

**Santa Clara University**  
**Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM)**  
**Transformative Catechesis**  
**CATE 224 (4 Credits)- Summer (June 16<sup>th</sup>- July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025)**

**Instructor:** Fr. James Okafor

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**Office Hours (Zoom):** By appointment

**Course Format-** Online

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This whole effort of Catechesis is what Pope Francis has described as an invitation for us to become missionary disciples through a deep formation in missionary discipleship within the context of the call for a new evangelization. A course on Transformative Catechesis is a response to this clarion call for a deep formation in missionary discipleship. Through readings, discussions, papers and presentations, students will explore this missionary and prophetic dimension of catechesis and its ability to transform individuals, the parish community and the larger society. The course will inspire the students (catechists) to re-examine their catechetical and evangelizing approach in the light of new evangelization and missionary discipleship to be better equipped to continue the formation of the Disciples of Christ, which is the primary aim of catechesis.

**Program & Course Learning Objectives:** The GPPM Program learning objectives for the Transformative Catechesis 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 1B***)
  - a. Identify the tasks of Catechesis in relation to Evangelization and New Evangelization (Reflection Paper #1).
  - b. Develop a strategic catechetical program that will promote missionary discipleship, which will be based on a community one is serving or seeking to serve (Class Final Project/Paper)
2. Apply skills from their area of concentration for use in their faith community. (***GPPM, Objective 3B***).
  - a. Become familiar with different cultural and social challenges of the New Evangelization (Reflection Papers #2 & #3).
  - b. Develop a project that employs one of the different methods of missionary discipleship that have been discussed in the class (Class Final Project/Paper).

## 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. **ISBN-1574554433**. Amazon- \$14.96
- Weddell, Sherry A., *Fruitful Discipleship: Living the Mission of Jesus in the Church and the World*. Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division: Huntington, IN, 2017. **ISBN: 978-1-61278-973-6**. Amazon- \$16.78
- 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* (Vatican Website).
- ❖ USCCB, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, 1999 (USCCB, Website).
- ❖ USCCB, *Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples*, 2019.

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

**For the Final Paper, please follow the [GPPM style guide](#).**

### **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- Summer (June 27<sup>th</sup>- August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

Before the first class, students will read:

- ❖ Directory for Catechesis (DC), Part One: #1-#109
- ❖ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 2013. Section: #s 1-49 (see Camino).

Module/Dates/Time/Format	Topics	Readings/Assignments
Class #1-Monday June 16th, 2025, 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Catechesis Within the Church's Mission of Evangelization.	Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> , 2013. Section: #s 50-109 (see Camino).
Class #2-Saturday June 21st, 9.00am – 12.00pm	Challenges of New Evangelization and the Church's Missionary Activity	Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> , 2013. Section: #s 110-175 (see Camino). <b>Reflection Paper #1 Due TBA</b>
Class #3-Monday June 23rd, 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Missionary Discipleship: Creating a Culture of Encounter	Read <b>Fruitful Discipleship</b> , Sherry Weddell-p. 9-95
Class #4-Monday June 30th, 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Fruitful Missionary Discipleship and Charisms	Read Fruitful Discipleship, Sherry Weddell- 97-202
Class #5-Saturday July 5 <sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 12.00pm	Fruitful Missionary Discipleship and Charisms	Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> , #s 176-258 <b>Reflection Paper #2 Due- Due TBA</b>
Class #6- Monday July 7th 6.00pm – 9.00pm	The Social Dimension of Missionary Discipleship	Read NDC Chapter 6- p. 157- 183
Class #7- Monday July 14 <sup>th</sup> 6.00pm – 9.00pm	The Social Dimension of Missionary Discipleship	Read DC Chapter VII- p. 123- 134
Class #8- Saturday July 19th 9.00am – 12.00pm	Methodology & Developing Pastoral Plan for Missionary Disciples	Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> , 2013. Section: #s 259- 288 <b>Reflection Paper #3 Due- Due TBA</b>
Class #9- Monday July 21 <sup>st</sup> 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Forming Spirit-Filled Missionary Disciples/Evangelizers/Catechists	Prepare for the final presentations of your paper/project
Class #10- Monday July 28 <sup>th</sup> 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Class Presentations	<b>Final Paper due: TBA</b>