

S 416: Theology of the Laity, Family, & Evangelization (1)
Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology
Spring Semester, 2024

Instructor: Alan Mostrom, Ph.D
Meets: Tuesday evening, 7pm-9pm
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description:

This course introduces basic theological concepts and topics concerning the laity, the Christian family, and the ecclesial task of evangelization. The course analyzes these theological concepts and topics through the study of Sacred Scripture, the Tradition, especially Vatican II, and in light of everyday experience of the laity living in secular society.

Course Objectives:

The specific goals of this course are to enable Catholic laity to:

1. Acquire the necessary theological vocabulary that will illumine our Christian existence as laity, Christian families, and the Christian task of evangelization;
2. Understand the lay vocation, the vocation of the family, and the task of evangelization in light of Sacred Scripture and Tradition;
3. Define the laity, the lay vocation, the collaboration of the laity with the hierarchy, and understand the lay state of life in light of Catholic dogma and doctrine;
4. Understand the Scriptural and Traditional basis of the Christian family and what are the necessary tasks of the Christian family
5. Understand the Scriptural and Traditional basis of evangelization and what the task of evangelization entails.

These objectives will be met through the student's careful reading of the assigned texts and class lectures and discussion.

Required Texts:

1. All assigned readings are located on Populi, or will be emailed to the students. They are organized by date.

Evaluation and Grading:

1. **Weekly quizzes (45%):** Each weekly quiz is posted on Populi and is to be taken after class and outside of class. Each quiz is based on the reading material and the lecture just delivered. There is a total of nine quizzes, each of which is worth 10 points each (five questions worth two points each). The format is a combination of True/False questions and multiple-choice questions.
2. **Reflection papers (30%):** After each section of the course [(1) theology of the laity; 2) theology of the Christian family; 3) theology of evangelization] a 1 ½ page reflection paper is due that summarizes the major theological points covered (1 page) and proposes how it can be practically applied to one's life as a Catholic (½ page). Formatting includes: 12

Times New Roman font; double-spaced; no citations necessary; complete sentences (no bullet points).

3. **Attendance & Participation (25%):** For a passing grade, the student must attend at least 8 of the 9 classes. Participation includes asking questions (even on breaks), staying/appearing attentive, and completing the assigned in a timely manner.

Grade Scale:

See the student handbook for Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology for the grading scale.

Course Schedule (subject to change):

1. April 9, 2024 – The history of the laity in Sacred Scripture and the Tradition
2. April 16, 2024 – The laity's share in Jesus Christ's royal & prophetic offices
3. April 23, 2024 – The laity's share in Jesus Christ's priestly office; the secularity of the laity
4. April 30, 2024 – [paper #1 due] The family in Sacred Scripture and the Tradition
5. May 7, 2024 – The Christian family and domestic Church and lay apostolate
6. May 14, 2024 – The Christian family's share in Jesus Christ's threefold office
7. May 21, 2024 – [paper #2 due] The call and task of evangelization in Sacred Scripture and Church history
8. May 28, 2024 – The difficulties, benefits, and joys of evangelization
9. June 4, 2024 – Preparation for the task of evangelization
10. [paper #3 can be emailed to the professor by the next week]