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 explores Catholicism as a body of thought and culture that both informs Gonzaga University’s founding and mission and how that has profoundly shaped cultures across the globe.

The Catholic Studies program offers students a course of study that encourages them to discern God's presence and action in history through the Catholic Church, the Catholic faith, and the ongoing development of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. The program accomplishes this through a series of courses that consider various elements of Catholic thought and culture: the Biblical and doctrinal foundations of the Church; the history and development of Catholic doctrine from the early councils to Vatican II; the unique contribution of Christian philosophy to western culture; Catholic liturgy and spirituality; the contemporary Church and its engagement with the modern world; the Catholic imagination in art, literature, and music; and Catholic Social Teaching. A foundational course on Catholic doctrine provides the distinguishing parameters for engaging contemporary theological questions relating to spirituality, sacramentality, sin and redemption, social justice, and interreligious dialogue.

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 - The Hebrew Bible
• Religious Studies 120 - The New Testament
• Religious Studies 124 - Gospels: Life and Teachings of Jesus

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. Catholic Studies students are encouraged to take part in activities planned by the Office of Mission and Ministry, as well as Gonzaga’s several student groups, which include Saint John Paul II Fellowship Club, Knights of Columbus, and Gonzaga Students for Life.
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
Joseph Mudd | Director
Ph.D., Boston College
Religious Studies department
systematic theology, specifically sacramental/liturgical theology
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Fr. Patrick Wanakuta Baraza
African Catholicism
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David Calhoun
Ph.D., Northwestern University
Philosophy Department
ancient Greek philosophy (especially Socratic method), philosophical anthropology/human nature, Christian existentialism, and philosophy of education
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Brian Clayton
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
Philosophy Department
Walker Percy, C.S. Lewis, and issues of faith and reason
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Eric Cunningham
Ph.D., University of Oregon
Assistant Director, Catholic Studies
History Department
Catholicism in Asia and Japanese history
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Fr. Patrick Hartin
Religious Studies Department (Emeritus)
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 Kral, S.J.
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Latin and Greek languages
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Douglas Kries
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St. Augustine and the intersection between Christianity and political philosophy
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Medieval philosophy, metaphysics, the philosophy of evil, the philosophy of sport, and the philosophy of education
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