

SYT 114 Introduction to Sacraments and Christian Initiation

Fall 2019

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

September 6 – December 6, 2019.

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Fridays at 8:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m., Newman Theological College, St. Eugene de Mazenod Room

Instructors Name: Rev. Stephen Hero, STL, SLL
Office: Rector's Office, St. Joseph Seminary
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, by appointment
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Course Description

A historical, scriptural and theological study of the Church's developing understanding of the notion of Sacrament through five main periods: New Testament, Patristic, Scholastic, Modern, and Contemporary. A close study of the theology of Baptism and Confirmation as Sacraments of Initiation with their goal in the Eucharist. Liturgical renewal and the R.C.I.A. process. Cultural, pastoral, and ecumenical considerations.

Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** – To enable students to think through theologically the Church's teaching on the Sacraments in general, as well as Baptism and Confirmation in particular.
- b) **Cultural Context** – To help students distinguish between the unchanging Tradition regarding the Sacraments and the developing ritual expression of Christian Initiation in the various times and places including Canada today.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** – To promote a deeper, conscious, and more actual participation in the Mystery of Christ through the Sacramental celebrations of the Church.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** – To enable students to understand and dialogue about current issues in pastoral ministry regarding Baptism, Confirmation and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

- a) Each student is responsible for all the assigned readings for each class and is expected to participate actively in discussion.
- b) 5 Page Paper: Research the history of one rite of the Baptismal Liturgy. How does it encapsulate the theology of baptism? (Due October 25) [25%]

- c) 5 Page Paper: Show from history, tradition and theology how Confirmation is a Sacrament distinct from Baptism. (Due November 8) [25%]
- d) 5 Page Paper: How has my notion of sacrament and the importance of sacraments in a life of faith deepened in this course? Give specific references to the required texts and other readings for the course. (Due November 29) [25%]
- e) Final Oral Examination of 10 minutes (preparatory QQ will be distributed beforehand)[25%].

Textbooks

PAUL HAFFNER, *The Sacramental Mystery* (Revised Edition), Gracewing, Herefordshire 2008. [Ukrainian Catholic Students may substitute: ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN, *For the Life of the World*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1973]

AIDAN KAVANAGH, *The Shape of Baptism: The Rite of Christian Initiation*, A Pueblo Book, Collegeville: Liturgical Press 1991.

LIAM G. WALSH, O.P., *Sacraments of Initiation: A Theology of Life, Word, and Rite*, Hillenbrand Books, Chicago 2011.

Recommended Reading

NICHOLAS CABASILAS, *The Life of Christ*, Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press 1974.

MICHAEL KUNZLER, *The Church's Liturgy* (Amateca Handbooks of Catholic Theology). Tr. P. Murray, et al. New York: Continuum, 2001.

EDWARD YARNOLD, S.J., *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation: The Origins of the R.C.I.A.* London: T. and T. Clark Ltd, 1994

Course Requirements

This class comprises 36 hours of instruction and seminar-style discussion. Students must attend all classes and are expected to prepare for each week by doing the assigned readings and being able to participate in the class discussions. In addition to the required text books, complementary readings will be assigned on occasion by the instructor to illustrate original sources of The written assignments and final exam are means to help the student to assimilate and integrate the readings in his/her own theological synthesis, life and ministry.

Course Schedule

September

- 06 Introduction and Theological Preconditions for Sacramental Theology
- 13 Christ as the Primordial Sacrament
- 20 The Church as the Fundamental Sacrament of Christ; Holy Orders
- 27 The Sacraments in General

October

- 04 The Sacraments in General

- 11 Holy Baptism
- 25 *Class Cancelled due to Canadian Rectors' Meeting*
Make-up Class TBD – Holy Baptism Continued
- November
- 01 Holy Confirmation / Chrismation
- 08 Holy Eucharist
- 15 *Reading Break*
- 22 Holy Eucharist
- 29 Holy Penance and Holy Anointing
- December
- 06 RCIA
- 13 Final Written Exam

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Late assignments **will not** be accepted unless an extension (previous to the due date) has been granted for serious reasons.

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Papers shall be typed, 12 point, double-spaced, and of the length specified using *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* 7th Ed. By Kate L. Turabian, published by University of Chicago Press, 2007, for the layout of the papers, including the title page, footnotes and bibliography.

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).

3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu.

Bibliography

A detailed bibliography will be available on the first day of class.