

**Santa Clara University**  
**Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM)**  
**Catechesis And Culture**  
**CATE 222 (4 Credits)- Fall 2024**

**Instructor:** Fr. James Okafor

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Format-** Online- Zoom

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The clarion call by Pope Francis for us to become Missionary Disciples challenges us to reach out to all people through “true openness and dialogue” irrespective of their cultural backgrounds. This effort requires an effective catechesis that will help to transform the culture of every catechetical group to become the Gospel and the Gospel in turn becomes the culture of the people. Hence, the course, *Catechesis and Culture* offers a study of how catechesis through different ways and means will be effective in this whole effort of the Church in the culturally diverse Church.

Through readings, discussions, papers and presentations, students will explore important intercultural approaches to catechesis and evangelization. The course aims at developing intercultural competencies that will empower and equip the catechists to acquire pastoral knowledge, skills and attitudes to serve effectively people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

**Program & Course Learning Objectives** The GPPM Program learning objectives for the Catechesis and Culture course stipulate that, by the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Integrate core theological competencies in the chosen area of concentration (***GPPM, Objective 1.B***)
  - a. Identify the tasks of Catechesis in relation to Inculturation (Reflection Paper #1).
  - b. Develop an inculturated catechetical program based on a community you are serving or seeking to serve (Class Final Project/Paper)
2. Demonstrate a depth of practical and theoretical knowledge in their area of concentration (***GPPM, Objective 2A***).
  - a. Become familiar with different modules for building intercultural competence for ministers (Reflection Paper #2).
  - b. Develop a project that employs one of different modules for building intercultural competence for ministers that have been discussed in the class (Class Final Project/Paper).

3. Integrate the perspective of the poor and the marginalized in your reflection on theological and pastoral issues of catechizing people of different cultures (**GPPM, Objective 4B**).
  - a. Identify and reflect on the Missionary Spirit as one of the tasks of the catechesis in relation to the poor and marginalized (Reflection Paper #3).
4. Describe and address cultural differences in Christian practice (**GPPM, Objective 5B**).
  - a. Identify and reflect on the Community Life as one of the tasks of the catechesis in relation to cultural differences in Christian practice (Final Project, Reflection Paper #3).

### **How to Prepare for Class**

*Reading and Study Prior to Class:* Students are required to read before class the readings listed in the class schedule in order to participate fully during class discussions. There will be time for presentations, questions, discussions and small group work. There will be time also for clarifications regarding the next class requirements, especially with regard to papers and the final project.

### **Required Texts**

- *Directory for Catechesis*. Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, 2020
- *National Directory for Catechesis*. Washington, D.C: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005.
- Marzouk, Safwat. *Intercultural Church: A Biblical Vision for an Age of Migration*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019. **ISBN-13:** 978-1506433462.
- Ospino Hosffman, *Interculturalism and Catechesis: A Catechist's Guide to Responding to Cultural Diversity*. Twenty Third Publications: New London, CT, 2017. **ISBN-13:** 978-1627852609.
- USCCB, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, *Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers* (USCCB Website)
- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium- The Joy of the Gospel*, 2013 (Vatican Website).

Recommended Books:

- ❖ *The Catechetical Documents: A Parish Resource*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1996.
- ❖ *Congregation For the Clergy. The General Directory for Catechesis*.  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc\\_con\\_catheduc\\_doc\\_17041998\\_directory-for-catechesis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc_con_catheduc_doc_17041998_directory-for-catechesis_en.html)

Additional short chapters and articles will be made available in electronic format on Camino.

*Camino is the repository for all course readings that are not in the required textbooks (links appear on the Camino syllabus). Camino is also the site where you will upload your written work for this class.*

**Course Assessment and Grading:**

Student's progress in the course will be assessed based on:

Class Participation (attendance, Camino discussions and class participation)-	30%
Reflection Papers (3 @ 10 points each) -	30%
Course Project/Final Paper-	25%
Class Presentations-	15%

***Attendance & Participation:***

Attendance and active participation are expected at every class meeting. If an absence from a scheduled class is absolutely essential the student should contact me as soon as possible to identify the reasons for the absence and how to make up work missed. Readings and assignments should be completed as and when due. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings, share insights, raise questions and relate the readings to their pastoral and catechetical experiences. 30% of grade.

**Reflection Papers:**

There will be three reflection papers for this class. These papers will be integrative in style (reading, class discussion and life experience) and are designed to build toward your final project/paper. All typed papers will be due electronically on the course Camino page by 11.59 pm on the due dates (see Course Schedule) 30% of grade.

**Course Project-Final Paper**

The course project will involve a written (6-8 pages) of a developed catechetical program based on a community one is serving or seeking to serve. The project should employ different catechetical processes and methods that have been discussed in the class. The

electronic copy of your paper (25% of grade) with the proper citations will be due in the Course Camino assignment drop box on Monday July 29<sup>th</sup> by 11.59pm

### **Oral Presentations:**

You will have 20-25 minutes presentations on your final paper. This will be on the last day of class. Be prepared to answer questions after the presentations and to update your final paper with the feedback from the presentations. 15% of grade.

### **Policies & Protections For You**

#### *Academic Integrity Policy*

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:  
*I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.*

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see [www.scu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.scu.edu/academic-integrity).

#### *Disability Accommodation Policy*

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities), as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through that office, please discuss the arrangements with the professor during office hours early in the quarter.

#### *Title IX Protections*

SCU provides reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant, have recently experienced childbirth, and/or have medical needs related to childbirth. Pregnant and parenting students can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their

instructors, supervisors, or departments. Alternatively, a pregnant or parenting student experiencing related medical conditions may request accommodations through Disability Resources.

SCU has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic/dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please consult the University's Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy (<http://bit.ly/2ce1hBb>) or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie (408.554.3043, [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu)). Reports may be submitted online through [www.scu.edu/osl/report](http://www.scu.edu/osl/report) or anonymously through Ethics point: <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>.

### Schedule

Before the first class, students will read:

- ❖ Directory for Catechesis (DC), Part One: #1-#109
- ❖ Interculturalism and Catechesis, p. 1-51

<b>Dates/Time/Format</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
<b>Class #1-</b> Tuesday September 24th, 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Understanding Catechesis & Culture- The Magisterium on Culture, Evangelization, and Catechesis.	<u>Reading for Tuesday October 1st:</u> Read- CARA 2016 Report- <i>Cultural Diversity in the Catholic Church in the United States (see Camino)</i> .
<b>Class #2</b> Tuesday October 1st - 6.00pm – 9.00pm	U.S Catholicism and Cultural Diversity: Diversity in the Dioceses- Case Study.	<u>Reading for Monday October 8th:</u> Intercultural Church, p. 1- 202 <b>Reflection Paper 1: Due TBA</b>
<b>Class #3</b> Tuesday October 8th- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	An Intercultural Church- Shared Parishes. Sustaining an Intercultural Church	<u>Reading for Tuesday October 15th:</u> <i>Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers</i> (USCCB Website)- See Camino. Part 1
<b>Class #4</b> Tuesday October 15th- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis & Intercultural Competencies- Knowledge, Skills, & Attitudes- Part 1	<u>Reading for Tuesday October 22nd</u> <i>Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers</i> (USCCB Website)- See Camino. Part 2
<b>Class #5</b> Tuesday October 22nd- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis & Intercultural Competencies- Knowledge, Skills, & Attitudes- Part 2	<u>Reading for Tuesday October 29th</u> <i>Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers</i> (USCCB Website)- See Camino. Part 2 <i>Interculturalism and Catechesis</i> , p. 54-80. <b>Reflection Paper #2- Due TBA</b>
<b>Class #6</b> Tuesday October 29th- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis & Intercultural Competencies- Knowledge, Skills, & Attitudes- Part 3	<u>Reading for Tuesday November 5th:</u> Read- Pew Research- <i>America's Changing Religious Landscape</i> (See Camino); USCCB- <i>A Look at the "Nones" Across Cultures (Asian, Hispanic, African American and Anglo)</i> (See Camino)
<b>Class #7</b> Tuesday November 5th- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis in an Increasingly Secularized Culture	<u>Readings For Tuesday November 12th:</u> GDC #171-176; NDC, p. 195-210: Catechist- <i>Digital Culture and Catechesis: Opportunities and challenges</i> (See Camino)
<b>Class #8</b> Tuesday November 12th- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis and Digital Culture	<u>Readings For Tuesday November 19th:</u> Read- NDC, p. 280-292- <b>Reflection Paper #3 Due TBA</b>
<b>Class #9</b> Tuesday November 19th- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis and Contemporary Cultural issues	<u>Reading for Saturday, Dec 7th</u> Complete Final Paper/ Project & be ready for presentations
<b>Class #10</b> Tuesday December 3rd- 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Organizing Catechetical Programs in Culturally Diverse Context Class Presentations	<b>Final Paper due: TBA</b>