



PLIT 262 Teaching the Faith(RCIA) Winter 2010

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Office hours: by appointment

Monday, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Room TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examination of the Rites of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist) and the Eucharistic Liturgy as the primary sacramental celebrations of and in the Church

Their biblical and anthropological foundations, historical evolution, contemporary forms, and pastoral effectiveness.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. An understanding of the historical evolution of Initiation and Eucharist in the life of the Church;
2. A critical understanding of the theological interpretation(s) of these primary sacramental rites within the Roman Catholic traditions;
3. A thorough awareness of the contemporary forms of these rites especially within the Roman Catholic tradition;
4. The ability to participate actively in these rites with *intelligence, fluency, and understanding*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Thorough reading of material & *active participation in class discussion*
- Final examination
- Three 4-page papers
 - Due dates are listed on this syllabus. Topics will be discussed.
 - Top of first page should list your name only. *No titles*, please.
 - Please **do not** use cover sheets or folders; simply staple the sheets.
 - **No** outside sources may be used.
 - Please use 12 point Times font and regular margins

- The goals of the papers are twofold:
 1. Indicate your personal understanding of the subject matter.
 2. Explain how this understanding applies to you *as a pastoral minister*. In other words, how will you use this material in your current or future ministry?
 - Look at the reading assignments as a whole.
 - Remember that this is not a “book report.”
 - Obviously, it is not possible to review *everything* about which the author(s) has/have written.
 - However, assure the reader that you understand the *central themes*.
 - **DO** use assistance if your writing skills are a bit rusty -or- if you have some struggles with English.
 - Have someone read the paper for you.
 - Utilize the services of the Drahmman Center
 - ***Grammatical and spelling errors will lower your grade.***

TEXTS

Louis Marie Chauvet, *The Sacraments: The Word of God at the Mercy of the Body*, ISBN 081-466-1432

Congregation for the Clergy, *General Directory for Catechesis*, ISBN 157-455-2252

U.S. Catholic Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd Edition, ISBN 038-550-8190

Richard M Gula, *Ethics in Ministry*, ISBN 080-913-6201

Maxwell E. Johnson, *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation* [**Revised & Expanded Edition, December 2007**], ISBN 081-466-2153

Paul Tillich, *Dynamics of Faith*, ISBN 006-093-7130

GRADE COMPUTATION

Grades will be calculated on the following basis:

	Papers	60%	
	Final Examination	20%	
	Class Participation	20%	[Please note: if you do not participate in class discussion,
your			final grade cannot be more than a “B-”.]

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Santa Clara University insists on honesty and integrity from all members of its community.

The standards of the University preclude any form of cheating, plagiarism, forgery of signatures, and falsification of data.

A student who commits any offense against academic honesty and integrity may receive a failing grade without a possibility of withdrawal. An offense may also dictate suspension or dismissal from the University.

In particular, it is each student's responsibility to understand the serious nature of plagiarism and the consequences of such activity. **Plagiarism** is the practice of claiming, or implying, original authorship of (or incorporating material from) someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgement. Unlike cases of forgery, in which the authenticity of the writing, document, or some other kind of object itself is in question, plagiarism is concerned with the issue of false attribution.

see: <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/>

ACCESSING ERes

Go to ERes from the SCU homepage, or type in: www.scu.edu/eres

Select "Electronic Reserves and Course Page"

In the box type: **PLIT 262** —and then select the course when it pops up

When prompted for a password enter: **GPPM** (Best not to use SAFARI if you're a Mac user)

ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS #1 — January 4 th

In Class:

- ❑ Introductions
- ❑ Exchange of emails & phone numbers
- ❑ Review of syllabus & expectations
- ❑ Opening lecture and discussion: What is RCIA?

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Tillich, entire book
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, Part One (pp. 17 – 299)

CLASS #2 — January 11th

In Class:

- ▣ What do we mean by the *faith* we aspire to teach?
- ▣ How do we approach the role of teacher / mentor?

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Chauvet, pp. ix – 127
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, Part Two (pp. 301 – 470)

CLASS #3 — January 18th

In Class:

- ▣ The roles of the sacraments in our lives
- ▣ Symbolism and ritual

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Chauvet, pp. 129 – 200
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, Part Two, Article 3 (pp. 368 – 396)
- ❖ Johnson, pp. xiii – 82
- ❖ Paper #1 due next week

CLASS #4 — January 25th

In Class:

- ▣ Paper #1 due
- ▣ Review of indices
- ▣ Where does the idea of *initiation* come from?
- ▣ Origins — and why they are important

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Johnson, pp. 83 – 200
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, pp. 341 – 358 (Baptism)
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, pp. 358 – 368 (Confirmation)

CLASS #5 — February 1st

In Class:

- ▣ Initiation through the centuries — what to maintain and what to leave behind

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Johnson, pp. 201 – 331
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, pp. 329 – 338

CLASS #6 — February 8th

In Class:

- ▣ Further look at historical situations and other denominations

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Johnson, pp. 331 – 478
- ❖ Paper #2 due next week

CLASS #7 — February 15th

In Class:

- ▣ Paper #2 due
- ▣ Continued look at other denominations
- ▣ Christian Initiation today

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Congregation, pp. 7 – 132
- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, p. 9; pp. 29 – 32; pp. 41 – 44; pp. 143 – 144; pp. 504 – f; pp. 529 – 535

CLASS #8 — February 22nd

In Class:

- ▣ Gospel / Evangelization / Catechesis How do they relate to one another?

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Congregation, pp. 135 – 263

- ❖ ref. *Catechism*, pp. 82 – f; pp. 118 - 127

CLASS #9 — March 1st

In Class:

- ▣ Pedagogy / Methodology / Catechesis

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Gula, pp. 1 – 141
- ❖ Paper #3 due next week

CLASS #10 — March 8th

In Class:

- ▣ Paper #3 due
- ▣ What is the ethical framework for my ministry?

Assignment for Next Class:

- ❖ Gula, pp. 142 – 152
- ❖ Preparation for final examination

FINAL EXAMINATION — MARCH 15TH

