

# Theology

*Supported by academic rigor and spiritual experiences, we are committed to teaching and celebrating the Catholic faith while simultaneously appreciating differing faith perspectives. Through their theology classes, students will grow in their relationship with the loving God, while nurturing their loving relationships with others, self and creation. We challenge students to become agents of positive social change in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching. Students are required to enroll in one theology course each semester. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.*

S = Semester Course    YR = Year Long Course

Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
<p>Theology 9: Intro to Theology YR</p>	<p>Theology 10 S1, S2</p>	<p>One Semester with each of the following:</p> <p>Theology: Discipleship S1, S2</p> <p>AND</p> <p>World Religions S1, S2</p>	<p>One Semester choosing any of the following:</p> <p>Christian Vocations S1, S2</p> <p>Faith and Sports S1, S2</p> <p>Foundations of Peer Ministry S1</p> <p>Introduction to Philosophy S1, S2</p> <p>PACC: Thinking Theologically S1</p> <p>Women of the Church S1</p> <p>World Religions S1, S2</p>

# Theology

## Freshmen

*Freshmen are required to take Theology 9: Intro to Theology.*

### **Theology 9: Intro to Theology (YR)**

*Two semesters, two credits*

This course serves as an introduction to theology at Benilde-St-Margaret's. Students will learn the fundamentals of theology and what it means to be a Red Knight. Topics covered will range from Revelation and relationship, Scripture, and story, to the Incarnation and our call to holiness. The course is designed to meet the needs of students at varying points on their faith journey – those of deep faith, those seekers, and students who are unsure of the role faith plays in their lives but are open to exploring.

## Sophomore

*Sophomores are required to enroll in two semesters, two credits of Theology 10 as outlined below.*

### **Theology 10 (S1)**

*One semester, one credit, required*

This course will explore what happens when ordinary people encounter the living God and how this manifestation of individual faith necessitates a call outward to build a community of prayer, worship, and service. Topics covered will range from creation, the life, suffering, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the institution of the Church, and how this all relates to 21st-century young people and adults today.

### **Theology 10: Morality (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, required*

Through this course, students will discern how God is calling them to live a life of holiness through their actions. Students will learn moral concepts, philosophical and theological reasoning, and the tenets of the Catholic moral vision. Through various readings from Scripture, Church documents, and other literary and secular writings, students will use seminar-based discussion to address moral dilemmas facing their lives. Students will develop moral decision-making skills and learn to apply those skills through the formation and following of conscience.

## Junior

*Juniors will engage in a service practicum through the required curriculum. It is essential that juniors take great consideration as to which semester they are enrolling in the Discipleship class. This class requires 25 hours of service outside of class time. Be sure to consider all extracurricular commitments when selecting the semester of this class. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but it is not guaranteed.*

### **Theology 11: Discipleship (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, required*

The Sisters of St. Joseph, one of Benilde-St. Margaret's founding religious orders, are inspired by Jesus' invitation to love God and to love our dear neighbor. Their mission urges us to move from the center where we are comfortable to the margins of vulnerability. This course deepens and broadens students' understanding of the Gospel call to discipleship and the Catholic social teaching. Students will learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is alive today. Students explore the rewards and challenges of living a life of service through a 25-hour service-learning experience that connects them with poor and vulnerable populations in our community.

### **World Religions (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors*

What is religion? What can we term as religious? Religions take on many distinct forms and styles due to the variety of societies, cultures, and histories in which religions are founded.

In a systematic and analytical, yet emphatic way, we will study a variety of beliefs and practices encountered in the major non-Christian religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. Through this complex nature of religions we will attempt to trace religious similarities and differences in the hope of a richer understanding of what religion is. All other religious systems will be discussed in correlation to our primary focus area.

## Senior

*Seniors are required to enroll in one Theology course each semester and may choose from the electives listed below. Courses may not be repeated.*

### **Christian Vocations (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors*

This course is a study of the adult Catholic Christian life and the process of discerning one's vocation in it. Students will learn about and reflect on their identity, their current belief about God, the universal call to all to holiness, the world of work and money, sexuality, marriage, and religious life. This course utilizes self-reflection, discussion, and a variety of real-life scenarios and simulations to foster learning. Ultimately students will learn what it means to live an adult Christian life dedicated to God, others, and self to achieve lasting happiness.

### **Faith and Sports (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors*

This senior level course seeks to engage students in an academic and faith-filled exploration of their involvement in sports and other activities. Focused on theological principles and virtue, students will delve into how sports can help us navigate life's biggest questions and challenges, especially as it pertains to their faith. Through this course, students will also learn practical skills to help them become servant leaders, develop true character, and equip them for life beyond sports.

### **Foundations of Peer Ministry (S1)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors*

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors. Application required and priority registration will be given to junior peer ministers who meet application requirements as there will only be one section of the class offered. Students who join the class are expected to participate in Peer Ministry outside of the class in both 1st and 2nd semester even though the class is one semester long.*

This senior theology elective is designed to equip students with practical skills and academic knowledge to serve as peer ministers in high school, college, and into adulthood. Catholic Church texts and distinguished Catholic authors' writings on lay ecclesial ministry, campus ministry, adult formation, and more will be examined. Current topics of a pastoral nature will be explored through a Catholic lens with the goal of understanding how to accompany those who are marginalized such as the divorced, people who identify as LGBTQ+, the oppressed, and more. This fall semester course will include hands-on experience planning, implementing, and leading BSM grade level retreats and other school and community-based ministry activities.

### **Introduction to Philosophy (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors*

"Wonder is the beginning of philosophy," says the great Greek philosopher, Socrates. Since his time, countless thinkers have tried to identify exactly what philosophy *is*. To put it simply, philosophy is the quest for enlightenment that first began when humans tried to understand and explain the world through the power of reason. It involves a questioning - a questioning that seeks to probe into the most fundamental aspects of our human existence. In Philosophy we will discuss great philosophical issues, read major thinkers, and watch a variety of modern films to help us understand the impact that philosophy has on our everyday lives.

### **PACC: Thinking Theologically (S1)**

*One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors*

*Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of Theology 10 and Theology 10 Morality with a "B" in both semesters.*

*Three credit college level options*

This course is eligible for PACC credit (see page 58). This **college-level** course introduces students to the methods and practices of thinking theologically through an examination of some of the major questions people have asked and found answers to within religious contexts, especially the Judeo-Christian narrative. This course pays particular attention to the human experience of suffering, and how those different experiences shape our theological questions, both past and present. The course also embeds how theology is examined at a university defined by multidisciplinary approaches to truth and knowledge.

# Theology

## **Women of the Church (S1)**

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors*

This course examines the vital, but often invisible role of women in Catholic thoughts and practice. Students will learn about the first women followers of Jesus, women mystics, theologians, and saints throughout Church history, as well as modern day Catholic women in the Church and the world. Through conversation with each other and a variety of readings by and about Catholic women, students will ask whether and how paying attention to the experiences of women makes a difference in theology. How does upholding the dignity of women as made in the image and likeness of God impact our images and metaphors for God and the human experience?

## **World Religions (S1) or (S2)**

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors*

What is religion? What can we term as religious? Religions take on many distinct forms and styles due to the variety of societies, cultures, and histories in which religions are founded.

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