In the sacraments of Christian initiation
we are freed from the power of darkness
and joined to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
We receive the Spirit of filial adoption
and are part of the entire people of God
in the celebration of the memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection.…
Thus the three sacraments of Christian initiation
closely combine to bring us, the faithful of Christ,
to his full stature
and to enable us to carry out the mission
of the entire people of God in the Church and in the world.

*Christian Initiation, General Introduction nn. 1 - 2*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Participants in this course will explore the 1988 edition of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* in light of its theology, ecclesiology, history, and liturgical perspectives. Additional emphases include contemporary dynamics of human conversion/ transformation, the theology of Baptism as recovered by the Second Vatican Council and subsequent development, the Catechumenate Process at the heart of on-going parish renewal, the importance of discernment throughout the process, and current questions and unresolved issues in pastoral practice and catechesis.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

- **Regular Attendance.** Please inform the instructor if you must be absent and be sure to meet all the expectations for any class you miss (i.e., update lecture notes, discover assignments, etc.). More than one excused absence will affect the grade. Any unexcused absence will affect the grade. Classes take place on three Saturdays at the Pastoral Center (485 Church Street, Monterey) from 9am – 3pm and seven Tuesday evenings via Zoom (January 21 and 28, February 4, 18 and 25; March 3, and 10). The time for the evening Zoom sessions will be decided by consensus among all the members of the class (e.g. 6 – 8pm or 7 – 9pm).

- **"Full, conscious, active participation"** (*SC 14*). The student is prepared for each class and for each online presentation via Zoom, actively listens and responds, contributes insights from his/her own experience and from interaction with other students, the instructor, and the readings.
The student is responsible to lead a very brief prayer (taken from the *RCIA*) for one class.

Mutual support, encouragement, and assistance of students by fellow students is expected; collaborative study, challenge, and enrichment is hoped for. It is essential that the face-to-face classroom and online classroom be experienced by all as safe and stimulating environments in which questions, discussion and debate are welcome. All members of the class (instructor included) pledge themselves to mutual respect.

- **Reflection Papers.** The student will submit seven 1-2 page reflection papers whose purpose is to articulate and integrate the student's personal and unique insights from the weekly readings, class discussion, and weekly integration/discussion sessions.

Topics for the papers will be proposed by the instructor during class; topics of the student’s choices are always possible with the understanding that the focus will remain the student's integration of the material of that week. While this written work will be evaluated on the quality of the content, its organization, clarity of expression, and grammatical correctness, the instructor will accept a wide variety of presentations and perspectives. Please double-space the papers, using 12 point font, submitting approximately 350-400 words per page. Please re-read and edit your papers. Students are encouraged to use spell and grammar check.

- **Final Project**

The student's final project will be one that is closely related to the catechumenate process and designed to be pastorally appropriate for the student's present or future ministry. Its chief goal can be found in the GPPM Student Objective 3B: to apply ministerial skills to build up their pastoral community. Discussion of the wide variety of options for this project will take place during the first session as well as throughout the first weeks of the course.

Some options include: a 10–12 page research paper; a pastoral project for a specific parish community with supporting materials; a series of 3 shorter pastoral projects to assist the student in the student’s own ministry. Other configurations for a final project are welcome!

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

**Goal 1:** Students will gain a broad theological foundation that will undergird inquiry into a select area of concentration. (Lectures, reading, and integration/discussion sessions)

**Goal 2:** Students will develop pastoral skills, ministry knowledge, and liturgical fluencies in at least one key field of study relevant to Christian ministry. (Study of the Catechumenate process and subsequent discussion.)

**Objective A:** Students will demonstrate a depth of practical and theoretical knowledge in pastoral ministry. (Class discussions, reflection papers, final project)

**Goal 3:** Students will become competent leaders dedicated to serving the Church and to creating community in parish and other pastoral settings. (Final project)

**Objective B:** Students will apply ministerial skills to build up their pastoral community. (Final project)

**Required Readings**

Other readings will be provided at no charge by the instructor.

**Grading:**
- 25% attendance/informed and engaged class participation;
- 30% reflection papers
- 45% final project

**Writing Assistance**
It is expected that all written assignments reflect graduate level writing. Writing assistance is available for students. Please contact The Hub, SCU's Writing Center, at [www.scu.edu/hub/](http://www.scu.edu/hub/). Please seek appropriate writing assistance before submitting assignments.

**Academic Integrity**
Santa Clara University is committed to academic honesty and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. For academic integrity policies of SCU, please see the following:

**Disability Accommodation Policy**
To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must be registered with Disabilities Resources, located in Benson 216. Students register using DR Online Services at [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities). Students need to register and provide professional documentation of a disability prior to receiving academic accommodations. Please read "Required Documentation" on the website before starting the registration process. Students may contact Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4109 if they have any questions.