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. We operate with the idea that Catholicism, and the world it interpenetrates, can be better understood by investigating its particular and universal natures. We do this 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.

Freshman 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

Sophomore Year
- Religious Studies 220 - Catholicism

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.

The Healing the Culture Book Club is a reading group made up of students and faculty members who meet regularly discuss selected works of fiction and non-fiction written in the Christian tradition. Authors whose works we have read in the past 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’s several Catholic student groups, 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.

David Calhoun | Philosophy Department | Ancient Greek philosophy (especially Socratic method), philosophical anthropology/human nature, Christian existentialism, and philosophy of education | calhoun@calvin.gonzaga.edu
Robert Carriker | History Department | Jesuit missionaries, especially in the American West | carriker@gonzaga.edu
Brian Clayton | Philosophy Department | Walker Percy, C.S. Lewis, and issues of faith and reason | clayton@calvin.gonzaga.edu
Eric Cunningham | Assistant Director, Catholic Studies | History Department | Catholicism in Asia and Japanese history | cunningham@gonzaga.edu
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 | hartin@gonzaga.edu
Fr. Ken Kral, S.J. | Classical Civilizations Department | Latin and Greek languages | kral@gu.gonzaga.edu
Douglas Kries | Philosophy Department | St. Augustine and the intersection between Christianity and political philosophy | kries@gem.gonzaga.edu
Fr. Michael Maher, S.J. | Director, Catholic Studies | History Department | Early Modern European history and the history of the Society of Jesus | maher@gonzaga.edu
Shalon Parker | Art Department | art history | parker@gonzaga.edu
Michael Tkacz | Philosophy Department | Medieval philosophy | tkacz@calvin.gonzaga.edu
Fr. Anthony Via, S.J. | History Department | Medieval and Byzantine history | via@gonzaga.edu
John Wagner | Philosophy Department | Medieval philosophy, metaphysics, the philosophy of evil, the philosophy of sport, and the philosophy of education | wagner@calvin.gonzaga.edu