



# Catholic Studies

## The Passion

Based on the belief that knowledge of the Catholic heritage is an essential foundation for understanding the Church's present and future, the Catholic Studies concentration seeks to foster Catholic intellectual life throughout the Gonzaga University campus. The integrative approach of the concentration's courses gives students an opportunity to understand the relationship between Catholicism and the world and to grasp the richness of Catholic thought and culture.

## The Program

The Catholic Studies concentration allows students to combine courses from different departments in order to create a comprehensive curriculum geared to increasing their understanding of the Catholic worldview and how it is reflected in human culture.

The first year of the 21-credit concentration consists of a World History (HIST 112) course specially designed to clarify the historical relationship between Church and the modern world. As freshmen, students should also take one Bible course, choosing from the Old Testament (RELI 110), the New Testament (RELI 120), or the Gospels (RELI 124). In their sophomore year, students take Catholicism (RELI 220), and one additional Catholic Studies elective. As juniors, Catholic Studies concentration students should complete two elective courses of their own choosing from a wide variety of courses in the College of Arts and Sciences (see below). In their senior year, students will concentrate on finishing their capstone project in conjunction with the Senior Seminar (CATH 499). Courses taken to fulfill the Catholic Studies requirements may also fulfill core or major requirements.

While elective offerings may vary from year to year depending on instructor and course availability, Catholic Studies students may fulfill their elective requirements by taking such courses as: Music of the Catholic Church, Latin or Greek language, Faith and Reason, Christian Metaphysics, History of Early Christianity, North American Jesuit Missionaries, Philosophy of St. Augustine, Walker Percy: Philosopher and Novelist, Art and Catholicism, or Contemporary Ecclesiology.

## The Potential

The Catholic Studies concentration is designed for anyone interested in Catholic thought, culture, and practice. Students completing the concentration have gone on to graduate school, law school, religious ministry, and careers in teaching or education. Many students completing the concentration do not plan careers directly related to religious work; they simply have an interest in the Catholic Church and its place in the world.

## The People

**Michael Maher, S.J.**, Catholic Studies Director and Associate Professor in History, specializes in Early Modern European history and the history of the Society of Jesus. (maher@gonzaga.edu)

Professors who frequently offer courses for the concentration include:

**Robert Carriker**, History Department; specializes in Jesuit missionaries, especially in the American West. (carriker@gonzaga.edu)

**Brian Clayton**, Philosophy Department; specializes in Walter Percy, C.S. Lewis, and issues of faith and reason. (clayton@calvin.gonzaga.edu)

**Eric Cunningham**, History Department; teaches courses in Catholicism in Asia and World History. (cunningham@gonzaga.edu)

**Robert Hauck**, Religious Studies Department; teaches courses in many areas of church history. (hauck@gonzaga.edu)

**Ken Krall, S.J.**, Classical Civilizations Department; teaches Latin and Greek. (krall@gu.gonzaga.edu)

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**Douglas Kries**, Philosophy Department; specializes in St. Augustine and in the relationship between Christianity and political philosophy. (kries@gem.gonzaga.edu)

**Shalon Parker**, Art Department; teaches Art and Catholicism. (parker@gonzaga.edu)

**Michael Tkacz**, Philosophy Department; teaches Christian Metaphysics and specializes in medieval philosophy. (tkacz@gonzaga.edu)

**John Wagner**, Philosophy Department; teaches the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas. (wagner@calvin.gonzaga.edu)

*Photo Credits: Alan Bisson, Dean Davis, Eric Galey, Craig Hill, Lauren Intinarelli, Jennifer Raudebaugh, Amy Sinisterra, and Allen Hubbard.*

**For more information, please contact:** Fr. Michael Maher, S.J., Director, Catholic Studies, maher@gonzaga.edu, (509) 313-6609 or (800) 986-9585 ext. 6609