

Notre Dame High School
Honors Theology IV Seminar Syllabus

Teacher: Miss Cassandra Boccardi

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Office Hours: RM 108 M-TH 2:15pm-3pm (Subject to change)

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to unlock the mystery of the human person and his supreme calling by the key of the Incarnation. This course challenges the student to marvel at the universal call of Christ and to express that vocation faithfully in his/her daily life. The course will explore this call through Pope St. John Paul II' *Theology of the Body*, an anthropological study and biblical reflection which provides the basis for understanding man's vocation to love as God loves. The states of Christian life examined will be celibacy for the kingdom and marriage.

Course Rationale:

Christianity presents a worldview that claims to answer the fundamental questions common to all people (ie. What is the meaning of life? Why is there evil in the world? What is love?). Ignoring such a claim would either aid in perpetuating foolishness that harms advancement of society or would be a missed opportunity to discover and lead others to the Truth that begets happiness.

Essential Questions:

These questions will serve as a philosophical thread guiding the thought of this entire course.

- Does life have meaning? What is it?
- Is there objective universal Truth?
- How can I live my life in a fulfilling way?
- What does it mean to be human?
- Who am I?
- What is my vocation?

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Interpret and analyze Scripture as well as challenging theological texts
2. Practice critical thinking through written assignments and participating in class discussions
3. Communicate the beauty and reasonableness of fundamental Christian beliefs
4. Form and communicate personal beliefs through the written and spoken word
5. Listen and respond clearly and charitably to those with differing view points
6. Explore and cultivate their own interior life through personal reflection

Units of Study

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| 1. Suffering & Hope | 7. The Historical Man |
| 2. The Pursuit of Truth | 8. The Eschatological Man |
| 3. Establishing an Adequate Anthropology | 9. Celibacy for the Kingdom |
| 4. An Incarnational Anthropology | 10. The Sacrament of Marriage |
| 5. Christ & The Beginning | 11. Discernment |
| 6. The Original Man | 12. Ethical Concerns |

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Course Structure

Honors Seminar

These courses demand independent reading of the texts (i.e., encyclicals, documents, etc.) The format of the class is primarily discussion. Class participation is essential. The topics covered are essentially the same as in all four years respectively but in greater depth and with greater personal reflection.

Summer Reading

- *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl

Texts*

- Allegory of the Cave, Plato
- Spe Salvi, Pope Benedict XVI
- Fides et Ratio, Pope John Paul II
- The Weight of Glory, C.S. Lewis
- Veritatis Splendor, Pope John Paul II
- The Theology of the Body, Pope John Paul II
- Called to Love: Approaching John Paul II's Theology of the Body by Carl A. Anderson and Jose Granados
- Humanae Vitae, Pope Paul VI

*additional documents and articles will be distributed in class throughout the year

Materials

Each day you will be required to bring the following materials to class unless otherwise noted:

- Pen or pencil
- Notebook or binder with loose-leaf
- Folder or binder (there will be many important handouts)

Grading

Each quarter's grading will proceed as follows:

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Participation/Classwork	20%
Homework	20%
Tests, Projects, Papers	60%
TOTAL	100%

Classroom Procedures

Respect: All classroom activities especially classroom discussions are to be governed by respect and reverence for the other. "Each person is a whole world unto himself, much greater and glorious than an anonymous crowd. The real marvel is that while a great crowd itself can be a thing of excitement and emotion, a single human person seen from the inside is infinitely more awe-inspiring and amazing"(Fr. Michael Gatley).

Participation: Participation is crucial to true learning. This class is about you and your education. Taking ownership of that will make you a successful learner. It will also help your classmates become

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successful learners. We do not just learn from books or teachers. This is why it is a part of your grade. Come to class prepared to actively listen, think and talk about the topics from the beginning bell until the ending bell. Lateness will affect your participation grade.

Communication: It is your responsibility to check the class page regularly via *echalk* or the ND website. Announcements will be made in the classroom and/or on the class page.

Makeup Work: When work needs to be made up due to an excused absence, you will have three full days from the day you return to make up the work unless otherwise mentioned. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the makeup of tests, projects, papers, quizzes etc. The student is responsible for gathering any missed notes or materials.

Late Work: You are always expected to hand in your assignments. Late work will result in a deduction of points for each day late. Classwork and homework will not be accepted if more than 2 days late. Students excused from class for field trips or any other reason must turn in work when they return. If possible, students should show completed assignment before leaving school. If a student does not follow these guidelines, work will be considered late.

Additional Assistance: If a student is in need of additional academic help for a particular topic covered in class or an upcoming assessment please arrange tutoring in advance. I am available each day Monday-Thursday from 2:15pm-3:00pm. Depending on circumstances, before school appointments may be arranged. The National Honor Society also offers tutoring. Please see the school website for more information.

Cell Phones: Cell phones and all electronic devices may not be used in the classroom. Please see the student handbook for the school policy.

School Policies: All school policies will be enforced in the classroom. See your student handbook for guidelines.

Please sign and return this page of this contract by _____ indicating that you have read and agree to the above terms. The instructor holds the right to amend or change the policies of this contract at any time.

I have carefully read the syllabus for Miss Boccardi's Theology IV Seminar Course. I have been informed of the classroom procedures and policies and agree to adhere to each as outlined.

Student's Printed Name _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____