



# Catholic Studies

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 minor seeks to foster Catholic intellectual life throughout the Gonzaga University campus. The integrative approach of the minor'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 minor** at Gonzaga University provides its students with an opportunity to enrich their undergraduate experience through a focused engagement with the historical and theological traditions, teachings, and cultural legacies of the Roman Catholic Church. In addition to providing a rigorous interdisciplinary grounding in the history, ideals, and practices of Catholicism, the program invites students to take part in the ancient and ongoing conversation between the Church and the various cultures in which it is found. In seeking to understand and more fully appreciate the relationship between the eternal truths of the Catholic faith and their various expressions in time and place, the program faithfully and rigorously responds to Pope John Paul II's call for "a fruitful dialogue between the Gospel and culture" (Ex Corde Ecclesiae, Part I A.3:43). The Society of Jesus, in its most recent General Congregation, echoed this same desire in identifying the importance of serious and rigorous research between Catholicism and the contemporary world, culture, and other religions and committing itself to this work (General Congregation 35, Doc. 1, par. 7).

## METHOD OF STUDY

The Catholic Studies program identifies Catholicism as the body of thought and culture that both informs our University's mission and inhabits the world beyond Gonzaga as a phenomenon clearly present but often difficult to detect in its various modes of culture and domains of knowledge. The program operates with the idea that Catholicism, and the world it interpenetrates, can be better understood by investigating its particular and universal natures. This is accomplished through a series of integrated courses that consider Catholicism as both the over-arching theme of the curriculum, and the core theme of each individual course. Accordingly, Catholic Studies will be grounded in Church doctrine since doctrine establishes the foundation for an understanding of knowledge and offers

a guide for interpreting how Catholicism has developed in the course of history and how it reveals itself in literature, science, and the visual arts. A fundamental course on Catholic doctrine will provide the distinguishing parameters for concepts such as sacramentality, incarnation, sin, and redemption.

## CURRICULUM

The 21-credit **minor** is designed to include several courses already required by the University Core Curriculum, a specific college's core, and some other majors/minors. The Catholic Studies minor includes three elective courses. Electives may be taken from courses that are designated in the course catalogue as Catholic Studies courses or courses that have been approved by the director of the Catholic Studies program. Below is the full course sequence for the Catholic Studies minor.

### First-Year

- History 112 - World Civilizations since 1500

One of the following Religious Studies electives:

- Religious Studies 110 - Intro to the Old Testament
- Religious Studies 120 - Intro to the New Testament
- Religious Studies 124 - New Testament: Matthew, Mark, & Luke

### Sophomore Year

- Religious Studies 220 - Catholicism
- Catholic Studies elective

### Junior Year

- Two Catholic Studies electives

### Senior Year

- Catholic Studies 499 - Catholic Studies Capstone course

## ACTIVITIES & STUDENT CLUBS

In addition to its academic offerings, the Catholic Studies Program encourages students interested in learning more about Catholicism to get involved in extracurricular programs focused on Catholic thought and spirituality.

Healing the Culture Book Club is a reading group made up of students and faculty members who meet regularly to discuss selected works of fiction and non-fiction written in the Christian tradition. Authors whose works have been read include Fr. Robert Spitzer, C.S. Lewis, and G.K. Chesterton.

Catholic Studies students are encouraged to take part in the activities of University Ministry, as well as Gonzaga student groups influenced by the Catholic faith, which include Blessed John Paul II Fellowship, Knights of Columbus, Gonzaga Students for Life, and Gonzaga Witness.

## OUTCOMES

The Catholic Studies minor is designed for anyone interested in examining the intersection of Catholic thought and culture. Students completing the minor have gone on to graduate school, law school, various types of religious ministry, and careers in education. Many students completing the minor do not plan on a career directly related to work within a church setting. Instead, they simply have an interest in the dialogue between Catholicism and culture.

## THE PEOPLE

Faculty from several different academic departments have provided courses that are cross-listed for the Catholic Studies minor. Professors who frequently offer courses for the minor include those listed below.

## FACULTY CONTACTS & SPECIALTIES

**Fr. Michael Maher, S.J.** | **Director**

History Department  
early modern European history and the history of the Society of Jesus  
maher@gonzaga.edu

**David Calhoun**

Philosophy Department  
ancient Greek philosophy (especially Socratic method), philosophical anthropology/human nature, Christian existentialism, and philosophy of education  
calhoun@gonzaga.edu

**Brian Clayton**

Philosophy Department  
Walker Percy, C.S. Lewis, and issues of faith and reason  
claytonb@gonzaga.edu

**Eric Cunningham**

Assistant Director, Catholic Studies  
History Department  
Catholicism in Asia and Japanese history  
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**Fr. Patrick Hartin**

Religious Studies Department  
New Testament interpretation, specifically the Letter of James as well as the traditions behind the Gospels, particularly the Sayings Gospel Q  
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**Fr. Ken Krall, S.J.**

Classical Civilizations Department  
Latin and Greek languages  
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**Douglas Kries**

Philosophy Department  
St. Augustine and the intersection between Christianity and political philosophy  
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**Shalon Parker**

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**Michael Tkacz**

Philosophy Department  
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**John Wagner**

Philosophy Department  
Medieval philosophy, metaphysics, the philosophy of evil, the philosophy of sport, and the philosophy of education  
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