

Marion Catholic Jr/Sr High School
Religion II Course Syllabus 2008-2009

Instructor: Mr. David Bennett

Contact: dbennett@cducation.org

Textbooks: *The Old Testament* (Ave Maria Press); *Your Life in Christ* (Ave Maria Press)

Semester I: The Old Testament

This course focuses on the beginning of the Bible, and explores Old Testament themes, figures, and origins. The Old Testament is studied as part of the Christian revelation, but the Jewish view of the books is also presented. Students will be expected to read Old Testament texts.

Topics Covered / Class Outline:

- Introduction to Studying the Old Testament
- Old Testament Book Divisions
- Ways of Reading the Old Testament
- Creation and Founding of a People (Genesis)
- Journey to the Promised Land (Pentateuch)
- The Journey Takes a New Shape (Joshua, Judges)
- The Monarchy (1+2 Samuel, 1+2 Kings)
- God's Prophets
- Destruction of Judah, Exile, and Return
- Wisdom and Apocalyptic Material

Semester II: Christian Morality

Students will be presented with Christian moral decision-making. Major themes include conversion, formation of conscience, resolving moral conflicts, sin, grace, the sacrament of reconciliation, the Church as a moral guide, racism, Christian behavior, and justice.

Topics Covered / Class Outline:

- Introduction to morality
- The Gift of Being Human
- Making Moral Decisions
- Law as a Guide to Freedom
- Jesus as Moral Guide
- Conscience Formation
- Sin and Forgiveness
- Love for God
- Respect for Life
- Respect for the Gift of Sexuality
- Respect for Justice and Truth

General Expectations

Even though it is impossible to grade a person's spirituality, the study of religion includes facts, dates, ideas, etc, that can be graded. This course is a full-credit course, and students are expected to complete the work and put in a good effort. If a student takes notes, makes a good effort when writing journals, and completes homework, he or she should get a good grade. Students are expected to learn about Catholic Teaching, as it is defined by the Church's Magisterium, and understand the implications of this Teaching in their own lives and in their relationships with others.

Grade Values

The values of assignments breaks down as follows:

Note or Journal Check	10 points
Homework	Varies
Quizzes	20-50 points
Tests	50-100 points
Papers/Projects	Varies
Other Assignments	Varies

Student Notebook or Binder

Students are expected to have either a religion notebook or binder, containing about 100-150 pages. They are expected to keep all running class work in this binder or notebook. This is so that all of the material needed on the test is available to them. Notes, journals, and assignments are to be kept here.

Notes and Journals

Notes will be checked regularly and graded to ensure students are keeping up. Students are expected to take notes whenever they are presented in class. Failure to pay attention/take notes will result in low note grades. Quizzes and Tests are primarily derived from notes.

Students write in journals occasionally. Journal entries will be reflection upon a topic, song, video clip, Scripture reading, prayer, etc. For a full grade students are expected to write at least a 1/2 page response, and show that they put effort into the process.

Homework and Classwork

Homework is given regularly and is often be graded. Students are expected to keep all work in their notebooks if it is not collected. If not, a zero grade will be given until something is turned in. Late homework is accepted, but for a reduced grade.

Quizzes and Tests

These will be given regularly to evaluate student progress. Some will be open-notes, some open-review-sheet, but others will not be. In order to do well on the quizzes and tests students must keep up with their coursework.

Projects and Research Papers

Semester I - Students will be expected to do research on one Old Testament figure or theme. Using the biblical texts, and outside critical sources, they will research the significance of the theme of figure, the impact on Catholicism, and the implications in their own lives.

Semester II - Students will research a moral dilemma or issue facing modern society. They will research responses to the dilemma or issue, particularly the Catholic response, and write their personal response to the issue, in light of Catholic morality. A history of the responses to the dilemma/issue will be included. The project will be presented creatively to the class.

Extra Credit

Students are offered various means of earning extra credit. Please see the teacher and pay attention in class for chances.

Masses

Students are expected to help out with Mass as a duty of attending a Catholic school. Individual classes will take responsibility for Masses on a rotating basis. This means most classes will only have to staff a Mass three times a year. The responsibilities include serving, reading, etc.

Missed Work / Make-Up Work

Students are to turn in assignments on the day they are due, unless excused. If they are excused due to an approved absence, they are to get the assignment from the instructor on their first day back. They will have one day per day missed to make up work. This means that they may have to turn in make-up work on a day when they do not have religion class.

Late work is accepted, but at a reduced point rate. The reduction is taken off their earned grade. The late point values are below:

Turned in by the end of the class	10 % reduction
Turned in by end of day	25% reduction
Turned in by the next	35% reduction
Turned in before 5 days before end of quarter	50% reduction