

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN CATHOLIC STUDIES

Director: Stephen Chanderbhan, PhD (chanders@canisius.edu)

The Catholic Studies minor at Canisius University examines the doctrinal, historical, spiritual and cultural traditions of Catholicism.

In addition, it includes “dialogue” with people of other faiths and the examination of intellectual disciplines that have been influenced by Catholicism, such as art, history, law, literature, politics, philosophy and the sciences. As such, this program is truly interdisciplinary, highlighting many and various aspects of the Catholic tradition upon which the College was founded.

Any person who wishes to know more about the Catholic heritage, especially as it finds its expressions in public institutions and spaces (both within and outside of the institutional Church), would find this minor relevant. Those pursuing careers or academic objectives that are related to the Catholic Church would also find this program worth completing: for example, future seminarians, lay ministers, teachers interested in the Catholic educational system, those preparing for graduate work in theology or religious studies and anyone planning to pursue an administrative, marketing, accounting, or IT career in a Catholic organization such as a social work agency or health care system. The program director will help the student choose appropriate courses or appoint an advisor to do so.

Each student who completes this minor will:

1. Be knowledgeable about some facet(s) of Catholic doctrine or piety and the relevance of a concept that originates from the Catholic philosophical or social traditions.
2. Be able to think critically about the Catholic contribution in some area(s) of history or culture.
3. Become an effective scholarly researcher and writer about Catholicism and its intellectual heritage.

All courses in the Catholic Studies minor except CTH 400 are offered in traditional academic departments and usually meet the criteria established by these departments for field studies or major credit. Almost all courses in the minor are also part of the College’s Core Curricula (Regular or Honors) and therefore can also be taken as a way to fulfill Core requirements.

Where possible, language and reading courses in Latin and Greek are recommended.

Please contact the program director, Dr. Steve Chanderbhan (chanders@canisius.edu), for a more detailed description of the program, including course descriptions, possible course substitutions, and ways students have benefitted from this minor in recent years.

Minors are an important part of the undergraduate curriculum. If students declare a minor by sophomore year, they can usually complete it in a timely manner. Students should work with their advisor to determine if it is possible that the minor can be completed by graduation.

To receive a minor, a student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their major(s) and from other minors, and students must complete more than 50% of the coursework required for the minor at Canisius. Please note that “ancillary/supporting” courses required for a

major may still count as distinct courses as long as the remaining coursework still meets the 30 credit-hours required for a major. For more information about minor policies, please see the Declaring Majors and Minors (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/student-records/declaring-majors-minors/>) page in the catalog.

N.B., For substitutions and/or exemptions regarding the requirements listed below, please contact the Program Director, Dr. Stephen Chanderbhan (chanders@canisius.edu).

Curriculum of the Catholic Studies Minor

Code	Title	Credits
RST 231	Introduction to Catholic Studies	3
CTH 400	Research in Catholic Studies	3
Select one course in each of the following areas (but no more than two courses from any one department in these areas):		12
Catholic Theology and Life		
Catholic Culture: Literature, Art, Music & Science		
Catholic History & Politics		
Catholic Philosophy & Social Thought		
Total Credits		18

Courses that Fulfill Catholic Theology and Life

Code	Title	Credits
HON 359	Spiritual Autobiography	3
RST 230	Catholic Belief Today	3

Courses that Fulfill Catholic Culture: Literature, Art, Music and Science

Code	Title	Credits
ENG 233	The Quest in Medieval Literature	3
FAH 213	Greek and Roman Art	3
FAH 224	Medieval Art	3
FAH 245	Renaissance Art	3
FAH 248	Baroque Art	3
RST 237	Images of Jesus in Film and Art	3
RST 314	New Testament in Literature and Art	3

Courses that Fulfill Catholic History and Politics

Code	Title	Credits
CLS 104	Roman History	3
HIS 106	The Medieval World	3
HIS 226	History of Ireland	3
HIS 264	Latin American History to 1830	3
RST 325	Early Christianity	3

Courses that Fulfill Catholic Philosophy & Social Thought

Code	Title	Credits
PHI 267	Faith, Reason, and Justice Catholic Social Thought	3
RST 340	Moral Issues Today	3
RST 341	Catholic Social Ethics: Theological Perspectives	3
RST 345	Bio-Moral Problems	3