

# PREP 7 THEOLOGY

## Textbook:

Faith and Life: Following Christ, Ignatius Press, 2012.

## Prerequisites:

none

## Course Description:

The course will emphasize how to follow Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. What does it mean to follow? Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14: 5-7). In learning to follow Christ we will study three main topics: 1) The Ten Commandments, 2) The Holy Mass and 3) The Last Things (aka, heaven, hell and purgatory).

## Course Goals:

To help students realize the importance of discipleship. To follow Christ means to be a disciple of Christ who is in the world, but not of the world.

## Course Objectives:

1. to learn how to navigate study through the Bible
2. to learn how to use the Catechism
3. to learn how to listen to a lecture and take notes
4. to learn how to maintain a study guide
5. to become familiar with articulating answers
6. to learn how to ask questions
7. to learn how to prepare for and take semester exams

## Course Sequence:

- i. The Ten Commandments
  - a. First through third focus on relationship with God
  - b. Fourth through tenth focus on relationship with neighbor
- ii. The Holy Mass
  - a. Old Testament roots
  - b. New Passover
  - c. Meal, sacrifice, and victim
- iii. Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory
  - a. The Last Things
  - b. Jesus Shall Come Again

## Evaluation:

worksheets, papers, projects, tests, quizzes, homework assignments.

**Supplemental Materials:** Padre Pio movie, Footprints of God, and others

## **PREP 8 THEOLOGY**

**Textbook:**

Faith and Life: The Life of Grace Ignatius Press, 2012

**Prerequisites:**

none

**Course Description:**

Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

**Course Goals:**

To help students treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works and its relation to practicing the virtues, and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith.

**Course Objectives:**

1. to learn how to use the Catechism
2. to learn how to listen to a lecture and take notes
3. to learn how to maintain a study guide
4. to become familiar with articulating answers and writing essays
5. to know how and why specifics substantiate claims
6. to learn how to read and make a map
7. to learn how to ask questions
8. to learn how to prepare for and take semester exams

**Course Sequence:**

- I. God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people.
  - a. Old Testament to Moses
  - b. Old Testament through the Prophets
- II. God becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.
  - a. New Testament & Jesus
  - b. New Testament and the Apostles
- III. God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.

- a. The Seven Sacraments
- b. Blessed Virgin Mary

**Evaluation:**

worksheets, papers, projects, tests, quizzes, homework assignments.

**Supplemental Materials:** Footprints of God

## **THEOLOGY I**

*Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture (Semester I)*  
*The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation (Semester II)*

**Textbooks:**

*Faith and Revelation: Knowing God through Sacred Scripture (Sem. I)*

*The Blessed Trinity and Our Christian Vocation (Sem. II)*

The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version (2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic Edition).

**Prerequisites:**

Completion of Prep Religion: *Prep 8 Theology* (or admission to CLS)

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

**Course Goals:**

1. Identify a personal longing for God and a societal longing for God
2. Distinguish how God is revealed through natural and divine revelation
3. Compare and contrast the ways that God is revealed through natural and divine revelation
4. Explain how Apostolic tradition connects us to the person of Jesus Christ
5. Describe the Catholic understanding of biblical inspiration
6. Utilize Sacred Scripture in a variety of ways for personal and communal prayer
7. Experience the purpose and steps of *Lectio divina*

**Course Objectives:**

1. Explain the role of the teaching office of the church
2. Apply the four senses of Scripture to their daily lives

3. Distinguish between theological, scientific, and historical truth. Explain why they cannot be in conflict.
4. Identify major sections of the Bible
5. Explain why the Gospels occupy the central place in Scripture
6. Explain what it means to read Scripture in light of the “analogy of faith.”

**Evaluation:**

Homework assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, and participation

**Supplemental Materials:**

Films: *Footprints of God Series*

Books: Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible

**Course Sequence (Semester I):**

- I. Knowing God through Reason
  - a. Knowing God through Natural Revelation
  - b. Science and Reason
  - c. Faith Seeking Understanding
  
- II. Divine Revelation and Supernatural Faith
  - a. Truths revealed by God
  - b. God Draws His People to Himself
  - c. Christ Satisfies the Highest Human Aspirations
  - d. Divine Revelation Leads to Faith
  
- III. The Church Transmits Revelation through Scripture and Tradition
  - a. Revelation of Jesus Christ
  - b. The Magisterium and Infallibility
  - c. Sacred Tradition
    - i. Sources of Sacred Tradition
    - ii. Fathers of the Church
  - d. Sacred Scripture
    - i. Inspiration
    - ii. Supernatural Content of the Bible
  
- IV. Sacred Scripture: The Inspired Word of God
  - a. Books of the Old Testament
  - b. Law, History, Wisdom, Prophecy
  - c. The Gospels
  - d. Acts of the Apostles
  - e. The Epistles

- f. Book of Revelation
  - g. The Canon of Sacred Scripture
  - h. Original texts and Languages of the Bible
- V. The Old Testament
- a. The Promises to Adam
  - b. The Promises to Noah
  - c. The Promises to Abram
  - d. The Covenant through Moses
  - e. The Promises to David
- VI. Jesus Christ: The Fullness of Divine Revelation
- a. The World of the New Testament
    - i. Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes
  - b. The Birth of Jesus
  - c. The Epiphany
  - d. St. John the Baptist
  - e. The Baptism of Christ
  - f. The Miracles of Christ
  - g. The Twelve Apostles
  - h. The Last Supper
  - i. The Cup of Consummation
  - j. Jesus Crucified
  - k. Fulfilling the Law and the Prophets
  - l. The New Kingdom

**Course Sequence (Semester II):**

- I. Faith and Revelation
  - a. Man in Search of God
  - b. God in Search of Man
  - c. Reasoning God's Existence
  - d. The Beginning of Faith
    - i. Faith is verified by personal experience
  - e. An Encounter with Jesus Christ
    - i. Effects of the Encounter
- II. Understanding the Trinity
  - a. Getting to Know God

- b. God is Immutable, Eternal, All-Loving, All-Knowing
  - c. God as a Trinity of Persons
    - i. The Unity of the Godhead
    - ii. The Language of the Trinity
    - iii. The Trinity revealed
      - 1. By Christ
      - 2. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Scripture
- III. God the Father
- a. God as Father
  - b. God the Creator
  - c. Why did God create?
  - d. Creation and Evolution
  - e. Angels
    - i. Hierarchy of Angels
  - f. The Nature of the Soul and the Body
    - i. Mind and Free Will
  - g. State of Original Innocence and The Fall of Man
    - i. Original Sin
  - h. Holiness: Humanity's Purpose
- IV. The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ
- a. The Early Life of Jesus
  - b. The Temptation in the Desert
  - c. The Call of the Twelve
  - d. Jesus' Healing Ministry
  - e. How to Pray
  - f. The Sermon on the Mount
  - g. The Last Supper
  - h. Passion, Death, and Resurrection
- V. Jesus Christ—True God and True Man
- a. God Incarnate
  - b. The Hypostatic Union
    - i. True God, True Man
  - c. The Promised Messiah
  - d. Redemption
  - e. Christ as Viewed in Other Religions
- VI. The Holy Spirit
- a. Pentecost
  - b. The Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Confirmation

- c. The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church
- d. The Holy Spirit in Sacred Scripture
- e. The Work of the Holy Spirit
- f. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- g. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

## **THEOLOGY II**

*The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship (Semester I)*

*The Church: Sacrament of Salvation (Semester II)*

### **Textbooks:**

*The Mystery of Redemption and Christian Discipleship* (The Didache Series, Semester Edition)

*The Church: Sacrament of Salvation (Semester II)*

The Holy Bible, *Revised Standard Version* (2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic Edition).

### **Prerequisites:**

Completion of Theology I

### **Course Description:**

This class is designed to call each of us into a deeper friendship with Christ, i.e., Christian discipleship. The course will attempt to bring the student to have a deeper encounter with Christ and the power of redemption. The Mystery of Redemption is not a puzzle to be solved, but rather a reality that is hidden (veiled) before the eyes of man (because we don't see God as He is). Redemption is a gift that is offered to all people. God invites, we are called to respond.

### **Course Goals:**

1. To help and encourage the student to study the Word of God independently.
2. To enable the student to recognize God speaking to them via the Sacred Scriptures
3. To enable the student to read the Scriptures theologically.

4. To immerse the student within the lived tradition of the Catholic faith which is grounded in the Scriptures.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To develop a love for Christ as revealed in the Scriptures.
2. To understand the Jewish context for the New Testament (to read it as a 1<sup>st</sup> century Jew).
3. To synthesize the whole of the Biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation
4. To know the historical circumstances of the people of God and how God chose to save them and make them His chosen people.
5. To describe the five covenants that God makes with us.
6. To relate the literal, moral, anagogical, and allegorical senses to specific Scripture passages.

**Evaluation:**

Homework assignments, quizzes, tests, project, and participation

**Supplemental Materials:**

Films: *Footprints of God Series, Catholicism Series*

Books: Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible

**Course Sequence:**

- I. In the Beginning
  - a. What Catholics Believe about the Bible
    - a. Faith and Reason
    - b. Four Senses of Scripture
    - c. State of Original Innocence through Original Sin
      - a. Genesis 1-3
- II. Preparing for the Messiah
  - a. God's Promise of Redemption
  - b. God's Covenant with Noah
  - c. God's Covenant with Abraham
  - d. God's Covenant with Moses
  - e. God's Covenant with David
- III. The Promise of Redemption is Fulfilled in Christ
  - a. The Annunciation
  - b. The Visitation
  - c. Nativity
  - d. Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
  - e. Finding of Jesus in the Temple



- IV. The Light of the World: Redemption Revealed
  - a. Baptism of Jesus
  - b. Wedding at Cana
  - c. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
  - d. Transfiguration
  - e. The Institution of the Eucharist
  
- V. Redemption through the Paschal Mystery
  - a. The Passion of Christ: Love in Action
  - b. *Kenosis* Revealed
  - c. The Significance of the Resurrection
  - d. Our Participation in the Mystery of Redemption
  - e. The Sacraments as Sources of Grace
  - f. The Ascension
  
- VI. Our Response to the Gift of Redemption
  - a. God's Desire for Us: Happiness and Holiness
  - b. Theological Virtues
  - c. Natural and Supernatural Virtues
  - d. Living Out God's Call to Holiness
  - e. The Last Things: *Parousia* and Judgment
  
- VII. Prayer in the Life of the Believer
  - a. Prayer is a Dialogue with God
  - b. Scripture and the Liturgy as a Source of Prayer
  - c. Expressions of Prayer
  - d. Forms of Prayer
  - e. *Lectio Divina*
  - f. Difficulties in Prayer
  - g. The Model of Perfect Prayer

**Course Sequence (Semester II):**

- I. God Prepares the Way for His Church in the Old Testament
  - a. Creation is Made for Man
  - b. Adam's Disobedience
  - c. God Calls Abram
  - d. God Calls Moses
  - e. God's Covenant with Israel
  - f. King David

- II. Jesus Christ Instituted the Church
  - a. God Prepares His People for the Church
  - b. Jesus Calls the Twelve Apostles
  - c. The Fulfillment of the Old Covenant in the Church
  - d. A New and Everlasting Temple
  
- III. Names and Images of the Church
  - a. Images of the Church
  - b. The Mystical Body of Christ
  - c. The Bride of Christ
  - d. The Family of God
  - e. The People of God
  - f. The Kingdom of God
  
- IV. The Story of the Early Church
  - a. The Day of Pentecost
  - b. Trials and Persecution
  - c. St. Paul, Light for the Gentiles
  - d. The Council of Jerusalem
  - e. Acts of the Apostles
  - f. Called to be Apostles
  
- V. The Church as Sacrament of Salvation
  - a. The Church is the Sacrament of Salvation
  - b. The Mystery of the Church
  - c. The Hierarchical Structure of the Church
  - d. St. Peter and the Papacy
  - e. Roman Curia
  - f. The Office of the Bishop
  - g. Ecumenical Councils
  - h. The Office of Priest and Deacon
  - i. Infallibility
  
- VI. The Four Marks of the Church
  - a. The Church is One
  - b. The Church is Holy
  - c. The Church is Catholic
  - d. The Church is Apostolic
  
- VII. The Church in the Life of the Faithful
  - a. Faith Requires a Response
  - b. Common Priesthood of the Faithful: The Laity

- c. Universal Call to Holiness
  - d. The Liturgy of the Church
  - e. The Liturgical Year
  - f. The Seven Sacraments
  - g. Baptism
  - h. Confirmation
  - i. Eucharist
  - j. Penance
  - k. Anointing of the Sick
  - l. Holy Orders
  - m. Matrimony
  - n. Types of Prayer
  - o. Seeking Holiness in Everyday Life
  - p. Holiness Within One's State of Life
- VIII. The Church as a Communion of Saints
- a. What does it mean to be a saint?
  - b. Intercession of the Saints
  - c. The Holy Mass is a Participation in the Heavenly Liturgy
  - d. The Last Things: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory
- IX. Mary, Mother of the Church and Our Mother
- a. Mary in God's Plan of Salvation
  - b. The Immaculate Conception
  - c. The Assumption
  - d. The Perpetual Virginity of Mary
  - e. Mary, Mother of the Church
  - f. Mary, Help of Christians
  - g. Queen of Heaven

## **THEOLOGY III**

### *Church History*

**Textbooks:**

*The History of the Church: A Complete Course* (The Didache Series)

**Prerequisites:**

Completion of Theology II

**Course Description:**

This course will cover the history of the Catholic Church, beginning with its founding by Jesus Christ and the earliest days of the Apostolic Church to the present day. We will look at

the history of the Church within the context of the social, political, theological and spiritual influences and developments of each major time period in history. Also, during their second semester juniors will begin the Christian Service Program which seeks to continue to instill in them a love for one's neighbor that is vivified with the love of Jesus Christ. As Christ said, "to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me" (Mt 25:40).

### **Course Goals:**

1. Help students to gain an in-depth understanding of the history of the Catholic Church.
2. Help students understand Church History as an extension of Jesus' ministry and the way in which God's revelation is presented to the world.
3. Enable students to reflect on the history of the Church in order to shed light on contemporary church structure and doctrine.
4. Enable students to reflect on the Church's development in order to gain a better understanding of themselves and what it means to be Catholic.
5. To serve Christ specifically through the Christian Service Program.

### **Course Objectives:**

The students will be able to:

1. Trace the Church's history from the time of Jesus to the present, with the important ideas and events presented in a logical sequence.
2. Show how social and political historical events have affected the development of the Church.
3. Understand the mission of the Church as an extension of Jesus' ministry on Earth and the tensions that sometimes arise between that mission and the physical institution of the Church.
4. Recognize some of the great people who have played a part in the Church's development.
5. Explain the causes of various heresies and the resolutions of particular Councils.
6. Recognize the Church's call to community in the early history, as well as today.
7. Understand the need for and the structure of the hierarchy of the Church.
8. Recognize the religious and political issues presented by the Protestant and Catholic Reformations.
9. Identify and understand the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.
10. Understand the Church's roles of leadership and ministry and the notion of ongoing religious formation.

### **Evaluation:**

Homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and a Church history project (on a saint or an event)

**Supplemental Materials:**

*Into Great Silence, Becket, The Mission, and Romero*

**Course Sequence:**

- I. The Founding of the Church
- II. The Early Christians
- III. Persecutions
- IV. Church Fathers and Heresies
- V. Light in the Dark Ages
- VI. The Rise of Islam
- VII. Conversion of the Germanic Tribes
- VIII. Iconoclasm
- IX. Carolingian Renaissance
- X. The Great Schism
- XI. Corruption and Reform
- XII. The Crusade and Inquisition
- XIII. The High Middle Ages
- XIV. Plague, War, and Schism
- XV. Renaissance and Reformation
- XVI. The First Vatican Council
- XVII. The Catholic Church in America
- XVIII. The Second Vatican Council to Present

**THEOLOGY IV**  
*Our Moral Life in Christ*

**Textbooks:**

*Our Moral Life in Christ* by Rev. James Socias

The Holy Bible, *Revised Standard Version* (2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic Edition).

**Prerequisites:**

Completion of Theology III: The History of the Church.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to train students in the fundamental principles of Moral Theology. With a foundation in this field, the students should be able to make proper moral choices throughout the rest of their lives with the goal of holiness in this life and salvation in the next.

The course will introduce the student to the reality that the human person is created to love- to choose what is good and true. Living a moral life is first a “YES” to God (never ‘simply’ a set of rules). God initiates the relationship with us and gives us the gift of His divine life. The gift we have received should overflow into a desire to love God above all things and therefore wanting to please God in all that we say and do (it is precisely in this encounter that the human person is most fulfilled). The student will know moral principles and be able to apply natural law principles as well as Church teaching to specific moral questions present in the world today. Also, the students will continue in the Christian Service program for the first semester of senior year.

**Course Goals:**

1. To examine the life of Jesus Christ as the Author of holiness and the source of grace
2. To understand the tremendous love God shows us in calling us to lead a moral life
3. To demonstrate that true happiness and peace come to a soul only when it is union with its creator
4. To reach out to their neighbor in true charity by loving Christ even when it is monotonous (specifically through the Christian Service Program).

**Course Objectives:**

1. To understand who they are in light of the Church’s moral teaching
2. To develop an understanding of the life of prayer and its importance in leading moral life
3. To engage difficult moral teaching and application and challenge others to live the life of holiness

4. To know and explain the rationale regarding the Church's teaching on issues such as contraception, stem cell research, euthanasia, capital punishment, and same sex unions.

**Evaluation:**

Regular homework assignments, quizzes, tests, Morality project, and participation

**Supplemental Materials:**

Texts: *Theology of the Body for Teens* (Ascension Press) and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Films: *John Paul II, Cutting Through the Spin on Stem Cells, Eggsploitation, A Profile in Courage*, and *Blood Money*.

**Course Sequence:**

- I. Principles of Moral Theology
  - a. Christianity includes a Morality
  - b. Characteristics of Christian Morality
  - c. Identification with Christ
- II. Moral Theology
  - a. Christian Concept of Mankind
  - b. Specificity of Catholic Morality
  - c. The Christian and the Defense of Truth
- III. Freedom and the Moral Act
  - a. Importance of the Moral Life
  - b. The Free Human Act
  - c. Man is Responsible for the Good and Evil of his Free Acts
- IV. The Moral Conscience
  - a. Conscience and Truth



- b. Divisions of Conscience
  - c. Conscience and Law
  
- V. Ethical Norms and Law
  - a. Division and Kinds of Law
  - b. Meaning and Purpose of Law
  - c. Conflicts between Conscience and Law
  
- VI. Morality and Action
  - a. Human Acts
  - b. The Principle of Double Effect
  - c. The Historical Argument for Moral Objectivity
  
- VII. Sin and Conversion
  - a. Definition of Sin
  - b. Effects of Sin
  - c. Sacrament of Reconciliation

## Part Two: Moral Applications

- I. Capital Punishment
- II. Abortion
- III. Euthanasia
- IV. Economics / Proper Use of Goods of Creation
- V. Family and Government
- VI. Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Cloning
- VII. Contraception, Sterilization, and Pre-Marital Sex

- VIII. Same Sex Unions
- IX. Just War
- X. Artificial Fertilization (in vitro), etc

### Part Three: Theology of the Body

- I. The Original Human Experiences
  - a. Original Unity
  - b. Original Solitude
  - c. Original Nakedness
  - d. Original Sin
- II. The Four Qualities of the Human Body
  - a. Nuptial
  - b. Symbolic
  - c. Free and Fallen
  - d. Redeemed
- III. Theology of the Body and Sexual Activity
  - a. Applying the theology of the body to specific moral topics
- IV. Forgiveness and Trust
  - a. God's mercy abounds no matter what we have done or will do.
  - b. Jesus calls us to holiness and will guide us to himself and the moral life is forged in relationship with him.