

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN CATHOLIC STUDIES

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

The Catholic Studies minor (<https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/catholic-studies>) at Canisius College examines the doctrinal, historical, legal, 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 a result, this program requires study in several departments of the college and highlights the Catholic tradition upon which the college was founded.

Any person who wishes to know more about the Catholic heritage, to further one’s personal development, or to pursue a principle-based career in public service, medicine, journalism or law would find this minor relevant. Those pursuing church-related careers or academic objectives would also want to complete this program. Future seminarians, lay ministers, and 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 would benefit from this program. 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 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 one area 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. Most courses in the minor are also part of the college’s core curricula and therefore can also be taken as a way to fulfill core requirements.

In addition, language and reading courses in Latin and Greek are strongly recommended.

Please contact Dr. Steve Chanderbhan (chanders@canisius.edu) (716-888-2223) in the Department of Philosophy 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.

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):

Catholic Theology and Life	12
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
RST 353	Seven Signs of Love	3
RST 390	Christian Marriage	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
FAM 216	Medieval and Renaissance Music	3
HON 242	Cultural Constructions of Jesus	3
RST 237	Images of Jesus in Film and Art	3
RST 314	New Testament in Literature and Art	3
RST 343	Franciscan Reply to Science	3

Courses that Fulfill Catholic History and Politics

Code	Title	Credits
CLS 104	Roman History	3
CLS 308	Pagans and Christians	3
HIS 106	The Medieval World	3
HIS 131	Latin American History to 1830	3
HIS 226	History of Ireland	3
HIS 306	American Religious Experience	3
HIS 316	The Reformation	3
HON 246	American Religions	3
HON 316	Famous Jesuits	3
HON 356	Pope Francis: 21st-Century Thinker	3
RST 235	Religion and Politics	3
RST 325	Early Christianity	3
RST 327	Modern Global Christianity	3

Courses that Fulfill Catholic Philosophy & Social Thought

Code	Title	Credits
HON 360	Topics in Modern Christianity	3
PHI 267	Faith, Reason, and Justice Catholic Social Thought	3
PHI 302	Medieval Philosophy	3
RST 340	Moral Issues Today	3
RST 341	Catholic Social Ethics: Theological Perspectives	3

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RST 342	Theological Ethics and Environmental Justice	3
RST 345	Bio-Moral Problems	3
RST 392	Liberation Theologies	3
RST 393	Catholic Concept of Conscience	3