

## **Curriculum for the Graduate Degree Program in Theology at Newman University**

### **A. Curricular Requirements for the Master of Arts (MA) in Theology at Newman University**

The Master of Arts (MA) at Newman University also requires 30 hours for completion. It is open to anyone possessing an undergraduate degree in theology or in a related field, such as philosophy or history, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. It relies upon most of the same course work from the MTS track, with additional requirements in each course, but also requires the submission of a written thesis during the final semester of study after the completion of the Research Methods in Theology course (THEO 8003). The MA in Theology also requires passing a comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the program, as well as a reading proficiency exam in one ancient foreign language, (Latin or Greek) and one modern foreign language (French, Italian, German, or Spanish). The MA in Theology can normally be completed within two years.

#### Required Courses for the Master of Arts (MA) in Theology (30 hours)

THEO 6003 God  
THEO 6013 Methods of Biblical Interpretation  
THEO 6023 The Church in the New Testament  
THEO 6033 The Four-Fold Gospel  
THEO 6043 Controversies in Church History  
THEO 6053 Theology of the Church  
THEO 8003 Research Methods in Theology  
THEO 6073 Theology of the Eucharist  
THEO 6083 Current Issues in Moral Theology  
THEO 895—Thesis (1-3)

#### **A. Course Descriptions**

##### THEO 6003 God

Since divine revelation is the foundation of all theology, this course begins with a study of the nature of God, first revealed in the Old Testament and culminating in the person of Jesus Christ. The thought of Rene Girard on the nature of God informs the central part of this course; St. Paul's theology of the nature of God will also be explored, especially in dialogue with the key insights of Girard.

##### THEO 6013 Methods of Biblical Interpretation

Students will become equipped with contemporary methods for the interpretation of Scripture, including the historical-critical methods as well as literary, patristic and narrative approaches which complement the historical-critical approach. The goal is for each student to become familiar with all the tools available for biblical interpretation, within the context of the Catholic tradition.

#### THEO 6023 The Church in the New Testament.

While offering a broad introduction to major issues in New Testament scholarship, the focus of this course will be on the role of the Church in the creation and interpretation of the New Testament. Students will explore the historical context of various New Testament authors and audiences to gain a deeper understanding of their original meaning and purpose. Additionally, students will explore the role of today's Church in the interpretation of the New Testament and the various exegetical methods used within the Church.

#### THEO 6033 The Four-Fold Gospel

All four Gospels witness to Jesus Christ, but each does so in a different way. This course will compare and contrast the rich theologies of Sts. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John which comprise the four-fold Gospel. A brief examination of the nature of the Gnostic Gospels, the story of their "recent" discovery and why they were not included in the New Testament canon concludes this course.

#### THEO 6043 Controversies in Church History

This course concentrates on the pivotal moments in the two thousand year history of the Church. Topics include the Gnostic controversy in the early Church, the development of the papacy, the Protestant Reformation, the trial of Galileo, the crisis in biblical studies leading to the Modernist Controversy and the rise of biblical fundamentalism today.

#### THEO 6053 Theology of the Church

The various post-biblical, patristic theologies of the church will serve as the basis for this course. Various models of the church which have been influential will also be treated with a special emphasis on the current "communio" model, among the most influential ecclesiologies at Vatican II.

#### THEO 6063 Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.

The liturgical reforms of Vatican II serve as the focus for this course, with an emphasis given to the historical development of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and its restoration today. The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) will also be explored within the context of the RCIA.

#### THEO 6073 Theology of the Eucharist

This course presents an historical survey of Eucharistic theology culminating in the Eucharistic theology of Vatican II, in which the Eucharist is defined as "the source and summit of the Christian life."

#### THEO 6083 Current Issues in Moral Theology

This course will explore the most pressing moral issues of our time, with a special emphasis given to the moral issues pastoral ministers and catechists are likely to

encounter. Issues of social justice will be grounded in the theology of the Eucharist previously presented in THEO 6073.

#### THEO 7003 Christian Rome

Given sufficient interest, this elective course will be offered in the ASC Convent in Rome, Italy and will consist of lectures and then visits to the principal sites of early Christianity in Rome, including the churches of several Christian martyrs, the Mamertine prison, and the seven major basilicas of Rome, most notably the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul. Early Christian art, displayed in both ancient churches and the catacombs outside Rome will also be explored and studied as an early expression of Christian faith.

#### THEO 7013 Methods and Media for Religious Education

This course will provide a foundation for the effective teaching of religion by considering various teaching strategies and religious educational media. Lesson and unit planning, constructing behavioral objectives, and variety and creativity in teaching religion will be explored. This course will also explore the use of technology in the religion classroom.

#### THEO 7023 Foundations of Youth Ministry

Adolescent spirituality and methods of faith development for young people will be explored as well as a consideration of some of the “best practices” in contemporary youth ministry.

#### THEO 7033 Foundations of Hispanic Ministry

This course will first consider the Hispanic experience of religion and the impact of Hispanic culture on contemporary American religious practice as the foundation for developing ministerial responses to the spiritual needs of Hispanics today. The special concerns of ministering to Hispanics in rural settings will also be a primary focus for this course.

#### THEO 7043 Parish Life and Administration

Contemporary issues and challenges in parish ministry, with a special focus on Canon Law in a parish setting, will serve as the basis for this course.

#### THEO 8003 Research Methods in Theology

In preparation for the thesis, this course will acquaint the student with the primary sources necessary for theological research in the various branches of theology as well as providing an in-depth consideration of the various research methods currently employed in theological study, especially the historical-critical method in contemporary biblical studies. The course will culminate with the student selecting a thesis topic and creating a bibliography of primary and secondary sources for the thesis topic.

#### THEO 895—Thesis (1-3)

The student, in association with a thesis advisor, will generate a thesis of approximately seventy-five pages on some topic in theology.

## **B. Course Rotation**

Each course of this graduate program will be taught one at a time in the following sequence.

### Year I (Fall)

THEO 6003 God

THEO 6013 Methods of Biblical Interpretation

### Year I (Spring)

THEO 6023 The Church in the New Testament

THEO 6033 The Four-Fold Gospel

### Year I (Summer )

THEO 6043 Controversies in Church History

### Year II (Fall)

THEO 6053 Theology of the Church

THEO 8003 Research Methods in Theology

### Year II (Spring)

THEO 6073 Theology of the Eucharist

THEO 6083 Current Issues in Moral Theology

### Year II (Summer)

THEO 895—Thesis (1-3) (MA only)