THEOLOGY

KR = No courses in the Theology Department are included in the Qualified Admissions Approved Curriculum for KS Regents Universities

The Saint Thomas Aquinas Theology Department is committed to deepening students' relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, the study of a variety of subjects and community service. Teachers and students are to model Christ in all aspects of their lives, including daily prayer in each class. Guided by the outcomes and curriculum set by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, study subjects include an introduction of Catholicism, Sacred Scripture, Moral Theology, the Sacraments, Catholic Social Justice, the History of the Church and Christian Lifestyles. Additionally, students model Christ through the giving of their time and talents to the community each semester by fulfilling the Catholic Outreach Community Service Program commitments.

Catholic Outreach Community Service Program

Students must give at least 80 service hours during their four years to exemplify the lifelong call to Christian service and the Mission of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Freshman - 16 hours
Sophomore - 16 hours
Junior - 24 hours
Senior - 24 hours

The service undertaken should embody the Works of Mercy and adhere to the outlined requirements available on the Service and Outreach page of the website.

The completion of the service will make up 10% of the Theology course grade each semester. Additional information can be found on our Campus Ministry pages at www.stasaints.net.

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Course Number	Course Name	Possible Grade Level 9	10	11	12	Credit	Dual-Enrollment	Weighted Grade
080115	9A Scripture	■				0.5		
080195	9B Scripture	■				0.5		
080295	10A Church		■			0.5		
080285	10B Sacraments		■			0.5		
080225	11A Morality			■		0.5		
080435	11B Theology of the Body			■		0.5		
080465	Faith & Reason				■	0.5		
080455	Social Justice				■	0.5		
080425	Christian Lifestyles				■	0.5		
080445	World Religions				■	0.5		
080415	Philosophy of Death				■	0.5		
080450	Campus Ministry				■	0.5		

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9A - SCRIPTURE SEM 1
9B - SCRIPTURE SEM 2

Credit 1 Grade 9
Course #: 080115/080195

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Every effort is made to project a sense of the unity of the narrative for the divine plan of salvation, the presence of God's action in this record of his Revelation, and his desire to share his merciful love with us.

10A CHURCH SEM 1

Credit ½ Grade 10
Course #: 080295

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. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both Divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the sacred nature of the Church. Key focuses include: the Marks of the Church (One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic) and the purpose and structure of the Church in the world, and what it means to live in the world today as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

10B SACRAMENTS SEM 2

Credit ½ Grade 10
Course #: 080285

SACRAMENTS AS PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST

Students learn and experience how sacraments are special signs that put us in touch with the Risen Lord. They focus on the Church community as well as the individual's role in each of the sacraments, with an emphasis on the Eucharist. Students demonstrate knowledge of the definition, history, and significance of the Sacraments and identify the Sunday liturgy as the central focus of the Church community. Recognition of the need for prayer as essential and as an expression of faith is an emphasis of this class. Students learn to distinguish the different styles of prayer by evaluating prayer in the life of Jesus, the saints, contemporary people and through preparing and creating various prayer experiences.

11A MORALITY SEM 1

Credit ½ Grade 11
Course #: 080225

LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

Students identify the Christian values and moral principles found in Scriptures and in the Magisterium. They illustrate how these are lived in the world today. Students examine the compassionate example of Jesus' life and teachings in regard to moral dilemmas. Students are provided a method of ethical decision making which will help them continue in their formation of conscience and guide them in making moral and ethical decisions in their daily lives. Students explore the Church's teaching concerning moral issues: conscience, sin, good vs. evil, chastity, abortion, birth-control, homosexuality, capital punishment, euthanasia, drugs and alcohol, and honesty with self and others.

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11B THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SEM 2

Credit ½ Grade 11

Course #: 080435

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

The purpose of this course is based on the collection of 129 talks on human sexuality given by Pope John Paul II between September 1979 and November 1984 and is designed specifically for teens. The course will address the profound interconnection between sexuality and the Christian mystery. The course will answer questions like: Why did God give us our sexual desire? What does our sexuality teach us about God? What is the difference between love and lust and how can one overcome the temptation of lust? How does waiting for sex make marriages stronger? How can I discover my vocation?

THEOLOGY 4

Students are required to take Faith and Reason and one senior elective
Theology course.

FAITH AND REASON (REQUIRED)

Credit ½ Grade 12

Course #: 080465

WHY GOD? WHY JESUS? WHY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

This course serves as a capstone for the three previous years of theology courses. The ten major topics covered over the course of the semester will provide every student with a deeper understanding about God, Jesus, and the Catholic Church. This Theology course is designed to help students develop a response to the questions and challenges the secular world poses to their Christian faith. This response will be based on sound principles of logic and reason, as well as personal faith. This course will engage the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Scripture, as well as encyclicals and other Church documents.

THEOLOGY 4
5 ELECTIVE OPTIONS, Seniors must choose 1

SOCIAL JUSTICE: LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SOCIETY

Credit ½ Grade 12

Course #: 080455

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.

CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLES: LIVING AS AN ADULT CHRISTIAN

Credit ½ Grade 12

Course #: 080425

This course is designed for the student to begin to discern what the future may hold for them as a young adult Christian. In this course the student will be taking an introspective look at where they are now and explore what vocation they may be being called to in the future; the married life, single life, priestly life, or consecrated life. They will continue to seek what it means to live a life for the benefit of others and how to live that within their called vocation in service to the Christian community.

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WORLD RELIGIONS: ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES

Credit ½ Grade 12

Course #: 080445

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students to recognize the ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic Christian churches and ecclesial communities as well as in non-Christian religions. It is also intended to help them to recognize the ways in which other systems of belief and practice differ from the Catholic faith. This is the only course that meets NCAA standards.

PHILOSOPHY OF DEATH

Credit ½ Grade 12

Course #: 080415

PHILOSOPHY OF DEATH (FORMERLY DEATH AND DYING)

Most people are scared to death of death! We run from it, we get angry about it and we do our best to avoid it. Not very Jesus like. This "Philosophy of Death" course will take you on a journey from those surface reactions to infinitely deeper questions, wonderings and realities about this seemingly terrifying subject. Ultimately, this course will remind you that anywhere Jesus went is a good place to go, even to death. We will look at death itself, its nature, because if we do not know at least something of what death is, how can we meaningfully ritualize it, explain it and – finally – face it? From a field trip to a funeral home and cemetery, to guest speakers, to stories from teachers and students, and a host of other sources, we will look at why and how we – as Catholics – ritualize death. We will look at the costs associated with death and look at death from the perspective of funeral home employees, of medical professionals and of family members. Along the way, we will encounter questions involving medical ethics, customs and other cultures.

Finally, this course will offer you wisdom to make your death – when it comes – an offering of faith, hope and love to God and your loved ones. You will leave this course with the truth that your death is your last act, your last chance to point people to Jesus. Why would you cheat anyone out of that?

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Credit: ½ Grade 12

Course #: 080450

The Campus Ministry course is an elective that allows students a first-hand experience at living out the Gospel message by ministering to the Saint Thomas Aquinas High School community. At its core, the class emphasizes individual and small group spiritual development by making use of class retreats, planning all school liturgies, and para-liturgies. The goal of the class is to put faith into practice. Students enrolled in the course must be comfortable sharing their faith in a variety of ways. Students will be expected to pray and journal daily and witness their faith to their peers and teachers. Students will be expected to lead small groups and Bible studies during STA period. Campus Ministers should be practicing their faith on a regular basis.