

STS Course Descriptions

UNDERGRADUATE

STS 101 Old Testament

This course is an overview of the Old Testament in the context of the history of Israel. This course offers a systematic study of God's developing relationship with His people in salvation history, the land of Israel, a survey of the theology of the Pentateuch and an introduction to Psalms, Wisdom Literature, the kings of Israel, and the prophets, with a focus toward their fulfillment in Christ and His Church.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Sacred Scripture; Credits: 3

STS 102 New Testament

This course is a survey of the New Testament, including a consideration of the interrelationships among the three synoptic Gospels, an introduction to the Johannine Gospel, Acts, the Pauline and Catholic epistles, and the book of Revelation.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Sacred Scripture; Credits: 3

STS 201 Church History

This course will present a brief overview of the history of the Catholic Church, as founded upon Christ and His apostles and led by the Holy Spirit through the centuries. This course includes investigating persons, periods, events, movements, controversies, and heresies related to the Church.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 3

STS 202 History of Black Catholics and Saints

This course offers overview of the history of African-American Catholics from the period of Afro-Hispanic settlements, through the slavery and emancipation period, and up to contemporary struggles for Civil Rights, with particular attention to the religious movements which developed among African-American clergy, religious and lay leaders in the American Church, with special focus on black ministry in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This course will survey the life and spirituality of Saints of African heritage.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 3

STS 208 Christian Spirituality and Prayer

This course provides an overview of the history of Christian spirituality. It will also provide the student with the foundations, relevance and efficacy of prayer, its classic forms as taught by the Doctors of the Church, the necessity of a growing renunciation and detachment as well as common obstacles to a consistent and sustained life of prayer. The course will also address key

aspects of the Gospel teaching on prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer, as well as the central importance of the Liturgy as the prayer of the Church.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 2

STS 270 Introduction to Philosophy

This is an introductory course to the discipline of philosophy. It focuses on Ancient Greek philosophers while explicating the methods and branches of philosophy in general. Discussion of the relationship of ancient philosophers to later philosophers as well as the relation between Greek philosophy and Christian Revelation is included.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Philosophy; Credits: 2

STS 294 Catechism of the Catholic Church

This introductory course serves as an overview of the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 2

STS 301 Catechism I - Creed and Sacraments

This course offers an introduction to the doctrine of the Trinity and its development in the history of theology. An investigation of Jesus Christ as the center and fulfillment of Scripture; the Gospel's confession of Christ as God and man, the apostolic kerygma and catechesis of Christ, and the Magisterial development in the doctrines related to Christ. This course also includes an introduction to the Church. Secondly, this course offers a general introduction to grace and the sacraments – their history, theology and catechetical value. Course includes an introduction to the theology of worship through an examination of Sacrosanctum Concilium and of the sacramental rites. Course provides a survey of the Sacraments of Initiation, with emphasis on the various dimensions of the Eucharist as the central Sacrament of Christian living, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments of Service. The Catechism of the Catholic Church will be used, along with other Magisterial documents.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 3

STS 302 Catechism II - Morality and Prayer

This course offers a presentation of the fundamental principles of Catholic moral teachings as developed from Sacred Scripture, the Tradition of the Church, and the Church's Magisterium; with a focus on moral principles including truth, charity, the Commandments, the two great commandments, the virtues, the Beatitudes, as well as topics like conscience, moral absolutes, sin and free will, and mercy. Secondly, this course explores the many dimensions of prayer, with attention to various forms of prayer and the tradition of Christian spirituality which emerged from the heart of the Church. Special attention will be given to the Lord's Prayer and the Liturgy

of the Hours; with analysis of major historical and theological movements which have shaped that tradition and a study of representative spiritual writings from those periods. The Catechism of the Catholic Church will be used, along with other Magisterial documents.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 3

STS 303 Introduction to Theology

The foundation of this course is the Catholic understanding of the relationship between faith and reason as discussed in John Paul II's *Fides et Ratio*. This course introduces students to the metaphysical and epistemological principles fundamental to Christian philosophy. Special emphasis is given to Saint Thomas Aquinas. This course then offers a general introduction to the science of theology, to theological content and to contemporary catechesis, especially the role of the Bible, Tradition, and the Magisterium in setting forth the mystery of God and His Revelation. This course also includes an introduction to Scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the nature and method of sacred theology itself.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Theology; Credits: 3

STS 401 Philosophy for Theology

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the metaphysical and epistemological principles fundamental to Christian philosophy. Special emphasis in our inquiry is given to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Philosophy; Credits: 3

STS 402 Leadership and Renewal in Black Catholic Communities

This course prepares students for leadership in Black Catholic ministry. It includes a discussion on the distinction of the Black Catholic community and culture and an investigation of a variety of critical pastoral issues which arise in ministering in parishes and schools in the African-American community, with reflections upon various Church documents on these issues; the course also addresses concerns about family life, liturgy and spirituality, religious education and evangelization, especially in urban settings, with attention to recent Church statements addressing the needs of African-Americans.

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Other; Credits: 3

STS 410 Practicum or Service Project

Program: STS-U/G; Department: Other; Credits: 1

GRADUATE

STS 501 Foundational Course in Sacred Scripture

This course will be an introduction to the Catholic study of the Sacred Scriptures as the inspired Revelation of God and the soul of sacred theology. It will deal with both the background information regarding the biblical world and the works which comprise the Old and New Testaments. The course will be divided into the following subtopics: canon and authorship (inspiration, inerrancy, authority, canonicity, testament); the written Word and the land of the Bible; the history of Israel and the early Church; and the history and principles of interpretation (the four senses), including Church documents (Dei Verbum), exegetical methods (historical-critical method), and hermeneutics. This course will then apply these biblical tools to examine specific aspects of the Old Testament, including from texts within the Pentateuch, the Wisdom Literature, the Kings, and/or the Prophets.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Sacred Scripture; Credits: 3

STS 502 Synoptic Gospels

A comparative study of the three Synoptic Gospels, including a consideration of the historical setting of the New Testament within first-century Judaism, the contributions of the Church Fathers and Doctors regarding the study of the Gospels, and a brief review of modern New Testament scholarship. The course will deal with questions of authorship and theological purpose, audience and dating, sources and structure. Special attention will be given to significant themes and selected texts in each individual Gospel.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Sacred Scripture; Credits: 3

STS 601 Foundational Course in Systematic Theology

This course investigates the gift of divine Revelation, its reasonability, and man's response in faith. This investigation includes an overview of the nature of Catholic systematic theology as the science of ecclesial faith with emphasis on its foundation in the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas. The relationship between faith and reason as central to the task of theology will be explored, as well as the relationship between theology, Sacred Scripture, Tradition, the Magisterium of the Church, and how to apply the truths of Faith to the issues of the world today.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

STS 602 Theology of Christ

This course will examine the Profession of the Christian Faith, including the doctrines of the Trinity, the twelve articles of the Apostles' Creed, and the other creeds of the Church. Central to the Christian Faith is the mystery of the Triune God – the Revelation of the Father as revealed by Christ through the Holy Spirit. This course studies the origins of the doctrine of the Trinity in the Sacred Scriptures, its development in Church teaching and in the history of theology, as well as contemporary teaching. This course studies the mysteries of the life of Christ, treating the New Testament origins of the Church's Christological doctrine, as well as its development in conciliar

teaching and in the history of theology. This course includes an analysis of Marian doctrine in relation to Christ.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

STS 603 Theology of the Church

This course analyzes the origin, nature and mission of the mystery of the Church. There is a particular focus on the preparation for the Church in the Old Testament, and on the establishment of the Church by Christ and the Holy Spirit upon Peter in the New Testament. This course then examines the essence and structure of the Church as a sacrament of salvation and mystical Body of Christ; the necessity of membership in the Church; the four attributes (marks) of the Church; relationship with non-Christians, other denominations, and society; the Church's structure and mission/ministry; the family as the 'domestic church'; Mary as Mother of the Church; models and symbols of the Church; the role of the laity in the Church; and the eschatological goal of the Church – union with the Trinity. This course also highlights the ecclesiological teaching of Vatican Council II and its subsequent development in magisterial teaching.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

STS 604 Theology of the Sacraments

This course provides the historical and doctrinal survey of the sacraments. It discusses the relationship of the individual sacraments to the Mystery of Christ and the Church, including both regarding principles of general sacramental theology and a consideration of major doctrinal questions regarding individual sacraments. Course includes an introduction to liturgical prayer and liturgical spirituality.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

STS 605 Theology of Grace

An examination of the origin and growth of the new life received through Jesus Christ and the development of confessional language with specific reference to Paul, Augustine, Aquinas and Luther, with emphasis upon the core paradox of divine sovereignty and human freedom, along with attention to related doctrines of original sin, predestination, merit and justification.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

STS 701 Moral Theology

This course begins by surveying the fundamental elements of Christian morality, including freedom, truth, charity, moral action, virtue, conscience, law, sin and grace, and beatitude in a theological context that draws from Sacred Scripture, Tradition, Magisterial teaching, and the natural law. This course then addresses modern moral issues, including a critique of the pluralistic writings of some contemporary American Catholic theologians; medical and life issues; sexuality and marriage issues; and contemporary Catholic social teaching issues.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Moral Theology; Credits: 3

STS 801 Church History

This course will present a brief overview history of the Catholic Church, as founded upon Christ and His apostles and led by the Holy Spirit through the centuries. Presentation will include three levels of inquiry:

- 1) investigating persons, periods, events, movements, controversies, and heresies related to the Church;
- 2) investigating the development of doctrine by examining excerpts from major Church councils;
- 3) examining selected writings from Church Saints and other figures (including Islam and Protestantism) from each period.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

Recent Electives

STS 950 Introduction to Biblical Greek

This course will introduce the student to the Greek alphabet, basic Biblical Greek vocabulary, and essential koine Greek grammar through a reading of passages drawn from the New Testament. The goal of the course is to build basic skills in speaking the Biblical text aloud and translating the text for purposes of study and edification. Tools helpful in this enterprise will also be presented for familiarity and use. (3 Credits)

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Humanities and Science; Credits: 3

STS 960 Origen: Scholar, Theologian, Priest and Martyr

This course examines the person Origen of Alexandria in the historical context of third-century Alexandria and Caesarea. Building on a brief background of the Alexandrian catechetical school, the course will employ a number of Origen's works as well as extensive secondary literature tracing the growth of one of Christianity's greatest theologians who left a lasting and influential mark on Christian thinking and living. Particular attention will be given to his work in Alexandria, his move to and work in Caesarea and his contribution to biblical exegesis.

Program: STS-Grad; Department: Systematic Theology; Credits: 3

STS 939 Making Sense of Bioethics: Selected Topics in Ethics, Biomedicine, and Patient Care

Bioethics is an eminently practical discipline, enabling us to recognize and reflect on moral duties and obligations in the face of complex technologies and new biomedical developments. This course will topically present and discuss a gamut of modern day subjects, ranging from infertility treatments and the ethics of womb transplants to the use of dialysis and ventilators at

the end of life. Bariatric surgery, breast augmentation, the utilization of pain medications, direct and indirect sterilizations, human cloning, erectile dysfunction, 3-parent embryos, needle-exchange programs, and the ethics of recreational drug use will be among the readings and topics considered, with an eye to setting these issues within a natural law framework and emphasizing the principles and circumstances relevant to making an informed prudential judgment.

Program: STS-Grad, Theology; Department: Moral Theology; Credits: 3