

The Catholic Studies minor comprises six courses and a capstone (6 units must be unique to the minor):

- **CATH 296 or CATH 303 (can count as upper level electives as well)**
- **Five electives:**
 - **At least two must be upper division (three can double-count for core requirements).**
 - **At least one must be THEO and at least one must be PHIL.**
 - **No more than two classes from a single academic discipline can count toward the minor.**
- **A zero-credit capstone, undertaken your final Spring at Loyola.**

Complete Course List for Spring 2027 (*Indicates a recommended/featured course.)

What follows is all the courses offered in Spring 2027 that *automatically* count for the minor. To ask about a course that is not on this list, please contact Naomi Fisher, Director of Catholic Studies: nfisher1@luc.edu. To bring these courses up on LOCUS, do an 'Undergraduate CORE/Interdisciplinary Search', select 'Interdisciplinary' and under 'Value' select 'Catholic Studies'. *This is the master list: if a course is on this list, but for some reason does not come up on the search, it **will** count.*

Catholic Studies CATH Requirement (CATH 296 or CATH 303):

*CATH 296: All Things Ignatian: Living and Learning in the Jesuit Tradition; Engaged Learning (Dr. Michael Murphy)

*CATH 303/PHIL 342: Augustine and Ancient Philosophy; Writing Intensive (Dr. Alberto Bertozzi)

Lower division electives:

*ENGL 287: Religion and Literature (Fr. Jayme Stayer, SJ)

*ENVS 285: Eco-Spirituality (Mark Mackey, SJ)

FNAR 200: Global Art History: Prehistoric to 600 CE (Dr. Rebecca Ruppar)

FNAR 201: Global Art History: 600-1800 CE

HIST 101: Evolution of Western Ideas and Institutions Through the 17th Century

*LITR 283: Dante

MUSC 108: Liturgical Choir: Cantorum

PHIL 130-018: Philosophy and Persons (JUST Dr. Naomi Fisher's section)

*PHIL 288-002: Culture and Civilization: Catholic Social Teaching (Dr. Jeff Fisher)

PHIL 284-003: Health Care Ethics (JUST Dr. Joe Vukov's section)

*SOCL 145: Religion & Society (Fr. Patrick Gilger)

THEO 100: Intro to Christian Theology

THEO 185: Christian Ethics

THEO 204: Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis

THEO 231: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

THEO 232: New Testament

THEO 266: The Church and Global Cultures

THEO 279: Roman Catholicism

THEO 280-003: Theology and Spirituality of Resistance

THEO 281: Christianity Through Time

*THEO 293: Christian Marriage (Dr. Michael Murphy)

*UCLR-100M: Writing Faith: The Catholic Imagination

Upper division electives:

*CATH 296: All Things Ignatian: Living and Learning in the Jesuit Tradition; Engaged Learning (Dr. Michael Murphy)

*CATH 303/PHIL 342: Augustine and Ancient Philosophy; Writing Intensive (Dr. Alberto Bertozzi)

*FNAR 349: Art and the Catholic Tradition (Dr. Rebecca Ruppar)

HIST 300C/THEO 393: Can Catholicism Change?

*HIST 310G: Supernatural in the Middle Ages (Dr. Theresa Gross-Diaz)

SPAN 390: Latin American Culture and Civilization

*THEO 318: Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern (Dr. Colby Dickinson)

THEO 373: Reading Augustine (restricted to upper level THEO majors)

Rome Campus classes:

Lower Division:

HIST 101: Evol. of Western Ideas thru 17th Century

CLST 277: World of Late Antiquity

THEO 204: Religious Ethics and the Ecological Crisis

THEO 266: The Church and Global Cultures

THEO 279: Roman Catholicism

Upper Division:

FNAR 342: Art in Rome

Featured Courses for Spring 2026:

CATH 303/PHIL 342: Augustine and Ancient Philosophy, Dr. Alberto Bertozzi; MWF 12:35-1:25 (writing intensive)

The course is an introduction to Augustine's engagement with the philosophical traditions of Greek and Roman antiquity. The main goal of the course is to investigate how Augustine's attempt to provide a rational foundation for the Christian faith was significantly shaped by his sustained inquiry into the questions he inherited from the great philosophical movements of antiquity. Special attention will be given to his epistemology and metaphysics, particularly as these developed through his interaction with the thought of Stoicism, Skepticism, and most notably Platonism.

CATH 296: All Things Ignatian, Dr. Murphy; MWF 10:25-11:15 (engaged learning)

The Course will explore the founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius Loyola, and introduce the Spiritual Exercises, a highly refined and adaptable method of prayer with a focus on contemplation, love for others, and justice in the world. We will examine Ignatian Spirituality as a practical resource for addressing critical issues in the Church and the world, as well as a variety of other Ignatian topics such as the importance of theological reflection, scholarship, social justice, the arts, creativity, engagement with cultures, interreligious dialogue, and personal freedom.

ENGL 287: Religion and Literature, Fr. Jayme Stayer, SJ; TuTh 10:00-11:15

The course will introduce students to the rich tradition of Catholic literature. Rather than approaching the doctrines, teachings, rituals of Catholicism from a position of abstraction or generality, we will read literary texts in which the culture and faith of Catholicism is embodied in fictional lives and poetic meditations. Setting aside many distinguished Catholic essayists, critics, historians, and theologians, we will instead focus on authors of imaginative works: short stories, novels, and poems. Although limited to works written in English, a diverse array of authors and identities will be represented. Within this frame, we will explore various topics and problems: personal belief vs. orthodoxy, suffering, sacramentality, incarnational theology, liturgy, community, prayer, discernment, and any particular Catholic tenet which a text brings up, grapples with, or denies. We will also consider how some lapsed Catholic authors retain, reject, or struggle against Catholic faith and culture.

ENVS 285: Eco-Spirituality, Mark Mackey, SJ; MWF 2:45-3:35

Eco-spirituality, or Spiritual Ecology, is an emerging field in ecology, conservation, and religion that recognizes there is a spiritual component to all issues related to environmentalism and Earth stewardship. Eco-spirituality explores how ecological efforts are enhanced by including a spiritual dimension and spirituality and religion must include awareness and engagement with ecology and ecological issues.

PHIL 288: Catholic Social Thought, Dr. Jeffrey Fisher; MWF 9:20-10:10

In this course students will learn the political and philosophical perspective put forward within Catholic Social Teaching. In fulfilling this general purpose, the course will 1) give students a systematic understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, and 2) demonstrate the viability of the political and philosophical perspective provided by Catholic Social Teaching—a perspective which is a plausible, intriguing, and attractive alternative to the political perspectives characteristic of contemporary culture. Readings will be drawn primarily from Aristotle, Aquinas, papal encyclicals, and church documents. (Fulfills tier 2 philosophy core requirement.)

FNAR 349: Art and the Catholic Tradition. Dr. Rebecca Ruppar; MWF 1:40-2:30

Ancient sanctuaries. Miraculous icons. Soaring cathedrals. Medieval Yoda?

This course will explore the interplay between art, architecture, and the development of Catholic faith since its early centuries to modern times. We will examine diverse monuments and artifacts within their theological, social, material, and historical contexts, and consider how these works continue to shape Catholic experience today.

HIST 310G: Supernatural in the Middle Ages, Dr. Theresa Gross-Diaz; TuTh 11:30-12:45

This is a course in the cultural and intellectual history of the supernatural in the Middle Ages. Among other questions, we will explore: How were “natural” and “supernatural” defined? Did magic and miracles differ? Where do humans fit in the ‘natural’ world? How did pagan, Jewish and Islamic cultural influences affect medieval Christian ideas about the supernatural? We will explore these questions through close readings of literary and archaeological primary source evidence, along with recent scholarly studies of the medieval supernatural. Research paper option available.

THEO 318: Christian Thought: Reformation to Modern, Dr. Colby Dickinson, Th 4:15-6:45

This course is a historical-theological survey of major Christian thinkers and theologies throughout Reformation, modern and contemporary periods. The aim of the course is to enable students to become conversant with particular trajectories of Christian thought during these eras, including, but by no means limited to: justification and grace in the Reformation, the role of reason and in the influence of the Enlightenment on theology, the role of experience in the modern world, and the significance of contextual (e.g. feminist, liberation, black, etc.) theologies, to name just a few themes