

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

Instructor: Mr. David Bennett

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Textbooks: *Encountering Jesus in the New Testament* (Ave Maria Press); *Catholic Social Teaching* (Ave Maria Press)

Semester I: New Testament and Christology

This course is about the study of the New Testament, including the Gospels, Letters of Paul, and Revelation. The person of Jesus Christ is emphasized: who he is, his message, and our relationship with Him.

*Topics Covered / Class Outline:*

- The "Historical" Jesus and the Real Jesus
- The Incarnation
- The Cultural Background of the New Testament (including Criticism and Tradition)
- The essential Jesus
- The Gospel of Mark: Jesus the Suffering Servant
- The Gospel of Matthew: Jesus the Teacher
- The Gospel of Luke and Acts: Jesus the Savior
- The Gospel of John: Jesus the Word of God Who is God
- Paul's Letters
- Jesus: True God and True Man
- The Living Jesus Today: Friend, Companion, and Lord

Semester II: Catholic Social Teaching

Using Sacred Scripture and Tradition, this course examines social issues in light of Church Teaching. Issues covered include war, poverty, life issues, and ecology.

*Topics Covered / Class Outline:*

- Catholic Social Justice Overview
- Justice and Virtues
- Justice and Society
- Justice and the Right to Life
- Justice and Prejudice and Racism
- Justice and Poverty
- Justice and Peace
- Justice and Work
- Justice and the Environment

### 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 choose one topic related to the New Testament of Christology and research it. They will be expected to produce a research paper of appropriate length and demonstrate knowledge of the topic.

Semester II - Students will research a social justice issue. They will present the problem to the class, the various views surrounding the issue, and then provide their solution to the problem in light of Catholic Social Teaching. They will be expected to turn in a research paper and provide a creative presentation.

### 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