

# Theology

Jason King, Chairperson

Emmanuel Afunugo; Patrick Cronauer, O.S.B.; Rabbi Jason Z. Edelstein; Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B.; Thomas M. Hart, O.S.B.; Benedict Janecko, O.S.B.; Jason King; Elliott C. Maloney, O.S.B.; Christopher McMahon; Nathan J. Munsch, O.S.B.

Adjunct Faculty: Fr. Brian Boosel, O.S.B., John Aupperle; Maria Buoni; Fr. Jason DeVitto; Patricia Sharbaugh; Fr. Thomas More Sikora, O.S.B.; Katrina Wojtunik

The mission of the Theology Department is to follow the rich Benedictine intellectual tradition in preparing students to seriously consider the spiritual dimension of life, thought and study through the discipline of theology.

The department recognizes that "Theology plays a particularly important role in the search for a synthesis of knowledge as well as . . . dialogue between faith and reason. It serves all other disciplines in their search for meaning, not only by helping them to investigate how their discoveries will affect individuals and society but also by bringing a perspective and an orientation not contained within their own methodologies. In turn, interaction with these other disciplines and their discoveries enriches theology, offering it a better understanding of the world today, and making theological research more relevant to current needs." (Pope John Paul II, *On Catholic Universities*, § 19)

The Theology department at St. Vincent College does theology from a Catholic perspective, as explicated by the Second Vatican Council.

The Department of Theology offers two degrees and a minor:

- A Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Theology
- A Bachelor of Arts in Religious Education
- A minor in Religious Studies

## Religious Studies Core

The department believes that the study of theology is an integral part of a liberal arts education and understands that: "While each discipline is taught systematically and according to its own methods, interdisciplinary studies, assisted by a careful and thorough study of philosophy and theology, enable students to acquire an organic vision of reality and to develop a continuing desire for intellectual progress." (Pope John Paul II, *On Catholic Universities*, § 20) Thus, all students take three courses (9 credits) in theology as part of the Core Curriculum. It is required that all students begin with RS 119, Exploring Religious Meaning, normally in their freshman year.

## Major in Catholic Theology

The major in Catholic Theology provides an excellent foundation for work in many different fields, including higher education, clergy, social services, chaplaincy, health professions, law, public and international relations, journalism, business and communications. To this end, many students opt to fulfill the requirements of a second major. Graduates will also be prepared to pursue further academic study, such as M.A. and Ph.D. programs in theology and religious studies.

**Theology Requirements: 30 credits, including:**  
(See Core Curriculum requirements.)

RS 119	Exploring Religious Meaning	3
RS 201	Old Testament I	3
or		
RS 203	Old Testament II	3
RS 214	Four Gospels	3
or		

RS 215	Epistles of Saint Paul	3
RS 221	Basics of Catholic Faith	3
	One course in moral theology	
RS 300	Biblical & Theological Hermeneutics	3
	2 Electives 300 level	6
	1 graduate course in Theology (600, 700, or 800 level)	3
RS 499	Senior Thesis	3
	Exit Interview: 0 credits	0

## Electives (39 credits)

Recommended:

- Modern Languages for emphasis in Theology (Latin, French, German, Spanish)
- Ancient Languages for emphasis in Biblical Studies (Biblical Greek or Biblical Hebrew, Latin)

## The Major in Religious Education

The major in Religious Education is an excellent program for employment in the field of Religious Education in a faith-based school system. Many graduates also may choose the benefits of working in a parish setting as a Director of Religious Education. Graduates will also be prepared to pursue further study, such as the master in religious education (M.R.E.), master of divinity (M.Div.), or a doctorate in ministry (D.Min.)

**Theology Requirements: 21 credits, including:**  
(See Core Curriculum requirements.)

RS 119	Exploring Religious Meaning	3
RS 201	Old Testament I	3
or		
RS 203	Old Testament II	3
RS 214	Four Gospels	3
or		
RS 215	Epistles of Saint Paul	3
RS 221	Basics of Catholic Faith (and one other course in Catholic doctrine)	3
	Three additional courses in Theology	9

Education and Methodology: 10 credits, including:

ED 100	Foundations of Education	3
RE 100	Practicum	1
RE 200	Methods of Religious Education	3
RE 550	Internship	

Other Requirements: 21 credits, including:

BA 100	Elementary Accounting I	3
PY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
PY 115	Educational Psychology	3
PY 214	Adolescent Development	3
SO 101	Introduction to Sociology	3
SO 235	Inequality and Social Problems	3
	One Communications course	3

## Electives (27 credits)

The student may wish to pursue a minor in another field.

## Typical Freshman Year Schedule

*Fall Semester*

RS 119	Exploring Religious Meaning	3
PY 100	Introduction to Psychology	3
SO 235	Inequality and Social Problems	3
	Foreign Language (intermediate or advanced level)	3
	Natural Science	4

All students will take one three (3) credit course designated as a First-Year Seminar which will satisfy a Core Curriculum requirement.

### Spring Semester

RS 201	Old Testament I	3
or		
RS 203	Old Testament II History Course	3 3
EL 102	Language and Rhetoric	3
	Foreign Language (intermediate or advanced level)	3
	Natural Science	4

### Religious Studies Minor

The minor in Religious Studies enables students to relate theology to their primary field of study. The minor consists of six courses (18 credits) selected with an advisor from the theology faculty. Interested students should contact the Department Chairperson no later than the sophomore year.

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## Course Descriptions

### RE 100 Practicum

Systematic observation of students and their learning environment is made in catechetical programs along with selected readings in religious education. One credit.

### RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning

The objective of the course is to explore the meaning of the Judeo-Christian tradition primarily through the study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, with an appreciation of the various critical methods necessary for further study. Related to this primary objective, the course also (1) explores the meaning of religion as a universal human quest; (2) provides an introduction to the religious traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam; (3) provides a survey of the history of Christianity to the present; (4) explores the relevance of the religious traditions to contemporary issues. Three credits.

### RS 134 History of Jewish Thought

This course is a study of the evolution of Jewish thought as it interacted with and grew from the varied environments in which the Jews found themselves from the biblical period to the present day. Three credits.

### RE 200 Methods of Religious Education

A study of key texts in religious education. Development of catechetical planning, resources and methodology for communicating the Christian message. Emphasis on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in relation to catechetics and other essential liturgical texts. Three credits.

### RS 201 Old Testament Part 1

An introduction to the study of biblical literature. The course will focus on the primary history of Israel from its beginnings to the eighth century B.C.E., as found in the books of Genesis through 1 Kings. Also included will be the role of the prophet as exemplified in Amos and Hosea. Three credits.

### RS 203 Old Testament Part 2

An introduction to the study of biblical literature. The course will deal with the history of Israel from the eighth century B.C.E. up to the Christian era including an examination of the Prophetic Literature, Wisdom Literature and the Deutero-Canonical Writings of the Bible. (RS 201 Old Testament Part 1 is not required for this course.) Three credits.

### RS 214 The Four Gospels

A deeper look into the methods of Gospel criticism including an historical approach to the life of Jesus. An introduction to the background and theology of each of the four canonical Gospels. Three credits.

### RS 215 Epistles of Saint Paul

A study of the background and arguments of the Pauline writings. Reading and interpretation of the major epistles, especially as they regard Christian living. Three credits.

### RS 218 Apocalyptic Literature

A survey of Jewish and Christian literature including a history of the apocalyptic movement in biblical times, the Old Testament books of Ezekiel and Daniel, the "Little Apocalypses" of the Synoptic Gospels and the Book of Revelation. Three credits.

### RS 221 Basics of Catholic Faith

In this course an attempt is made to address the most basic elements that together make up the living reality of Catholic faith: Gospel, Jesus of Nazareth, Church, Jewish roots, liturgy, doctrine, Christian moral life, tradition, and the Kingdom of God. Three credits.

### RS 223 Ancient Near Eastern Texts

An exploration of religious texts of the Ancient Near East including the Epic of Gilgamesh, mythological stories of Creation and the Great Flood, legal texts, songs, proverbs and wisdom literature. The course will illustrate the influence of such ANE literature upon the Bible. Three credits.

### RS 225 History of Christian Thought

An exploration of the major ideas and movements which have formed Christianity. The course will survey pivotal doctrines such as Trinity, Redemption, and Church, and will cover the thought of the Ancient Church, the Middle Ages, Reformation, Enlightenment, as well as the 19th and 20th centuries. Three credits.

### RS 227 Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

A survey of the Orthodox Christian faith focusing on the fundamental beliefs of the Church including: the nature and meaning of the Church, the primary sources of faith, the liturgical and sacramental life, the nature and role of iconography and ecclesiastical architecture and hymnography. This course will compare and contrast elements of the traditions of the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. Three credits.

### RS 229 Orthodox Christian Spirituality

A reflection on the Christian life within the context of Orthodox Christianity in dialogue with the Roman Catholic tradition. This course will introduce the student to the lives and writings of the saints, martyrs and mystics of the early and contemporary church, both East and West. Particular attention will be paid to the notion of "theosis" or "deification" of the human person understood as the ultimate goal of life lived in communion with God. Three credits.

### RS 231 Religion in America

A study of the American experience from the colonial period to the present from the perspective of religion and its relation to the individual and society. Three credits.

### RS 232 American Judaism

The story of how a distinctive form of Judaism, an amalgam of four thousand years of tradition and three hundred years of experience on these shores, developed in North America. Attention is given to the shape of the Jewish community, its culture, modes of worship, concerns and problems. Three credits.

### RS 235 Introduction to Judaism

A study of Jewish attitudes toward God, humanity, community and life. Contemporary Jewish concerns, including the impact of the State of Israel, are part of this survey. Three credits.

**RS 241 World Religions**

A survey of the world religions including: native religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, as well as Shintoism, Confucianism and Taoism. Included will be the religious practices, customs and beliefs of each tradition. Three credits.

**RS 242 Myth and Ritual in Religion**

This course will examine the various symbols and rituals used in religion. It will examine them from a historical, cultural and psychological viewpoint, as well as relate how they continue to affect the contemporary world. Three credits.

**RS 243 American Indigenous Religions**

An examination of the pre-Columbian, colonial, and contemporary religious traditions of the indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere. Three credits.

**RS 252 Theology in Latin America**

An examination of the theological movements of Latin America. After a brief presentation of the introduction of Christianity to the Americas, the course will explore the development of political and social systems, which have marked Latin American religious life. The emphasis will be on the present state of Latin American theologies, as well as on the relation between religion, politics and society. Three credits.

**RS 253 Catholic Social Thought**

Since at least the time of St. Augustine, Christians have described themselves as residents simultaneously of two cities, the earthly and the heavenly. As such, they feel the call to take history seriously. Christians have sought to tame but not sanctify secular institutions such as governments, economic markets and social structures. Since the 1891 publication of *Rerum Novarum* by Pope Leo XIII the Catholic Church has developed an evolving body of teaching on political, economic, social, and cultural matters. Although the phrase "Catholic Social Teaching" may be extended to include the writings of theologians and others on a local level, it usually refers to specific documents authored by popes, the Second Vatican Council and the Synod of Bishops. This course will focus its attention on a dozen of these documents that contain the most development on economic and political matters. Three credits.

**RS 254 Holocaust Questions**

An inquiry concerning the "kingdom of death," and the religious and moral issues attending the building of that kingdom. Hitler's war against the Jews assaulted the fundamental values of biblical religion. This course will confront the implications for contemporary humanity of the shaking of these foundations. Three credits.

**RS 255 The Benedictine Heritage**

An interpretation of the past, present and future significance of the peculiar Christian lifestyle known as Benedictine monasticism. A study of the Rule of Benedict of Nursia which attempts to translate the great Christian ideals of love of God and love of neighbor into a life of common worship and community service. This has resulted in a reorientation of the values of individuals and groups with lasting spiritual and cultural significance. Three credits.

**RS 256 Ecclesiology**

A theological study of the teaching of the Catholic Church concerning the origin and meaning of the Church of Jesus Christ. Primary emphasis is placed upon biblical testimony and the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. The study also includes an overview of the Church in history as well as contemporary issues. Three credits.

**RS 258 Protestant Traditions**

A course dealing with the foundations which the Reformation period laid for Protestantism in Europe. Luther and basic Protestant tenets will be explored as well as the Wesleyan movement in England and 19th-century American revivalism. Three credits.

**RS 260 Catholic Sexual Ethics**

This course will present the understanding of human sexuality and of sexual morality as it has been developed in the continuing Catholic Tradition, in contrast with contemporary culture. Its purpose is also to show the perennial truth of the Catholic understanding of sexuality. This course will explore the broad meaning of human sexuality and the differences in male and female sexuality and the significance of these differences. Furthermore, we will examine the development of the Catholic Tradition regarding sexual morality, beginning with the Scriptures, continuing with the Fathers and medieval theologians. The course will also examine the debates over contraception, the response of the magisterium to these debates in *Humane Vitae* and the reaction to this magisterial document. Three credits.

**RS 266 Revivalism in America**

An exploration of the beginnings, development and impact of Revivalism as a part of American life. The Great Awakening, Charles Finney, Dwight Moody, Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, and the electronic media will be among the topics to be examined. Three credits.

**RS 267 Religious Beliefs of Abraham Lincoln**

A study of Abraham Lincoln's unique and strong faith; his religious convictions in relationship to the context of his childhood, his presidency, nineteenth-century America, and their effect upon the age in which we live. Three credits.

**RS 268 Faith Legacy of Jimmy Carter**

This course is designed to provide an historical analysis of Jimmy Carter's life and work. Attention will be given to his childhood, education, military service, and of course, his political life. His presidency will be viewed as a time of transition and development. The course will also examine the work of The Carter Peace Center which is a vital part of the contemporary world community. The legacy of President Carter's religious faith will be a thread running through all of these considerations. Three credits.

**RS 269 Catholic Sacraments**

The Sacraments of the Christian tradition will be studied from a historical perspective. In addition, they will be seen in relation to the social sciences. Finally, the Sacraments will be considered in light of personal, communal, ecclesiastical and global spirituality. Three credits.

**RS 274 Christian Marriage**

Exploration of the Christian foundations of marriage and family; nature of love; purpose and future of the family in American society. Three credits.

**RS 279 Christology**

A biblical study of the life and teaching of Jesus. An examination of various portraits of Jesus from earliest Christianity through the Middle Ages to contemporary images. Three credits.

**RS 280 Introduction to Moral Theology**

The activity of theorizing is a matter of free and intelligent decision in pursuit of an intelligible good. Are we confident that moral judgments can be objective? Can they express insights into aspects of reality, rather than mere feelings, tastes, and desires? Why must we consider some of our choices to be free and how do our free choices matter? How far should our moral judgments be

based on assessments of expected consequences? In this course, we shall offer a Catholic response to these questions, as well as the problems of utilitarianism and other consequentialist or proportionalistic theories. Three credits.

**RS 281 Christian Business Ethics**

An examination of managerial decision-making on ethical issues in business. The course considers Christian tradition, ethical theories and common ethical dilemmas found in organizational life today. The goal is to develop skills in applying a reasoned account of our moral views to selected cases in real life situations. This will help the student to think through difficult ethical decisions encountered in business. Three credits.

**RS 282 Catholic Bioethics**

At the outset of his papacy, Pope John Paul II warned that ethics must keep pace with technology. As we read daily of emerging medical technologies, we know that a daunting challenge lies before us all. Such technologies have great capacity for good, but also great capacity for evil. This course will take up specific issues in bioethics of special concern to marriage and family namely (1) The laboratory generation of human life. (2) Ethical reasons why non-marital ways of generating new human life are intrinsically immoral. (3) Controversy surrounding the transfer of frozen embryo in the womb. (4) The beginning of human life and abortion. (5) Experimentation on human subjects. (6) Euthanasia and the care of the dying, with particular attention to determining the criteria for withholding/ withdrawing treatment and applying these criteria especially to persons alleged to be in the persistent vegetative state. Three credits.

**RS 300 Biblical and Theological Hermeneutics**

An introduction to the methodologies of critical interpretation of the Old and New Testaments, with application to one biblical book. This biblical theology will then set the stage for the dialogue with historical and dogmatic texts which make up systematic theology. Prerequisite: RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning. Three credits.

**RS 301 Classics in Catholic Theology**

This course introduces students to the study of primary sources that have shaped and expressed the Catholic tradition from the apostolic age to the present. The study examines how the developing theological tradition interpreted the Sacred Scriptures in responding to changing historical circumstances of the Church and the surrounding culture. The selection of classic works will focus on but will not be limited to the Western Catholic Tradition. The reading list varies from semester to semester, and is available at the time of registration. Prerequisite: RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning. Three credits.

**RS 310 Old Testament Topics**

A more concise examination of one particular Old Testament complex, for example, one particular book, the Jewish apocrypha, or an Old Testament canonical question. Prerequisite: RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning. Three credits.

**RS 312 New Testament Topics**

A more concise examination of one particular New Testament complex, for example, one particular book, the Christian apocrypha, or a New Testament canonical question. Prerequisite: RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning. Three credits.

**RS 320 Topics in Theology**

A more concise examination of a particular doctrine in systematic theology, for example, one of the sacraments, The Trinity, Mariology, Theology and Film. Prerequisite: RS 119 Exploring Religious Meaning. Three credits.

**RS 350 Independent Study**

May be repeated. Variable credit.

**RS 499 Senior Thesis**

Three credits.

**RE 550 Cooperative Education Religious Education—Religious Education Internship**

In conjunction with the chairperson, the student pursues an internship which enables the student to implement various teaching skills. It is expected that the student can utilize acquired academic knowledge and manifest leadership abilities in a religious education setting. Three credits.

**Undeclared**

*Alice J. Kaylor, Coordinator*

*Doreen Blandino; Nathan M. Cochran, O.S.B.; Thaddeus Coreno, David W. Grumbine, Timothy Kelly; Gabriel R. Pellathy; Sandra Quinlivan, Nancy A. Rottler, John J. Smetanka, Peggy Smith*

Many first-year college students are unsure about a specific course of studies or a possible career, and they might want to explore several options in college. Saint Vincent College recognizes that high school seniors might not be prepared to make a definite choice about an academic major and consequently offers the Undeclared Major for those students who have not yet arrived at a definite choice concerning their future.

The Undeclared Major is transitional in nature, but advising and supervision provide the framework found in any traditional major. On arrival at Saint Vincent, the Undeclared Student will be assigned an experienced and trained academic advisor from the college faculty who will assist the student in selecting courses from the Core Curriculum of the College which fit individual interests and expose the student to various academic courses and career options. The advisor will continue to monitor the student's progress, help with future course selection, and ultimately assist the Undeclared Major in the selection of a traditional academic major. In order to complete requirements for the selected major, the student will declare a major no later than the spring semester of the sophomore year.

In addition to the academic advisor, Career Services at Saint Vincent College also helps the Undeclared Major select the right major and career. Career Services administers a battery of personal inventory tests which assess a student's skills, interests, and potential. Career Services also sponsors career seminars, assists in the preparation of resumes, maintains placement files, coordinates internships and on-campus recruiting, and maintains an up-to-date library of career resources.

**Typical Freshman Schedule:\***

	Fall	Spring
Language and Rhetoric	3	3
or		
Exploring Religious Meaning	3	3
Mathematics	3	
History or	3	3
Social Sciences	3	3
Modern Language		3
Natural Sciences		4
Modern Language	3	
	15	16

All students will take one three (3) credit course designated as a First-Year Seminar which will satisfy a Core Curriculum requirement.

\*Course selection will depend upon the individual interests of the student. For example, a student considering a major in the social sciences will enroll in the introductory level course for the major; i.e. SO 101 Introduction to Sociology or PY 100 Introduction to Psychology in the fall semester.