

Theology Department

Theology Coursework

The Cathedral High School Theology Department seeks to form the hearts and inform the minds of students, that their lives may be transformed by grace and enter into communion with God. In accordance with Holy Cross spirituality and the USCCB Doctrinal Framework, we strive to understand the questions, motivations and spiritual needs of each individual student in order to reveal to them the Truth of Jesus Christ, and guide them with the help of the Holy Spirit to glorify God in their life.

All students are required to take eight semesters of theology in order to graduate.

Freshman Year

SEMESTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH / THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE / WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Students will explore Cathedral's core values and traditions as the charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Then, students will gain a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, the second person of the Blessed Trinity.

SEMESTER 2: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE/ WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? (CONT.)

Sophomore Year

SEMESTER 3: THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST (THE PASCHAL MYSTERY)

This course helps students understand all God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us.

SEMESTER 4: LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

Students will learn that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students will learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples.



Junior Year

SEMESTER 5: JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit.

SEMESTER 6: SACRAMENTS AS PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST

Students will learn that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

Senior Year

SEMESTER 7: LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SOCIETY

This course introduces students to the Church's social teaching. Students learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.

SEMESTER 8: ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Students will understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. The course is also intended to help them to recognize the ways in which other systems of belief and practice differ from the Catholic faith.



Theology electives

Peer Mentoring

Cathedral's Peer Mentoring program began in 1986 and is open to first semester seniors by invitation. Seniors receive training that prepares them to mentor new freshmen. This program is designed to enhance the connection between freshmen and the Cathedral family as a whole.

Theory of Knowledge I & II (IB)

Theory of Knowledge is an epistemology course, and as such, it is an introduction to the future study of philosophy in college. Through the use of perception, reason, emotion and language, how do we humans use the sciences, the various mathematical disciplines, the arts, the study of history, etc., to answer the question: "How do we know what we know; and how do we know that we know it; and how do we use this knowledge to enter into the great human discussion of the BIG questions regarding the meaning of it ALL?"

Holy Cross Core Values

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

It is God's work that we do, and God is present and active in our lives, our school and the world.

EXCELLENCE

If we are to influence the future, to create a better time than ours, we must do what we do well.

INTEGRITY

The task at hand is no smaller than to help our students become what or who God calls them to be. If one is focused on God's will in your life, integrity is realized.

FAMILY

A Holy Cross school is community and family, an environment of collaboration, supported by a family spirit which touches and includes everyone associated with the school. Hospitality and compassion are extended to faculty students, parents, competitors, guests, and friends. An enthusiastic school spirit is the norm. Family is the value most recognized and most talked about by students.

EDUCATING HEARTS AND MINDS

A Holy Cross Education combines information and formation to transform our students and empower them to make a difference.

HOPE

The motto of the Congregation of Holy Cross is Spes Unica and it refers to the Cross as Our Only Hope. It is hope that empowers us. Even as we take up our Crosses, we "walk by Easter's first light," for we have the hope.

INCLUSIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

To be Catholic is to be universal. All of us are made in the image and likeness of God, and a Holy Cross school makes every attempt to be enriched by God's many gifts.

OPTION FOR THE POOR

Through action within and outside the school we acknowledge our responsibility to those who are less fortunate than we.

ZEAL

Zeal sets our hearts on fire. If we want to do and be our best, we need to recognize society's needs and offer our best; knowing we have gifts to share that can and will make a difference as we do God's will.