THEO 60894-01: Introduction to Catechetical Theology

July 9, 2018-July 27, 2018

 MTWHF 12:20-3:00 PM

Instructor:

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**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the theological principles undergirding the ministry of catechesis. The course begins with an analysis of the *General Directory for Catechesis*, discerning the major theological and pastoral principles of this ministry. Students will then be introduced to the history of catechesis as a discipline both historically and systematically. In the final part of the course, students will develop a theology of teaching drawn from catechesis, in addition to discerning the unity of the tasks of catechesis in theory and practice.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Become familiar with the fundamental vocabulary and grammar of the Church’s ministry of catechesis.

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

3. Develop dispositions for intellectual leadership in the areas of catechesis and theological education.

**Required Texts:**

1. *General Directory for Catechesis*. (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1997).
2. Sofia Cavalletti, *The Religious Potential of the Child—6 to 12 Years Old* (Chicago: LTP, 2002).
3. Luigi Giussani, *The Risk of Education* (New York, Crossroad, 2001).
4. Timothy P. O’Malley, *Liturgy and the New Evangelization: Practicing the Art of Self-Giving Love* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2013).
5. Gerard O’Shea, *Educating in Christ: A Practical Handbook for Developing the Catholic Faith from Childhood to Adolescence* (Brooklyn, NY: Angelico Press, 2018).
6. Augustine of Hippo, *Instructing Beginners in Faith* (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2006).

**Course Requirements:**

1. A reading journal (20%)
2. Two catechetical exercises due Monday, July 16 and Monday, July 23 (20% each, total 40%)
3. A final, take home exam due by Saturday morning after the last day of class (40%). The exam will have one of three options.
	1. Based upon our reading over the course of the semester, describe the vocation of the catechist/theological educator in the Church today. What should the catechist/theological educator teach? How should he/she teach it? To whom should it be directed? The exam should be no more than seven pages.
	2. In a seven page essay, describe how catechesis/theological education is a liturgical-sacramental activity of the Church.
	3. An assignment worked out in conjunction with the professor.

##### Course Schedule:

## Monday, July 9: *The General Directory for Catechesis*

* GDC nos. 1-162.

## Tuesday, July 10: Augustine of Hippo as Catechist—Part 1

* *Instructing Beginners in Faith*, 1.1-14.22.

Wednesday, July 11: Augustine of Hippo as Catechist—Part 2

* *Instructing Beginners in Faith,* 15.23-27.55

Thursday, July 12: A Pedagogical Theology of Catechesis—Part 1

* Gerard O’Shea, *Educating in Christ*, 1-58

Friday, July 13: A Pedagogical Theology of Catechesis—Part 2

* Gerard O’Shea, *Educating in Christ*, 59-80, 141-172

Monday, July 16: The Practice of Kerygmatic-Liturgical Catechesis—Part 1

* Sofia Cavalletti, *The Religious Potential of the Child—6 to 12 Years Old*, viii.-41.

Tuesday, July 17: The Practice of Kerygmatic-Liturgical Catechesis—Part 3

* Sofia Cavalletti, *The Religious Potential of the Child—6 to 12 Years Old*, 42-96.

Wednesday, July 18: The Practice of Kerygmatic-Liturgical Catechesis—Part 4

* Sofia Cavalletti, *The Religious Potential of the Child*—*6 to 12 Years Old*, 97-132.

Thursday, July 19: A Kerygmatic-Liturgical Approach to Catechesis for Adults—Part 1

* Timothy P. O’Malley, *Liturgy and the New Evangelization: Practicing the Art of Self-Giving Love*, 1-50.

Friday, July 20: A Kerygmatic-Liturgical Approach to Catechesis for Adults—Part 2

* Timothy P. O’Malley, *Liturgy and the New Evangelization,* 51-75

## Monday, July 23: A Kerygmatic-Sacramental Approach to Catechesis for Adults—Part 3

* Timothy P. O’Malley, *Liturgy and the New Evangelization*, 76-138.

Tuesday, July 24: The Nature of Catholic Education in a School—Part 1

* Jacques Maritain, *Education at the Crossroads,* 1-57

Wednesday, July 25: The Nature of Catholic Education in a School—Part 2

* Jacques Maritain, *Education at the Crossroads,* 58-118

## Thursday, July 26: The Risk of Theological Education—Part 1

* Luigi Giussani, *The Risk of Education*, 7-49

## Friday, July 27: The Risk of Theological Education—Part 2

* Luigi Giussani, *The Risk of Education*, 49-97, 105-140.