

The Religion Department supports and challenges students in their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the Christian message through the study of Catholic thought and values. Through the instruction and the experience of faith and the encouragement of Christian service, students are invited to develop a maturing belief/faith system, to practice Christian decision-making, to create community based on Christian principles, and Catholic social teaching and to experience Christian ministry.

## **Requirement - Grade 9**

**Values Symposium (year long)**

### **VALUES SYMPOSIUM – Religion**

**Grade 9 students are pre-registered for this course.**

This ninth grade interdisciplinary course provides all students with a common academic and affective experience as they begin their secondary school education. Based expressly on the CDH values of academics, service, leadership, Catholic, community, equity, and diversity, this year long course is team taught through the religion, English and social studies departments, and is supported by technology integration. In addition to the focus of the CDH values, students will learn the foundations of Catholic social teaching. Students will also be introduced to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. In learning about why He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be. It is our goal that students learn more effectively by connecting traditionally separate subjects, providing a more natural educational process in preparation for life-long learning. Important aspects of this course include the building of relationships among the students and between students and their teachers, developing critical thinking and communication skills and encouraging informed citizenship and active participation in the CDH community.

**Grade 9**

## **Requirement - Grade 10:**

Hebrew Scripture (tri 1), Christian Scripture (tri 2), and Church (tri 3)

### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE: the Word of God in Human Words**

**Tri I**

Students will explore the Hebrew Scripture, focusing on the meaning of biblical literature. Students will study how scripture was composed. They will consider how those who wrote the Scripture thought, found meaning, and communicated divine inspiration. Critical study of Scripture in the tradition of Catholic scholars will be emphasized as well as the intimate link between the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Students will be encouraged to encounter the living God through these sacred texts and apply them to their daily life.

**Grade 10**

### **CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE**

**Tri II**

An exploration of the main images of Jesus that Christians have constructed throughout the centuries attempting to answer the question: “Who do you say that I am?” Emphasis is on the Jesus of history, Gospel Christology’s, Christian dogma, and contemporary thought. Students are invited to examine the presence of Jesus in their lives today.

**Grade 10**

### **CHURCH: The Community of Jesus**

**Tri III**

The Roman Catholic Church in its origins, development, living traditions and it’s impact on the world, students will see how the church changes over time in practice while staying the same in its witness to Christ.

**Grade 10**

## Requirement - Grade 11:

Faith and Ethics I	Tri 1
Faith and Ethics II	Tri 2
One trimester elective	Tri 3

Students may apply to take one, two or three summer religion class offerings.

*Applications are found in the Guidance Department and must be turned in to Mrs. Malm in the Main Office by February 1, 2017.*

**Please see the 2017 Summer School Guide on the CDH website for more information.**

Being Christian in the World	June 12-16
Faith and Ethics I	June 19-23
Faith and Ethics II	June 26-30

### FAITH AND ETHICS I

**Tri I**

### FAITH AND ETHICS II

**Tri II**

This course is an exploration of the nature of faith, virtue, prayer and Christian freedom. Students will examine Christian morality and ethics and practice ethical decision-making as it applies to their lives.

***Grade 11***

## Trimester Electives

### CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES THROUGHOUT THE AGES

**Tri III**

This course offers students a historical survey of a number of controversial issues that have faced the Christian community, and explores how the historical treatment of these issues provides guidance for our own questions today. Students who wish to take this course must have a strong interest in theology and history, and be able to draw on information received from previous courses taken in the Religion Department.

***Grade 11***

### MEN'S SPIRITUALITY

**Tri III**

This elective course is open to all male students who are interested in asking the question, "What does it mean to be a spiritually and emotionally healthy man in today's society?" It will introduce young men to some of the rich masculine spiritual metaphors, symbols, lessons, and stories from the Christian tradition as well as from a variety of other cultures and religions. Through readings, prayer experiences, guest speakers and the sharing of own stories, we will be inspired to explore important male virtues and be empowered to seek and be sought by God in new ways.

***Grade 11***

### PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

**Tri III**

Prayer and worship are at the heart of the Christian life-style. This course is designed to offer the student a forum for this experience. Each day will be an opportunity to explore one's faith by looking at various forms and styles of prayer and worship. Small and large group discussions will enable the student to learn from others about prayer styles different from their own. Ultimately, this course will challenge the student to discover a deeper reality of God in his/her life. Liturgical and non-liturgical forms of prayer will be experienced.

***Students will be required to attend and participate in an overnight retreat. Approximate cost: \$150.00.***

***Grade 11***

### SPIRITUALITY THROUGH ART

**Tri III**

Students will explore the role of artistic expression revealing the nature and mystery of the sacred and the divine. Learning emphasizes how art acts as a conduit of communication between God and humanity. Students will develop an understanding of theological ideas presented in artistic works, as well as explore their own spirituality as they express their personal creativity to unveil a relationship with God.

***Grade 11***

## **WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY**

**Tri III**

This course is open to all women who are interested in studying spirituality from a feminine perspective. Using faith as our lens, students will have the opportunity to study how women understand their identity, their ideas of beauty, their relationships with others. And, how they use their lives to lead and influence, to create a more just world. We will explore different styles of prayer and study the contribution of women leaders in the Catholic Christian tradition. This class involves journal writing, creative thinking, presentations/projects, knitting, art, and discussion.

*Grade 11*

## **WORLD RELIGIONS**

**Tri III**

Students will study the major non-Christian religious systems. Included are: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Confucianism, and Taoism. The study includes both the major components of each religion, and the culture out of which each one emerged.

*Grade 11*

## **Requirement - Grade 12:**

Philosophy/Theology - Honors (tri 1 & 2) and Social Justice - Honors (tri 3) **OR**

Senior Seminar Religion (year long) **OR**

Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium - (Spectrum) – Honors (year long)

## **PHILOSOPHY/THEOLOGY - Honors**

**Tri I and Tri II**

This course introduces students to some of the most influential philosophical and theological ideas of Western Civilization. We will examine questions of life's meaning, God's existence, the nature of art, faith, freedom and identity, as we gain an appreciation for the depth and profound nature of the central beliefs of the Christian Church. Year long service will be a part of this course. This course is paired with Readings in Literature-H to allow for the time needed for service on Thursdays.

*A 3.5 cumulative GPA is strongly recommended for registration for Philosophy/Theology-Honors.*

*Students are required to attend and participate in an overnight retreat. Approximate cost: \$120.00.*

*Limited financial assistance is available to students who cannot otherwise afford to attend the retreat.*

*Grade 12*

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE - Honors**

**Tri III**

Justice in Thought and Deed: This will be a study of the interplay between philosophical and theological reflection and social justice issues. Students will study classical and contemporary definitions of good, evil, justice, and the just society. They will analyze and evaluate specific local and global social justice problems, and learn the stories of individuals whose philosophies and theologies have led to profound commitments to live and die for justice. There will also be a service component to this trimester in which students will experience the connection between theory and practice by going into the community to work with people who are marginalized and economically disadvantaged.

This course with Readings in Literature-H to allow for the time needed for service on Thursdays.

*A 3.5 cumulative GPA is strongly recommended for registration for Social Justice-Honors.*

*Grade 12*

## SENIOR SEMINAR RELIGION

Year long

This yearlong religion course is grounded in the 7 elements of Catholic Social Teaching with a particular emphasis on “Call to family, Community and Participation” and “Solidarity”. Recognizing that “We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be”, and that “The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. “

In light of the Gospel, Senior Seminar will engage students in thinking critically about issues vital to our world’s common good. In addition to classroom study, a key component of the class will be experiential learning involving fieldwork at local elementary schools. Students will be paired with one or more “buddies” serving both as tutor and friend. Further fieldwork will involve students participating in “Dear Neighbor” experiences where they will meet with and learn from members of our local community that they may not otherwise encounter. Additionally, guest speakers will bring real-life experiences into the classroom to help students discern their call and vocation. Students will process their experiences through discussions, written reflections, multiple-intelligence projects and presentations, class retreat and senior speeches.

This course is paired with English 12, English 12-Writing Studio, or Readings in Literature-H to allow for the time needed for service on Thursdays.

***An overnight retreat in January is a course expectation. Approximate cost: \$80.00. Limited financial assistance is available to students who cannot otherwise afford to attend the retreat.***

**Grade 12**

## SENIOR INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM (SPECTRUM) - Honors Year long

Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium is an interdisciplinary course that fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade requirement for credit in English, and religion. The course also fulfills 2 credits for social studies. Students are required to take Economics or Economics-honors and U. S. Government or AP U. S. Government to fulfill the social studies requirement. This course admits approximately forty-five students per section, is taught by three teachers (one from each discipline) and meets for two consecutive class periods.

The three disciplines in the course are integrated in two primary ways. First the course focuses upon themes that are common to the three subject areas. The values of Catholic Social Teaching underlie the selection of literature and guide the approach to each topic. Second, the disciplines are integrated through an emphasis on developing skills: reading, writing, critical thinking and discussion.

Spectrum has a focus on service learning and leadership. When a student registers for Spectrum, he/she agrees to do a year of service at one of the program’s designated sites.

***A 3.5 cumulative GPA in English, religion and social studies is strongly recommended for registration for Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium (Spectrum).***

***Students will be encouraged to attend and participate in an overnight retreat. Approximate cost: \$80.00. Limited financial assistance is available to students who cannot otherwise afford to attend the retreat.***

St. Mary’s University has approved Spectrum as part of its Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC). Twelfth graders who take Spectrum and maintain a “C” average in this class may earn three college credits from St. Mary’s which are transferable to approximately sixty other colleges and universities.

St. Mary’s University will give credit for Readings in Literature OR Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium, not both.

**Grade 12**