THEO 60894-01: Introduction to Catechetical Theology

July 7- 25, 2014.

MTWHF 12:30-3:00 PM

Instructor:

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the theological principles undergirding the ministry of catechesis. In the first week of the course, we devote significant attention to a theology of revelation grounded in the pedagogy of God. In the second week, we attend to the fundamental tasks of catechesis with particular attention to historical texts that embody these tasks. In the last week, we treat contemporary questions in catechesis related to catechetical pedagogy, culture, and the arts.

Course Objectives:

1. Become familiar with the fundamental vocabulary and grammar of the Church's ministry of catechesis through attention to documents and core theological texts.

2. Develop a facility in assessing the philosophical and theological assumptions of catechetical pedagogy in the twentieth century.

3. Cultivate an awareness of the sociological and cultural situation of "traditioning" faith within an American context.

4. Ground a personally appropriated catechetical pedagogy in the way of beauty (an aesthetic, sacramental pedagogy of faith).

Required Texts:

1. *General Directory for Catechesis*. (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1997).
2. *National Directory for Catechesis*. (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2005).
3. Augustine, *Instructing Beginners in Faith*, trans. Raymond Canning (New York: New City Press, 2006).

4. Luigi Giussani, *The Risk of Education: Discovering Our Ultimate Destiny* (New York: Crossroad, 2001).
5. Other required texts may be found on Sakai.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation and close attention to the readings of the day (25%). Participation grade will be assessed through a writing assignment conducted each day in class.

2. Two five page essays due on Monday, July 14 and Monday, July 21 (50%).

3. A final, take home exam due by 8:00 PM on Friday, July 25 (25%).

Course Schedule:

Part 1: Catechesis, Evangelization, and the Pedagogy of God

Monday, July 7: The Religion of the Day

Part 1: Introduction to the Course

- John Henry Newman, *Parochial and Plain Sermons*: "The Religion of the Day" and "Self-Contemplation."
- Hans urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone is Credible*, 51-60.

Part 2: The Religious Imagination Today

- Christian Smith, "Is Moralistic Therapeutic Deism the New Religion of American Youth?: Implications for the Challenge of Religious Socialization and Reproduction," 55-74.
- Christian Smith, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*, 172-92.
- GDC nos. 14-33; NDC—Chapter 1.

Tuesday, July 8: Catechesis and Evangelization

Part 1: Evangelization as the Mission of the Church

- GDC nos. 34-91; NDC—Chapter 2.

Part 2: The New Evangelization and Catechesis

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Wednesday, July 9: The Trinitarian-Christocentric Nature of Catechesis

Part 1: The Trinitarian and Christocentric Nature of Catechesis

- GDC nos. 92-118; NDC—Chapter 3.
- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chapter 3.

Part 2: A Trinitarian and Christocentric Pedagogy

- Joseph Ratzinger, "Christocentrism in Preaching?" in *Dogma and Preaching: Applying Christian Doctrine to Daily Life*, 40-58.
- Joseph Ratzinger, *The God of Jesus Christ: Meditations on the Triune God*, 69-84.
- Henri de Lubac, SJ, *Catholicism: Christ and the Common Destiny of Man*, 25-81.

Thursday, July 10: The Pedagogy of God

Part 1: The Pedagogy of God Examined

- GDC nos. 137-62; NDC—Chapter 4.

Part 2: The Pedagogy of God Performed—A Case Study

- Augustine, *De doctrina christiana*, Book 1.
- Augustine, *Instructing Beginners in Faith*, Prologue.

Friday, July 11: Augustine and the Pedagogy of God

Parts 1 and 2: The Pedagogy of God Performed—A Case Study

- Augustine, *Instructing Beginners in Faith*, Parts 1 and 2.

Monday, July 14: A Contemporary Pedagogy of God

Parts 1 and 2: The Risk of Education

- Luigi Giussani, *The Risk of Education*, 7-85.

Part 2: (Selected) Tasks of Catechesis

Tuesday, July 15, The Liturgical Task of Catechesis—Part 1

Part 1: The Liturgical Task of Catechesis

- NDC, Chapter 5.
- Timothy P. O'Malley, *Liturgy and the New Evangelization: Practicing the Art of Self-Giving Love,* 9-34.

Part 2: The R.C.I.A. as Paradigm for Adult Formation

- Selections from the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.*
- Aidan Kavanagh, *The Shape of Baptism*, selections.

Wednesday, July 16: The Liturgical Task of Catechesis—Part 2

Part 1: Rites of Return and Sacramental Formation—"Infant" Initiation

- Introductions to the *Rites of Baptism for Children, Confirmation, and Penance.*
- Vern Bengtson, *Families and Faith: How Religion is Passed Down Across Generations,* 20-53; 71-98.
- Karl Rahner, "Ideas for a Theology of Childhood," in *Theological Investigations* (Volume VIII): 33-50.

Part 2: Rites of Return and Sacramental Formation—Marriage and Family Life

- Introduction to the *Rite of Marriage.*
- Angelo Cardinal Scola, *The Nuptial Mystery*, Selections.
- Mary Ellen Konieczny, *The Spirit's Tether: Family, Work, and Religion among American Catholics,* 98-138.

Thursday, July 17: The Moral Task of Catechesis—Part 1

Part 1: The Moral Task of Catechesis

- NDC, Chapter 6.
- *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chapter 4.

Part 2: Catechesis and Human Dignity: A Case Study (Consumerism)

- *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church,* Selections.
- Vincent J. Miller, *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture,* 107-45.

Friday, July 18: The Moral Task of Catechesis—Part 2

Parts 1 and 2: The Character Project as Approach to Moral Catechesis

- Selected Readings, TBA.

Part 3: Contemporary Methodologies for Catechesis: An Assessment

Monday, July 21: Shared Christian Praxis—A Modern Approach

- Selections from Thomas H. Groome, *Christian Religious Education* and *Sharing Faith*.

Tuesday, July 22: Christian Practice

- Selections from Craig Dykstra, *Growing in the Life of Faith*.
- Selections from *Teaching and Christian Practices: Reshaping Faith and Learning*.

Wednesday, July 23: A Liturgical-Sacramental, Aesthetic Approach—Part 1.

Parts 1 and 2: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

- Selected Readings from Sofia Cavalletti.

Thursday, July 24: A Liturgical-Sacramental, Aesthetic Approach—Part 2.

Part 1: Catechesis and Poetry

- John Paul II, *Letter to Artists*
- Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Selected Poems*.

Part 2: Catechesis and Literature

- Flannery O'Connor, "The Novelist and the Believer," in *Mystery and Manners: Occasional Prose*, 154-68.
- Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and "Revelation."

Friday, July 25: The Catechist, the Parish, and Mission

Parts 1 and 2:

- Readings T.B.A.