

Department Goals

The Bishop DuBourg High School's Religion Department strives to empower our students to:

1. Explain the unity and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as a model for all relationships.
2. Recognize that Jesus Christ is Savior of the world and be willing to witness the good news through speech, attitude and action.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the Catholic Church as expressed in Scripture, Tradition and Church history.
4. Participate in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and all forms of prayer to express their faith and relationship with the Triune God.
5. Apply Catholic social doctrine by making decisions based on the example of Jesus, Mary and the communion of saints.
6. Distinguish the differences between secular values and the teaching of the Catholic Church, especially respect for all stages of human life.
7. Witness our faith in Jesus through service to Bishop DuBourg High School and the larger community.
8. Cultivate relationships with to God, others, creation and self as means of spiritual growth.
9. Incorporate technology to impart religious knowledge as well as to evaluate its impact on spiritual growth and social issues.

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code REL11A

Course Name Old Testament

Goals

1. Students will be able to explain the God of the Old Testament guiding the Hebrew people in Salvation History and preparing for the coming of His Son Jesus as the fullness of Revelation.
2. Students will be able to identify Scripture as Revelation, the inspired Word of God, which reveals Salvation History, and which records God's offer of covenantal love.
3. Students will be able distinguish and explain key scriptural themes of the Old Testament.
4. Students will be able to describe the covenant relationship between God and his people in the Old Testament and clarify how they apply to living the faith today.
5. Students will be able to explain scripture passages and themes and relate these to their life experiences and choices.
6. Students will be able to explain issues in scripture interpretation striving for literal meaning and tapping into the spiritual sense.
7. Students will be able to identify and explain the importance of ritual in the Old Testament world especially as expressed in covenant formation, sacrifices, the Tabernacle, the Temple and the synagogue.

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. Major themes of covenant, sin, and kinship
2. Structure of the Old Testament; a library of 46 books divided into the categories of the Pentateuch, Historical, Prophetic, and Wisdom literature
3. The major figures and events of the Old Testament
4. Use of Bible tools - Bible Commentary, Bible Dictionary, Bible Atlas
5. Scripture is a record of Israel's response to God's covenantal love
6. The Hebrew idea of "covenant" as opposed to our contemporary notion of "contract"

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. The New American Bible
2. Catechism of the Catholic Church
3. Written on Our Hearts St. Mary's Press
4. A Father Who Keeps His Promises Scott Hahn
5. Jerome Biblical Commentary
6. Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, document of II Vatican Council
7. The Interpretation Of The Bible In The Church Pontifical Biblical Commission 1994
8. Multi-media and videos on the important personages and events of the Old Testament
9. Handouts
10. Lecture, discussion, pair work and/or small group work, reading textbook and Scripture aloud in class
11. Traditional assessments: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, participation, journals, papers

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code REL11B

Course Name Understanding Catholic
Christianity and Understanding
Sex and Sexuality

Goals

1. Students will investigate the relationships within the Trinity.
2. Students will model their own relationships as those of the Triune God.
3. Students will investigate the teachings of the Catholic Church on morality.
4. Students will critique secular values with those of the Church and assess this relationship to their lives.
5. Students will be able to differentiate between sex and sexuality.

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. Identification of the persons of the Trinity
2. Moral teachings of the Church
3. Self respect as the foundation of other relationships
4. Relationships as the cornerstone for life
5. The effects of secular values on Christians today
6. Personal and communal prayer as a means of renewal
7. Christian values and teen culture

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. *Our Catholic Faith*, Michael Pennock 2006 Ava Maria Press
2. *Growing Toward Intimacy*, Bob Bartlett, 1997 and 2002, The Sisters of Joseph of Carondelet
3. Lecture, notes, discussion and innovative technology
4. Multi-media presentations.
5. Homework, quizzes, tests, class participation and papers.

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code: REL21A

Course Name New Testament

Goals

1. Students will identify key themes of the New Testament.
2. Students will learn how to use the New Testament in prayer experiences.
3. Students will be able to use New Testament passages in moral decision making.
4. Students will be able to identify, explain and defend core Catholic dogmas in the New Testament especially the Incarnation, the Paschal Mystery, and the Trinity.
5. Students will identify key Scripture passages, including memorable parables and miracles.
6. Students will be able to explain issues in Scripture interpretation including the literal and spiritual senses.
7. Students will be able to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus, the formation of the New Testament and the early Church

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. The contents and formation of the Gospels
2. The gospels as “good news” for today, not simply biographies of Jesus’ life
3. The distinctiveness of each gospel
4. The similarity of the synoptic gospels
5. The uniqueness of St. John’s gospel—memorization of John 3:16
6. The proclamation of the reign of God in Jesus’ public ministry: preaching and miracles
7. The core elements of Jesus’ message: repentance, forgiveness, faith, charity, justice, the coming kingdom of God, his suffering, death and resurrection
8. The significance of the Last Supper in the Synoptics and in John, as well as its connection to the Eucharist
9. The significance of the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery in our salvation
10. The coming of the Holy Spirit—Acts of the Apostles, action of the Spirit recounted in the epistles
11. The letters, life and basic message of St. Paul—“justified by faith shown in works of love”
12. The Book of Revelation—especially its proper interpretation

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. The New American Bible
2. Catechism of the Catholic Church
3. Pennock, Michael. Encountering Jesus in the New Testament. (2003) Ave Maria Press.
4. St. Louis Review
5. Contemporary videos about the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus
6. Videos on the formation of the New Testament
7. Handouts
8. Guest Speakers, such as Michael Mette, Southside Youth Ministry
9. Lecture, discussion, pair work, small group work, reading textbook and Scripture aloud in class
10. Upcoming Sunday Gospel study
11. Oral presentation of gospel passages
12. Traditional assessments: tests, quizzes, homework, class work,
13. Every student must plan and lead prayer during class
14. Various prayer experiences using the New Testament

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code REL 21B

Course Name Sacraments

Goals

1. Students will identify the similarities and differences of each sacrament.
2. Students will describe the essential words, actions, signs, symbols, and ministers of each sacrament.
3. Students will examine the sacramental changes of Vatican II.
4. Students will analyze the historical development of each sacrament.

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. What each sacrament celebrates
2. Know the sacraments of initiation, healing, and service
3. The history, meaning and rites of the sacraments as effective signs with meaning and power
4. The Eucharist as the “source and summit” of the Church’s liturgical life
5. The structure of the Mass

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshipping in Christ, Patricia Driedger, 2002
2. New American Bible
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church
4. St. Louis Review
5. Handouts
6. Lecture, discussion, and group work
7. Tests, student reviews ,homework
8. Guest speakers
9. Multimedia presentations

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code REL31A

Course Name Church History

Goals

1. Students will examine the historical development of the Church including important events and the lives of great men and women of the church.
2. Students will show an appreciation of their own connection to the Catholic Church.
3. Students will summarize the history of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and their local parish.

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. The role of the Pope, bishops and clergy and their relationship to other church members and other ministries.
2. A brief history of the Catholic Church and her relationships to world religions.
3. Structure of the parish and roles in the parish which help to evangelize and catechize the community.
4. History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.
5. History of student's individual parishes.
6. Effects of Vatican II, especially on the role of the laity.
7. The lives of the Popes and selected saints.

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. The New American Bible especially the Acts of the Apostles.
2. Selected documents of the Catholic Church.
3. Text, The Church our Story. Ave Maria Press
4. Selected multi-media videos.
5. Traditional assessments: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, papers/projects and presentations.
6. Every student must plan and lead prayer

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code REL31B

Course Name Morality

Goals

1. Students will examine on the thematic question, “What kind of person am I becoming and what kind of person do I want to become?”
2. Students will identify the Christian vision of morality, with Jesus as the model of all humanness.
3. Students will identify helpful sources available to Christians on their moral journey.
4. Students acquire a process for moral decision making that incorporates Church teachings and their personal reflections.

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. The process of conscience formation.
2. The significance of the Commandments, key actions and sayings of Jesus Christ contained in the Scriptures in conscience formation.
3. The role of the “Law of Love” described in Scripture in conscience formation.
4. Gospel values, including respect and honesty.
5. Personal and communal prayer and Christian witness as key elements in conscience formation.
6. Sin, forgiveness, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
7. Examination of key moral issues and the Church’s teachings regarding these issues: the life issue including abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, sexual relationships, and sexual activity, medical-moral and reproductive issues.

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. Pennock, Michael. Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Morality. (2001) Ava Maria Press
2. Lecture, discussion, notes, multi-media presentations and innovative technology
3. Homework, quizzes, tests, class participation, papers to access scheduled videos.
4. St. Louis Review
5. Guest speakers as a Live Witness
6. Student lead prayer.
7. Praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code **REL41A**

Course Name **Christian Lifestyles**

Goals

1. Students will research and articulate Vatican Council II Documents in regard to our Universal Call to Holiness.
2. Students will identify God's call for each person to love others as one's main vocation in life.
3. Students will build and apply tools for healthy relationships in their lives and in relationship to Jesus Christ as model of all loving relationships.
4. Students will be study the topic of sexuality as God's gift to us and their personal responsibility.
5. Students will differentiate the process of decision making exploring their own values and the teachings of the Church.
6. Students will examine and discern different Christian Vocations such as single life, religious life, ordained life and marriage.

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. Choices and Commitments: Vocation, Christian lifestyles, ministry, commitment to serve, discerning life choices and values.
2. Love: Definition of love seen in scripture, friendship, love vs. infatuation, intimacy, sexual intimacy, obstacles of intimacy, grieving the loss of those we love.
3. Communication: Verbal and non-verbal skills, communication styles, proper handling of disagreements,
4. Single Life: single life seen as a valuable vocation. dating and romance, gender differences, on-line dating, loving in a single vocation, challenges of the single life, healthy and unhealthy relationships, Catholic teaching regarding cohabitating.
5. Ordained and Consecrated Vocations: Discerning a vocation, challenges and rewards, sacrament of Holy Orders, Permanent Deacons, meaning of religious life.
6. The Meaning of Marriage: History of marriage in the Jewish-Christian tradition, covenant, requirements for marrying in the Catholic Church, engagement requirements, preparing a budget, marriage as a legal contract.
7. The Sacrament of Marriage: Jesus' revolutionary view of marriage, marriage among early Christians, meaning of sacrament and marriage as sacrament, validity of marriage promises, fidelity and faithfulness, marriage ceremony in the early church and middle ages, inter-church and interfaith marriages.

8. Challenges of Married Life: Adjusting to marriage, roles and responsibilities, living marriage as a sacrament, addressing problems, divorce and annulment, dealing with difficulties of divorce.
9. Family life: Importance of family, choosing to have children, helping children grow, responsible family planning, Catholic moral teachings on family planning methods, abortion and upholding life, infertility and reproductive technologies.

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. *Christian Vocations* by Michele McCarty: 2001
2. Various Papal Encyclicals and Episcopal letters on topics of family, human life, sexuality, love and hope.
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church
4. New American Bible
5. Various Catholic print media including *America* Magazine, Catholic Updates from St. Anthony Press, St. Louis Review
6. Various multimedia resources
7. Various Websites including the U.S. Bishops: www.usccb.org
8. Lecture and classroom discussion
9. Guest Speakers on various topics
10. Small group work and presentations
11. Regular written tests, quizzes, notebooks, reflection papers
12. Student-led prayer

Religion Department Course Goals

Course Code REL41B

Course Name Social Justice

Goals

1. Students will identify the 9 principles of Catholic Social Teaching. (CST)
2. Students will identify and analyze contemporary social issues using these principles
3. Students will use multimedia resources to critique social issues
4. Students will support CST papal and episcopal documents
5. Students will produce a presentation using CST to analyze a current social issue

Content (Knowledge, Skills & Values)

1. Articulation of the 9 CST principles
2. Analysis of current social issues using the CST principles
3. Identify and use key Scripture passages to analyze social justice issues
4. Historical development of CST since “Rerum Novarum”
5. Prioritize social issues in order of importance according to CST
6. Articulate church teaching on four “Right to Life” issues: abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and embryonic stem cell research
7. Investigate and analyze prejudice, racism, and poverty
8. Investigate and analyze Immigration
9. Investigate and analyze war and peace
10. Show multimedia resources on social justice topic
11. Special attention to media on current events with social justice themes
12. Identify key leaders in social justice—historically and in current events

Resources, Activities & Assessments

1. Catholic Social Teaching: Learning and Living Justice, Pennock, 2003
2. Various Papal Encyclicals and Episcopal Letters on Social Justice
3. New American Bible
4. Catechism of the Catholic Church
5. Various Catholic print media
6. Various multimedia resources
7. Various websites, especially U.S. Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/index.shtml>
8. Lecture and classroom discussion
9. Small group work and presentations
10. Regular written examinations and quizzes
11. Oral presentations by a single student
12. Student-led prayer
13. 10-day class release time for Senior Service Project (could also occur during Lifestyles class)
14. Written paper for Senior Service Project (could also occur during Lifestyles class)
15. Written journal for Senior Service Project (could also occur during Lifestyles class)