

RI 117 FOUNDATIONS OF THEOLOGY I
COURSE SYLLABUS
Benedictine College School of Faith
Module 1:3A

Instructor Information:

Benedictine College, 1020 N 2nd St., Atchison, KS 66002
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Course Description:

RI 117 Foundations of Theology I. This course is designed to introduce the students to the basic doctrines of the Catholic faith, their basis in divine revelation, and their practical application in Christian life. The topics discussed in the first semester include Trinitarian theology, creation, salvation history, ecclesiology, Christology, soteriology, divine revelation, Mariology, and Catholic spirituality.

Texts:

Bible

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Frank Sheed, *Theology for Beginners*

Basis of Assessment:

For those taking this course for 1 Continuing Education Unit (C.E.U.), satisfactory completion of the course requires punctual attendance to all sessions and engagement in the subject matter of the course.

For those taking this course for 1 College Credit, the requirements for satisfactory completion of the course include all of the above, plus submission of some written work. For a course grade of a "C," a simple one page lesson plan which incorporates knowledge from the class is required. For a course grade of "A" or "B," a 2-3 page single-spaced paper **or** a 2-3 page detailed lesson plan is required. The student will research an article of faith, explain where it fits in the general framework of the Christian message, demonstrate its development from Scripture, present the authoritative position of the Church and explain how it is an aid to worshipping God in spirit and truth (partaking in divine love). Pass/Fail system is alternative grade scale.

Course Objectives:

1. Establish a basic framework in which to see how doctrines fit in the big picture of receiving eternal life (1Jn1:2) through the Pauline 'New Adam' (1Cor15:45) framework.
2. Cover the relationship between Sacred Scripture and Creedal statements.
3. Introduce the origin of the magisterium of the Church and its authority to clarify and set doctrine.
4. Overview how to use the Catechism to research the Church's beliefs.
5. Study the meaning of the statements in the Apostles' Creed, their development in the Nicene Creed, and uncover further illustration through the Catechism.
6. Explore how some doctrines are foundational to others (hierarchy of truths).
7. Study why God seeks those who will worship in 'spirit and truth' (Jn 4) and the relationship of freedom to truth.