

RI 245 THE MINISTRY OF CATECHESIS
COURSE SYLLABUS
Benedictine College School of Faith
Module 1:3B

Instructor Information:

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Course Description:

RI 245 The Ministry of Catechesis (Core class for “Ministry/Methodology” Category)

Catechesis, religious instruction, evangelization--how are these related? What do they mean for the methods used for handing-on the Faith? This course will overview the ministry, history and methods of catechesis from the Apostles and Church Fathers until today. Stress will be upon lived witness, application of typology, mystagogy, and resources to assist the catechist help students grow in faith, prayer and witness.

Texts:

Bible

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Summary of the National Directory for Catechesis

John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae*

Soul of the Apostolate

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. For the paper, the student will explain the importance of maintaining ecclesial faith, present a mystagogical approach to explaining one of the seven Sacraments, and find a way to encourage the student to pray more frequently throughout the day and/or frequent Holy Communion. Pass/Fail system is an alternative grade scale.

Course Objectives:

1. Study the “definitive aim of catechesis” (GDC 80) and the ‘tasks of catechesis’ (SNDC p.10-11)
2. Examine the role of the lay apostolate and importance of prayer life for the mission.
3. Explore the rights of students to hear the authentic teachings of Christ and his Church (CT 61).
4. Practice using the *Catechism* and become familiarized with other authoritative sources to research the Church’s position on faith, worship, morals, and prayer.
5. Study how to avoid treating God as an object and the centrality of the mystery of “Christ in you”.
6. Study ‘the pedagogy of God’, catechetical methods to introduce the faith, and the use of mystagogy.
7. Study means to teach students to spend more time in prayer to draw strength to live a life of love and charity.
8. Study the Rosary as a catechetical tool for the imitation of Christ and development of virtues.