Fr. Bernhard Blankenhorn, OP (DSPT), available by appointment • 510-853-4785 • bblankenhorn@dspt.edu

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to systematic theological reflection on the sacraments in general and on each of the seven sacraments. While other traditions will be touched upon, the focus will be on the Roman Catholic tradition, especially as found in the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. In this tradition, it is believed that (1) the sacraments, being instituted by Christ and deriving their power from him, introduce us to his divine life, and that (2) these sacraments are celebrated by the Church, so that this life may be professed and shared. This course focuses primarily on the first of these two fundamental aspects of the sacraments, although the second (liturgical) aspect will be present in many ways. Requirements: Weekly questions & comments in response to assigned readings, annotated bibliography, and two exams. Intended Audience: MDiv or MA Theology students; other graduate students admitted with permission.

Course goals and outcomes: Since sacraments are revealed mysteries, they do not admit of exhaustive descriptions. However, it is possible to reach a deeper grasp of the sacraments as the Church has taught, lived, and celebrated them. Thus, through this course, students will come to a more adequate theological understanding of the role of the Church’s sacraments in God’s saving work. In particular, as a result of this course, they will be better able (1) to describe the nature and effects of the sacraments, and the mysterious way in which the Savior works in the sacraments through ministers, in the understanding of St. Thomas; (2) to describe and analyze some of the key controversies over each of the sacraments in light of the Church’s history, tradition, and teaching office (magisterium); (3) to analyze contemporary questions in sacramental theology from the perspective of the tradition of St. Thomas Aquinas; (4) to engage in dialogue concerning Catholic and Thomistic sacramental theology, and (5) to carry out research in this field, through being introduced to important concepts and issues in it.

Format: Most classes will be composed of a lecture with questions and discussion.

Intended audience: This course is intended for MA Theology students, MDiv students, and MTS students; other students at least at the Master’s level may be admitted with permission of the professor.

Requirements: The course requires one annotated bibliography and two written exams. In addition, students will be required to read and study texts, attend class sessions, participate in class discussions, and hand in written assignments. Specific features of these requirements are given as follows:

Requirements: Students will be required to attend class and submit written assignments electronically. Specifically, students will be assessed on:

1. Attendance and active participation. Students are to be prepared for class lectures and discussions and to participate in them attentively and actively. Any student who misses three or
more classes (without written permission of the Academic Dean) *ipso facto* cannot receive a grade for the course. (10% of grade)

2. **Weekly Questions & Comments:** In preparation for each class session, each student shall write Questions & Comments (Q&C) concerning the readings (see the Grading Criteria in this syllabus, below). Each student’s Q&C contribution for the session shall be 100 to 500 words in length. These assignments are to be submitted electronically **by 2 pm on the day before** the class for which the readings are prepared, in an electronic manner (to be specified in class). Since they are due for every class period, they are not listed on the Plan for the Semester. (10% of grade)

3. **Annotated Bibliography** (submitted by e-mail). The Annotated Bibliography will consist of a research bibliography of 10 sources for the topic (chosen by the student & approved by the professor), with one or two sentences for each source, summarizing its contents. The bibliography should be focused and relevant to the topic, containing at least 8 relevant journal articles, and submitted electronically **by 2 pm on the day before** the class “due date” listed. (10% of grade)

4. **Midterm Exam.** The Midterm Exam is a written exam on the entirety of the course content up to the time the exam is given (see the Grading Criteria in this syllabus, below). The exam lasts for 60 minutes. All exam questions are distributed ahead of time. (30% of grade)

5. **Final Exam.** The Final Exam is to be an individual oral exam on the entirety of the course content (see the Grading Criteria in this syllabus, below). All exam questions are distributed ahead of time. (40% of grade)

**SUMMARY OF GRADE COMPOSITION:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Q&amp;C</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Grading Scale: A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3.0, B-=2.7, C+=2.3, C=2.0, C-=1.7, D=1.0, F=0.0. No late work of any kind will be accepted (except, at professor’s discretion, for very serious reasons).
Texts for Required Reading:


**Optional Reading**


Except for the books for which a cost is listed, all readings are to be supplied free of charge in class or through some online means (for Church or Papal documents where no URL is listed, online versions are easily found). All prices listed include shipping as found at www.bookfinder.com (new/used, rounded up, US shipping included); prices may vary considerably. At the instructor’s discretion, additional, brief readings may be assigned as the course progresses, depending on the students’ needs or interests, or other considerations.
### Plan for the Semester

**09.03** Course Introduction

**09.06** A. Sacraments in General and Baptism

ND, chap. 13 (including initial refs.); CCC 1066-1134 (sugg.: 1135-1209) and related biblical texts; O’Neill, Pref. & Intro., pp. v-xx, and chaps. 1-2, pp. 1-42.


Sacraments in Aquinas’s Summa: *ST* I 2 prolog; *ST* III prolog (not *ST* prolog), *ST* III 60 prolog; *ST* III 60.1.

Nature of sacraments; signs and words *ST* III 60.1-8; CCC 1136-1155 (Opt.: Schillebeeckx, pp. 91-97)

**09.17 & 9.20** Effects of the sacraments: a. grace: *ST* III 62.1-6 (Opt.: *Disputed Questions on Truth* Question 27, articles 4 and 7); b. character: *ST* III 63.1-6;

Sacraments’ cause, institution, and minister: *ST* III 64.1-10 (Opt.: Schillebeeckx, chap. 2, pp. 47-89);


**9.24 & 9.27** Baptism: ND, chap. 14 (including initial refs.); CCC 1210-84 & related biblical texts; Baptism: *ST* III 66.1-12; O’Neill, chap. 5, pp. 107-16;

Minister of baptism: *ST* III 67.1-8; O’Neill, chap. 6, 117-40;

Recipient *ST* III 68.1-8, 68.12; preparations of the recipients: *ST* III 71.1-4; RAS, Chap. 2; Baptism’s effects: *ST* III 69.1-10 (Opt.: Schillebeeckx, chaps. 4 and 5, pp. 133-95)

**10.1 & 10.4** B. Confirmation

C. Eucharist

10.8 & 10.11
ND, chap. 15 (including initial refs.); CCC 1322-1419 and related biblical texts; ST III 73.1-6; matter: bread and wine ST III 74.1; transubstantiation: ST III 75.1-8; mode of Christ’s presence: ST III 76.1-3; accidents ST III 77.1-2;

10.15 & 10.18
form ST III 78.1; Effects: ST III 79.5, 7; Reception: ST III 80.1, 6; minister: ST III 82.1-2, 4; The rite of the sacrament: sacrifice: ST III 83.1; RAS, Chap. 4

D. Sacrament of Reconciliation

10.29 & 11.1
October 29: 60 minute written midterm exam

D. Sacrament of Reconciliation

ND chap. 16 (including initial refs.); CCC 1420-98 and related biblical texts; CIC 965-97; RAS, Chap. 5 (Opt.: Rites I 523-44; CCEO 718-736); SCG IV 70-72; ST III qq. 84-90, Suppl. qq. 1-16

11.5 & 11.8

E. Sacrament of Anointing

11.12 & 11.15
CCC 1499-1532 and related biblical texts; CIC 998-1007; RAS, Chap. 6; ST Suppl. qq. 29-33 (Opt.: Rites I 769-74, 778-89, i.e., Gen. intro. nos. 1-41)

F. Sacrament of Holy Order

11.19 & 11.22
ND chap. 17; CCC 1533-1600 and related biblical texts; CIC 1008-1014, 1033-1045, 1050-1052; RAS, Chap. 7 (Opt.: Rites II 9-16, 22-26; CCEO 743-775); Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, nos. 18-29; Presbyterorum Ordinis, nos. 1-6.

11.26
G. Sacrament of Matrimony

ND chap. 18; CCC 1601-66 and related biblical texts; RAS, Chap. 8 (Opt.: Rites I 719-24; CIC 1055-1165; CCEO 776-782; 817-840)

11.29
Thanksgiving Holiday – no class session

12.03 & 12.06
ST Suppl. qq. 41-42, 44-49 (Opt.: 43); SCG III 122-126, SCG IV 78

12.10 & 12.13
Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, nos. 47-52; Paul VI, Humanae Vitae, Part II, nos. 7-19; JP II, Familiaris Consortio, nos. 11-16; (Opt.: Pontifical Council for the Family, Family, Marriage, and “de facto” Unions)
Bibliography: Select Works of Note

Note: Inclusion of works here does not imply the professor’s endorsement of their contents. Some books have Library of Congress call numbers listed for your convenience, used at the GTU Library, but many books without such call numbers listed are in fact available at the GTU Library.

Bibliographies:


Enlenchus bibliographicus. Nos. 2-3 of each vol. of Ephemeredes Theologicae Lovanienses. Louvain Journal of Theology and Canon Law. Louvain: E. Peeters, 1924-. [Each year, issue 2-3 (September) of EThL contains a bibliography for publications during the previous year from throughout the world, according to various indices, including the topics “Sacramentology” and “Liturgy.” In the GTU Library, the Enlenchus bibliographicus volumes are not with the periodicals, but are in the reference section, at Z 7753 E4]*


Martimort, A. G., ed. The Church at Prayer. 4 vols. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1992. [at the beginning of each chapter; many refs. are to works in French, with many in German, Italian, and English.]


online, see bibliographies by William J. Harmless, S.J., at http://moses.creighton.edu/harmless/bibliographies_for_theology/Sacraments_0.htm

There are excellent online electronic search databases, most of which require some sort of subscription. GTU students have access to many of these resources through the GTU Library. Some are accessible from off-campus with password access, others may be available only on-site at the library. Check with library staff for the resources currently available.
General Works, Sacramentality, and General Doctrine of the Sacraments:


**Baptism:**


**Confirmation:**


Eucharist:


**Penance:**


**Anointing of the Sick:**


**Holy Orders:**


**Matrimony:**


**Liturgy and Sacraments**


Louis-Marie Chauvet


Roman Catholic Ritual Texts


Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study Edition. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publication,
1988. [978-0930467944; $22/$6]


**Other Roman Catholic Church documents of note:**


Congregation for Clergy et al. *Ecclesiae de mysterio.* Interdicasterial Instruction *On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priest* (15 August 1997). [co-signed by eight Vatican dicasteries, including the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith]


I am indebted to Bishop Robert Christian, OP and Fr. Bryan Kromholtz for their help with the bibliography.