



Catholic Studies

Based on the belief that knowledge of Catholic heritage is essential 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 curriculum gives students an opportunity to understand the relationship between Catholicism and the world and to appreciate the richness of Catholic thought and culture.

THE PROGRAM

The Catholic Studies minor provides 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).

CURRICULUM

The 21-credit minor is designed to include several courses already required by the University Core Curriculum and some other majors/minors. The Catholic Studies minor also includes elective courses such as:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement
- Faith, Reason, and Being
- Ignatian Spirituality
- Renaissance Art
- Sacred Music

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 profoundly shapes 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 faithful,

the Catholic Church, and the ongoing development of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition as that tradition encounters various cultures. 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.



DISTINCT OPPORTUNITIES

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. This includes attending events in the Catholic Studies Speaker Series as well as participation in faculty-led student reading groups.

The Catholic Studies Speaker Series hosts events throughout the year in the form of lectures on major Catholic figures, vocational discernment talks, and conversations on spirituality. Previous presenters include Prof. James L. Marsh of Fordham University; Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, postulator of Saint Mother Teresa; Dr. Anne M. Carpenter of Saint Mary's College of California; and Anne Halpine of World Youth Alliance. Events are posted on the University's events calendar.

Catholic Studies students are also encouraged to take part in activities planned by the Office of Mission and Ministry.

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 in theology, law school, various types of religious ministry, and careers in education. Many students completing the minor do not plan to pursue a career directly related to work within a church setting but simply desire how to understand, express, and live their Catholic faith in contemporary culture.



For students interested in continuing their exploration into religious studies, Gonzaga offers an online Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership.

Contact: gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu



FACULTY CONTACT

Joseph Mudd, Ph.D.
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
MUDD@GONZAGA.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
gonzaga.edu/catholicstudies

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