Cathedral Catholic High School
Course Catalog

Course Title: Christian Life Choices and Catholic Social Justice

Course #: 1141-1142

Course Description: All students are welcome in this community based course. Senior year religion classes include dynamic activities, engaging discussion, integrated technology for innovative learning, creative projects and intentional space for personal prayer development.

During the fall semester students will be introduced to the Church’s social teaching. 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.

During the spring semester students will be challenged to recognize that there is a universal call to holiness. Students will discern how God is calling them in their own life to use their God given gifts and talents to build the kingdom of God. In this course, students will learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ in the work of the Catholic Church in the world today. Students will investigate what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community. Specific focus will include the vocations of priesthood, consecrated life and marriage.

UC/CSU Approval: Religion courses are not UC/CSU Approved

Grade Level: 12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 30 minutes

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:
- Biblical Literacy: Students should be able to discuss the top 10 teachings of Jesus, the purpose of parables and miracles of Jesus.
- Students should be able to discuss the writings of Paul in the New Testament and their implication of how to live a life of discipleship.
- Students should be able to connect Christian themes of faith, hope and charity to living in the 21st century
- Theological Literacy: Students should be able to discuss the importance of Sacraments in the life of discipleship.
- Students should be able to use the USCCB.org and Vatican.va websites for theological research
Course Grade Scale:

- 40% Assessments
- 35% Assignments
- 10% Participation
- 15% Cumulative Final Exam

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

Unit 1: Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching
Key concepts:
- Beginning in the 1800s, important changes in society caused new injustices; the Church responded by applying moral law to these new social injustices.
- The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops summarized the social teaching of the Church in seven key themes that serve as a guide for living as a disciple in modern society.
- Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 2: Respecting Human Life
Key concepts:
- Societies are cultures of life when they respect and protect human life, and they are cultures of death when they deny the sacredness of human life.
- Every person’s life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception until natural death.
- Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 3: Promoting Peace
Key concepts:
- Responding to violence with violence is against Christ's call to live as peacemakers.
- Legitimate self-defense and nonviolent resistance are two moral ways of responding to violent aggression.
- Assessment: Unit Test

Unit 4: Dignity in Diversity
Key concepts:
- God loves everyone, and he calls us to love and respect those who are different from us.
- Freedom does not mean that we have the right to pursue our secondary rights at the expense of someone else’s primary rights.
- Assessment: Project

Unit 5: Economic Justice
Key concepts:
- Poverty and hunger are often the result of social sin and are supported by sinful social structures.
Economic systems require critical analysis and appropriate oversight to ensure that they contribute to the common good.

Unit 6: Care for the Earth
Key concepts:
- God calls us to be stewards of the earth and its goods.
- Societies must develop social structures that sustain the earth and its goods.
- Among all God’s creatures, human beings have a special role because of our unique ability to either harm the earth and its goods or to nurture and perfect them.

Spring Semester Unit Calendar
Vocation
- Describe how Christian vocation must be rooted in Baptism and must lead us to communion with God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Review how the laity shares in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and king by fully participating in the spiritual and sacramental life of the Church, by proclaiming the Good News of salvation and by modeling service to others
- Interpret how in their relationship with the local parish and local community, lay people participate in the life of the universal Church

Project Assessment

Discerning God’s Call in your Life
- Describe what it means to generously respond to God’s invitation - whatever that may be - means to be filled with the fire of God’s love and a passion for loving service
- Develop a daily pattern of conversation with God is essential to discerning his will for us
- Interpret individually that our Christian vocation must be discerned in the midst of a community of faith. True discernment involves our whole selves - spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally

Project Assessment

Priesthood
- Summarize that having received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops are entrusted with the threefold mission of teaching, governing, and assisting the faithful in becoming holy
- Understand that to become a priest, a man goes through a process of formation that helps him to discern his vocation and prepares him for ordained ministry within the Church
- Recall the Sacrament of Holy Orders carries with it particular effects that change the person being ordained

Assessment - Unit Test
Religious Communities

- Recognize the consecrated life is a vocation that enables men and women to give themselves totally to God and sets them apart as special witnesses to God’s Kingdom.
- Describe the ways Consecrated sisters, nuns, brothers, monks, and priests live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience in service to the Church.
- Discuss that each officially recognized consecrated community in the Church embodies a particular inspiration of the Holy Spirit, given for building and strengthening the Body of Christ in the world.

Project Assessment

Christian Marriage

- Summarize that in Sacred Scripture we learn that Marriage is a sacred covenant created and blessed by God and given the dignity of being numbered among the Seven Sacraments.
- Illustrate that the intimate communion of life and love that characterizes Christian Marriage is a sign and symbol of God’s covenant with his people, a covenant of love and grace in Jesus Christ.
- Construct a project showing that couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage take on the responsibility of understanding that Marriage is a public and permanent sacramental sign that must be entered with free, mature, and full consent.

Project Assessment