



DeMatha Catholic High School
DP 0123 – Foundations of Christianity
Instructor: Mr. Tobias Harkleroad
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Period	Room
1	327
2	327
4-5	327
10	327

Course Outline

This two-semester course for freshmen introduces the student to the fundamentals of Catholic Christianity. The course begins with the history of both the Trinitarian Order and the history of DeMatha Catholic High School. From there, what it means to be a member of the DeMatha Catholic High School community is discussed. Christian values in light of the teachings of the Gospels and the Church are explored. Throughout the course, concentration is given to Roman Catholic Christianity, its leaders and movements, and to assessing the mission of the Church in the context of history.

Concepts to be Explored

- History and Mission of the Trinitarian Order
- History and Mission of DeMatha Catholic High School
- The History of Judaism
- The Life and Message of Jesus
- The Apostles and the early Church
- The Era of the Church Fathers
- The Rise of Islam
- The Church in the Middle Ages
- The Reformation and the Counter-Reformation
- World Religions and the Age of Global Encounter
- The Church in the Modern and Post-Modern Eras

Prayer and ritual will be an integral part of the course throughout the year. On Fridays throughout the year students will participate in a reading and discussion of the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. This religion course will be treated both as an academic endeavor and as a spiritual journey.

Primary Textbooks:

- 📖 *The Catholic Church: Journey, Wisdom and Mission* by Carl Koch
- 📖 *World Religions: A Voyage of Discovery* by Jeffrey Brodd

Grading

Students will be required to complete all of the following to be successful in this course:

- 50 % of quarter grade = homework and classwork assignments, warm-ups, Scripture reflections
- 50 % of quarter grade = formal assessments of learning (i.e. tests, quizzes, papers and projects)
- Semester grades = quarter grades (40% each) plus exam grade (20%)
- Final grade = semester 1 (40%) + semester 2 (60%)

Grading Scale	93 % - 100 % = A	demonstrated outstanding mastery of concepts/skills
	90 % - 92 % = A-	
	85 % - 89 % = B	demonstrated high mastery of concepts/skills
	80 % - 84 % = B-	
	75 % - 79 % = C	demonstrated low mastery of concepts/skills
	65 % - 74 % = D	demonstrated minimal mastery of concepts/skills
64 % & below = F	demonstrated insufficient mastery of concepts/skills	



Course Policies

- ♦ *Attendance* – Students are expected to arrive to class on-time and be prepared to work. Students who are not in their seats when the bell rings are considered tardy. If a student is delayed due to another instructor or school function it is *his* responsibility to obtain a note from the person who delayed him, these tardies may be excused. Unexcused tardies will be reflected in a student's participation grade. A pattern of unexcused tardies may result in additional corrective action, including demerits. All tardies and absences from class are reported to the attendance office daily.
- ♦ *Absences (homework and classwork)* – Students who are absent from class must turn in late homework and/or classwork to Mr. Harkleroad within one school day of their return to school to qualify to receive full credit (ex. student is absent Monday and returns to school on Tuesday, his homework and classwork from Monday would be due on Wednesday). Assignments received after the one day grace period will be considered late. It is the student's responsibility to obtain any classwork or homework from the day(s) that they missed. Late work will receive a reduced grade.
- ♦ *Absences (tests, papers, projects)* – Students who are absent on the day of a test must take the test the next day that they are in school. Students who are absent the day a paper or project is due must turn in the paper or project the next day that they are in school. You are given advance notice for these assignments, therefore there is no excuse for not being prepared.
- ♦ *Participation* – All students are expected to complete all assignments to the best of their ability. Students are expected to participate in all activities to their best of their ability. Participation in class discussions, group exercises, etc. will be considered in determining participation grade.
- ♦ *Late work* – Assignments received after the period when they are due (or after the grace period for absences) will result in a reduced grade.
- ♦ *Academic honesty* – Students are expected to uphold high standards of academic honesty. Cheating is an extremely serious matter that will result in grade reduction and disciplinary action.

Cheating on tests:

- Looking at one's own notes, another student's notes or other materials during a test is unacceptable.
- Getting answers from someone else during a test or giving answers to someone else is unacceptable.
- Students are not to offer or request questions and/or answers regarding tests/quizzes from one another prior to everyone having taken the test/quiz.

Cheating on homework:

- A student may not copy another's work or do another student's homework for him.
- Students are to take their own notes in each class.

Using a computer to print homework, papers, projects, etc.:

- In order for a student to hand in a paper with his name on it, he must have typed the paper into the computer himself, unless he has made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Plagiarism:

- Students may not plagiarize. According to Webster's Dictionary, to plagiarize is to "steal and pass off as one's own the ideas or words of another." Whenever directly quoting, paraphrasing, rearranging words, or using synonyms to present material taken from a newspaper or magazine article, encyclopedia, book, Internet material, etc., students must give proper credit to the author.

- ♦ *Behavior* – Students are expected to act in accordance with the DeMatha handbook. Students are expected to act in a manner that is appropriate to a classroom. For instance, students should maintain a noise level appropriate to the activity occurring (ex. tests = silence, group work = inside voices). Students should focus their attention on the activity the class is participating in; chatting, reading other materials, doing homework for another class, sleeping, etc. are not acceptable. Students may not have food, drink, gum, or electronic equipment (including cell phones) in the classroom at any time. Students may not leave the classroom without the instructor's permission. Failure to meet behavioral standards will result in disciplinary action.



*Anything you did for one of these
brothers of mine, you did for me.*

Matthew 25:40



Expectations:

The Order of the Most Holy Trinity was founded in the 12th century by St. John de Matha for the purpose of freeing prisoners from bondage. Today, DeMatha Catholic High School lives out the Trinitarian Order's mission to free men from bondage by providing young men with excellent educations so that they might be freed from the bondage of ignorance and sin. St. John de Matha's mission to free prisoners was a direct response to his faith in Jesus Christ who stated that the greatest commandment after loving God with all one's heart, mind, and strength was to love one's neighbor. Much of Jesus' ministry consisted of teaching through words and example what the command to love truly means. Christianity is a response to Christ's command to love; it is the conscious choice to accept and the actions that follow when one accepts Christ's invitation to join in his saving work of building the Reign of God.

As a member of the DeMatha High School community you are asked to become part of our sacred Christian mission to free the prisoners of ignorance and sin and to build the Reign of God. You are asked to be a co-worker with your teachers, fellow students, and Christ in creating an environment where each person is loved and valued and allowed to become the person God intended for him to be. In order to create an environment where this mission can succeed, each person must constantly strive for excellence in thought, word, and deed.

The following general expectations will assist you in developing the attitudes and behaviors necessary to be an effective co-worker with Christ and active member of this class community:

<i>Be a scholar</i>	<i>Be a gentleman</i>
* Be prepared at the beginning of class	* Arrive on time
* Begin your warm-up activity immediately	* Be honest
* Participate in activities and discussions	* Be courteous
* Take notes	* Be humble
* Focus on class material at hand	* Be safe
* Read actively and take notes on readings	* Treat yourself and others with respect
* Complete assignments on time	* Actively listen when others are speaking
* Plan for tests, papers, and projects	* Raise your hand when you wish to be called upon
* Maintain a high level of academic integrity	* Take care of personal issues between classes
* Be curious	* Make careful choices, be mindful of consequences
* Be proud of your work	* Develop strong, healthy relationships with others

*All whatsoever you do, in word or in work,
do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Colossians 3:17

Student signature: _____ || Parent signature: _____ ||

I have read this course outline and am aware of its contents.

