



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SACRED STUDIES

9TH GRADE / SURVEY OF THE SCRIPTURES

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday and Friday, 9.30am thru 11.00am

Instructor Information:

Mr. Shaun Kenney

Office Hours: *by appointment to be arranged by e-mail: svkenney@gmail.com*

Course Description and Learning Outcomes:

The present course will consist of an examination of the Old Testament and New Testament of Sacred Scripture. Students will be expected to view and study Sacred Scripture in a systematic method through outlined readings from the Holy Bible and other resources, specifically with a view of seeing how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament. Students will also be able to apply lessons from Sacred Scripture to everyday life.

Required Texts:

The Ignatius Bible: Revised Standard Edition (Second Catholic Edition)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Edition)

All other readings will be delivered in class.

COURSE GRADING POLICIES:

“I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this examination (quiz, assignment, etc.)”

A lady or gentleman does not lie, cheat, or steal; nor do they tolerate those who do.

Academic integrity is not merely avoiding plagiarism or cheating, but it certainly includes those things. Your signature as a student on any assignment turned in for academic evaluation is your word of honor.

More than anything, having academic integrity means taking responsibility for your work, your ideas, and your effort, and giving credit to others for their work, ideas and effort. If you submit work that is not your own—whether test answers, whole papers or something in between -- I have a responsibility to hold you accountable for that action, and also to treat you with respect and dignity while doing so.

The penalty for a violation of academic integrity is failure for the course and immediate remanding to the principal of SMHS for further disciplinary action as warranted.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Faithful attendance at class, careful preparation of weekly readings, vigorous participation in discussion. Completion of each week's reading, in the order in which the readings are offered, with each reading to be completed by the date of the meeting for which it is listed.
2. Essay writing. Two essays per semester, double spaced of 800-1000 words.
3. Completion of a mid-term and of a final examination per semester issued on a Friday and turned in the following class on Tuesday. These examinations will consist of long and short essay questions. Examinations will be take-home exercises and open book.
4. Active participation and collaboration in the classroom.

Grading Weights (per semester):

Essays:	1/3
Active Participation:	1/3
Mid-Term Evaluation:	1/6
Final Examination:	1/6

Grading Scale:

A	<i>Excellent</i>	90-100
B	<i>Good</i>	80-89
C	<i>Satisfactory</i>	70-79
D	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	60-69
F	<i>Failure</i>	< 60

The default grade for every student is a C. Good or excellent work will be rewarded accordingly. Students should be reminded that one will have to *try* to either produce an unsatisfactory or failing effort, and likewise *try* to produce a good or excellent grade.

Effort is *admirable*; achievement is *valuable*.

COURSE METHODOLOGY:

Be respectful of the class and the topic (Sacred Scripture). Our primary method of instruction will be question/answer discussion format via class participation based on a careful reading of the text *before we enter the classroom*. A combination of lecture, class discussion, presentations and film will be used during the course.

Reading the assigned text before arriving to class is an imperative. One strongly encourages students to take time the evening following our class *or* over the weekend and dedicate yourself to the task of reading. Do not pretend to scan the text the morning before class.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Given the unpredictable nature of the school semester (and possibly school year) there will be no strict schedule. Our focus will primarily come out of the *Ignatius Bible*, RSV and will focus primarily on the Gospel of Matthew.

Our first meetings will be introductory and will focus not so much on Sacred Scripture as we will focus on the *point* of Sacred Scripture – namely God and His existence. So we will start with St. Anselm's *Proslogion* (specifically the ontological argument for the existence of God) and St. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologicae* and the *quinquae via* (fivefold way) of knowing God, specifically with the teleological argument for God's existence. We *might* sprinkle in some Duns Scotus, another thinker of the medieval scholastics and the "subtle doctor" from where we get the word *dunce* and the *dunce cap*.

Once we establish what and *WHOM* we are discussing, we will proceed with an investigation of the Old Testament for the Fall 2020 semester, break for Christmas, and then return in the Spring 2021 semester by reading through the Gospels through Easter, and then finishing the year with broader Acts of the Apostles (the Pauline and General Epistles).

Essays should be around 800-1000 words – roughly 3-4 pages – based on something you find interesting during the class. ***The Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) is strongly preferred*** if only because it will teach you how to use both MLA and APA formats as well (plus it is easier than both). Remember to cite your sources. It is far more important to generate a *complete* thought than meet the word limit. Introductory paragraph, three arguments, and a conclusion.

Mid-term examinations and final examinations will consist of a series of 11 questions from which you will have to answer six – one of which will be mandatory and the other five at your selection. All examinations will be take-home examinations given on a Friday and expected to be returned the following Tuesday without exception. Examinations will be open book; answers should be succinct and original.

Class participation will consist of a series of questions offered by students based on the assigned reading. Discussion from students is strongly encouraged, hence the imperative that students take up the assigned readings to participate in class discussion. This will be the most intensive part of the class and is designed to encourage students to think deeply about the assigned readings.

I am aware that perhaps *not everyone in our class may be Catholic*. What students should seek to gain from this course is the ability to communicate the Catholic perspective on Sacred Scripture in an academic setting.

The course has no agenda other than to present Catholic teaching *faithfully* to the student. In the words of the great philosopher Robert Nozick: "My thoughts do not aim for your assent; just place them alongside your own for awhile."