelation of the Judeo-Christian tradition. This course will also seek to develop an awareness of the integral connection and common messages of the two testaments. Finally, it will help students apply Scripture to their daily lives.

JUNIOR/SENIOR THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

These electives are offered on a two year cycle: Cycle A is taught for one year and Cycle B the next. *Peace & Justice* and *Comparative Religions* are offered in both cycles. *Peace & Justice* is the only Junior/Senior course that all students are required to take.

For the 2014-15 school year, the following electives will be offered: *Peace & Justice*, *Comparative Religions*, *Sacraments & Prayer*, *Christian Relationships*, and *Christian Ethics*.

For the 2015-16 school year, the following electives will be offered: *Peace & Justice*, *Comparative Religions*, *Problems of Faith*, *Catholicism & Contemporary Culture* and *Prophetic Voices*.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

1 SEMESTER; REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION; OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

PREREQUISITE: CHRISTIAN SERVICE

This course is designed to help students consider the unjust as well as the life-giving aspects of modern culture and social structures in light of the student's service experience and Catholic social teachings. After an overview of scriptural and theological justice principles, students will be guided through an

educational process of context, social analysis, theological reflection, and pastoral action. These tools will then be applied to such issues as poverty, discrimination, homelessness, just-war theory, pacifism, and other issues of human rights. Jesus Christ's call to reform the injustices of society in fulfillment of the Reign of God as expressed in scriptures and the social teachings of the Catholic Church will be the focus.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

1 SEMESTER; ELECTIVE OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

Comparative Religions involves the study of major world religions, examining key beliefs, practices, festivals/rituals, and historical developments of Primal Religions, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Catholic Christianity provides the starting point for the comparison of these religions.

PROBLEMS OF FAITH (*Offered in 2013-14*)

1 SEMESTER; ELECTIVE OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

This course tackles many of the basic existential problems adults struggle within their faith lives, especially regarding religious or spiritual faith: What is reality? Can I be sure about anything? What is faith and how do I know if I have it? Do I have faith experiences that are not religious or spiritual? Can I know if God exists? Does God communicate with the world and with me individually? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? What happens to me after I die? What is a miracle? Are there angels or other spiritual beings? What are the essential beliefs of Catholic Christianity? Why do we find politics, rules, and even hypocrisy in organized religion? Do I have to belong to a religion to have religious faith?

CATHOLICISM & CONTEMPORARY CULTURE (*Offered in 2013-14*)

1 SEMESTER; ELECTIVE OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

This course seeks to understand the distinctiveness and importance of Catholicism amidst contemporary cultural tensions. Students will study and consider intelligent, reasoned theological principles as tools to address the realities of our contemporary culture, as they are portrayed in movies, music, and literature, and especially current events. Ultimately, the course seeks to define a Catholic identity within our contemporary culture, and articulate why that identity is an option people see as a choice worth living today.

PROPHETIC VOICES (*Offered in 2013-14*)

Prophetic voices challenge people to transform the world by courageously embracing the Kingdom of God. This Junior/Senior semester elective deepens students' understanding of biblical, historical and current prophets as messengers of God. Prophetic voices called and continue to call people into God's Kingdom of justice on behalf of those who are marginalized in society. The prophets were and are deeply rooted in their faith and personal integrity, standing firm in the face of opposition on behalf of the status quo. This course also examines where in our modern world the prophetic voice is needed.

SACRAMENTS & PRAYER (*Offered in 2014-15*)

1 SEMESTER; ELECTIVE OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

Sacraments and Prayer is designed for students who wish to explore their lives as Christians and to explore the value of prayer. Students will participate in concrete methods and exercises of prayer and examine how Christians (especially Catholics) engage the sacraments to ritualize their experience of God. The focus of the class is to develop a relationship with God through prayer and reflection in the Ignatian tradition.

CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS (*Offered in 2014-15*)

1 SEMESTER; ELECTIVE OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

Christian Relationships examines the many vocational opportunities and lifestyles open to students. A theological and personal examination of marriage, single life, and communal religious life will be presented. An examination of sexuality, dating, and interpersonal skills such as effective communication and conflict resolution will also be covered.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS (*Offered in 2014-15*)

1 SEMESTER; ELECTIVE OPEN TO JUNIORS & SENIORS

This course examines the philosophical and theological ideas behind ethical behaviors in our world today. Taught from a Catholic perspective, this course will introduce students to the reasoning behind ethical action. Students will cover modern ethical issues in the areas of integrity, sexuality, the biomedical fields, business, and the global political arena. Students will be challenged to explore modern ethical issues in light of Christ's call as found in the Gospels.