

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

Instructor: Mr. David Bennett

Contact: dbennett@cducation.org

Textbooks: *Creating a Christian Lifestyle* (St. Mary's Press); *Great Religions of the World* (St. Mary's Press)

Advanced Religion

In this course students will learn about a variety of issues related to expanding their faith and knowledge of Catholicism for both now and the future. This includes exploring their future vocations, money and possessions, suffering, apologetics, other faiths, and sexuality. The class will spend time examining current Catholic and secular events and look at them in a Catholic light. Students will be expected to maturely and intelligently discuss modern issues and controversies and be able to analyze them in light of their faith, as well as regularly research and creatively present thoughtful material in class. Because this course emphasizes discussion and research, the class requires regular attendance and class participation.

Topics Covered:

- What is a Christian Lifestyle?
- Preparing for life after High School as a Catholic
- Christian Apologetics: Knowing and Defending the Faith
- Complex Issues in Theology
- Human Sexuality and the Catholic Approach
- Current Events and Problems
- Relationships and Faith
- Other Christian Churches
- Non-Christian Religions

Senior Service

Senior Service runs all year long. Two class periods a week are set aside for senior service, and two days a month for appropriate reflection. To fulfill the senior service requirement, students will volunteer services around the school, and/or go into the community to be of service to others. The experience of helping others is rewarding and encourages the student to make a commitment to Christian service in the future. The students will keep journals and/or regularly update the teacher about the work they are doing. A final reflection paper will be written. Some class periods will be set aside for discussing the experiences. Students are expected to follow all school rules and guidelines while participating in senior service projects. Grades will be based on level of participation.

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 and I - Students will regularly research, present, and discuss material relevant to the course. Religion IV is designed to emphasize research and presentation to help prepare students for the college experience.

Extra Credit

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

School 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