

Searchlight® Virtual School

Serving the Diocese of Palm Beach ... *and Beyond*

School of Christian Formation ... Online: Course Goals and Objectives

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Course Title | Introduction to the Bible: Old and New Testaments (This is a combined course. Online students receive credit for both the SCF Old Testament Introduction and New Testament Introduction courses.) |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course is designed to introduce learners to the Bible, and to help them understand, love, live by, and teach Scripture. It will help students understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meaning of inspiration, historical development, and literary criticism • The primary themes and basic concepts in Scripture, including covenant, kingdom, creation, salvation, and conversion • The scriptural foundations for Catholic moral teaching, conscience formation, and decision-making • The use of Scripture in theological reflection • God's revelation in Creation, the person of Jesus, and lived experience • Jesus' life, mission, death, and Resurrection |
| Online Tutorials (4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>A Popular Guide to Reading the Bible</i> by Macrina Scott, O.S.F. ▶ <i>The Whole Bible at a Glance: Its Golden Thread of Meaning</i> by Virginia Smith ▶ <i>Finding the Heart of Jesus' Life: Looking at Jesus in the Gospels</i> by Kenneth R. Overberg, S.J. ▶ <i>The Beatitudes: Finding Where Your Treasure Is</i> by Leonard Foley, O.F.M. |
| Required Text | <p style="text-align: center;">Scripture: Nourished by the Word Margaret Nutting Ralph, Ph.D. Loyola Press • List Price: \$7.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the four online tutorials and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a combined course, all requirements must be met within a four month timeframe. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Course Title | Christology |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course is designed to help students develop the skills required to proclaim Christ in today's world. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring individuals to a clear knowledge of Jesus Christ as true God and true man • Clarify the Church's teachings about the nature and life of Jesus Christ • Help bring individuals into a personal relationship with the living Christ • Help seekers understand why Jesus is the example and guide for their lives • Help them worship the living God through Christ and in the Spirit |
| Online Tutorials (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Who is Jesus?</i> by Leonard Foley, O.F.M. ▶ <i>The Four Faces of Jesus</i> by Virginia Smith |
| Required Text | <p>Christology: True God, True Man Matthias Neuman, O.S.B., S.T.D. Loyola Press • List Price: \$7.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the two online tutorials and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a single course, all requirements must be met within a three month timeframe. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Course Title | Ecclesiology |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course presents a theological study of the Church with a particular focus on the Church as "communion" and "mission." It follows the vision of the Second Vatican Council in explaining the nature and identity of the Church. It will help students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer the call to communion and mission in specific ways of life and activity • Understand what is meant by a "communion of disciples" • Clarify the ordering and structure of the Church • Examine the Church's ministries of Word and Sacrament • Understand the Church's evangelizing activity in the world: to transform human society in the light of the Gospel • See that being one, holy, catholic, and apostolic is both what the Church is, as well as what the Church is called to become • Understand the role of Mary in the life of the Church |
| Online Tutorials (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>What is the Kingdom of God: A Theologian Explains the Key Image of the Gospel</i> by Richard P. McBrien ▶ <i>Mary of Nazareth: Jesus' Mother, Our Mother</i> by Alfred McBride, O. Praem |
| Required Text | <p>Ecclesiology: <i>The Church as Communion and Mission</i> Morris Pelzel, Ph.D. Loyola Press • List Price: \$7.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the two online tutorials and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a single course, all requirements must be met within a three month timeframe. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Course Title | History of the Church |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>The history of the Church is the story of faith handed on, of how fallible human people have struggled to live out the Gospel in the very concrete circumstances of their lives for two thousand years. This course will help students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that the entire Church is responsible for the conservation and transmission of the Gospel message • Examine the role that prayer, study of Scripture, and the teachings of the Church have played in the Christian story • Learn from the insights and wisdom, as well as the mistakes and missteps, of those who have striven to live the Gospel message throughout the history of Christianity • Understand why some knowledge of the depths and riches of the past help nourish the ministry of the Church today |
| Online Tutorial (1) | <p>▶ <i>Ten 'Peak Moments' of Church History: From Pentecost to Vatican II</i> by Alfred McBride, O. Praem.</p> |
| Required Text | <p>Church History: <i>Faith Handed On</i> Kevin L. Hughes, Ph.D. Loyola Press • List Price: \$7.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the online tutorial and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a single course, all requirements must be met within a three month timeframe. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Course Title | <p style="text-align: center;">Liturgy and Sacraments</p> <p>(This is a combined course. Online students receive credit for both the SCF Liturgy and Sacraments courses.)</p> |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course is an introduction to the history, theology, and pastoral practice of the Church's liturgy and her sacraments. It will help students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realize how the liturgy is understood as the work of the Church and the work of God • Examine the sacraments as visible signs • Understand how and why the sacraments confer the gift of grace • Clarify the meaning of "the institution of the sacraments by Christ" • Examine a brief history of the early development of each of the seven sacraments • Grasp the importance of Baptism as the sacramental action of the Church that makes us Christian and Catholic • Understand the history and theology of the Eucharist • Examine the theological and pastoral implications of the Church's sacramental life |
| Online Tutorials (4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Liturgy: The Church's Work of Praising God</i> by Carol Luebering ▶ <i>A Walk Through The Mass: A Step-by-Step Explanation</i> by Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M. ▶ <i>The Sacraments: Symbols of God's Care</i> by Sandra DeGidio, O.S.M. ▶ <i>The Sacramentals: Embracing God Through Creation</i> by Joanne Turpin |
| Required Text | <p style="text-align: center;">Sacramental Theology: Means of Grace, Ways of Life Kurt Stasiak, O.S.B. Loyola Press • List Price: \$7.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the four online tutorials and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a combined course, all requirements must be met within a four month timeframe. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Course Title | Vatican II |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course develops the principle that the Second Vatican Council remains the fundamental event in the life of the contemporary Church and is the constant reference point for pastoral action. This course will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize students with the antecedent historical context of the Council • Familiarize students with the Popes behind the Council • Assist students in understanding that Vatican II addressed an extraordinary number of issues, and familiarize them with ten basic principles of reform • Explore vital Church teachings and practices, first through a historical examination of the vision set forth by the major documents of the Second Vatican Council and then in light of the Church's contemporary life and practice |
| Online Tutorials (14) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Getting To Know Vatican II: Part 1 - The Antecedent Historical Context of the Council</i> by Michelle Willis; <i>Part 2 - Principles of Reform</i> by Cardinal Avery Dulles ▶ <i>Living Vatican II Today: Twelve Tutorials based on: Vatican 2 Today - A Catholic Update Series: St. Anthony Messenger Press</i> |
| Required Text | <p style="text-align: center;">Vatican Council II: Volume 1 - The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents - New Revised Edition General Editor: Austin Flannery, O.P. List Price: \$26.95 (Purchase from Amazon.com for \$17.79)</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the Online Tutorials for Vatican II 2. Submit the completed Course Worksheets to the Searchlight Virtual School. 3. Read <i>The Decree on Ecumenism</i>. 4. Submit a written reflection on the <i>Decree on Ecumenism</i>. Narrow the focus of your reflection to something within the document that stood out to you, grabbed your attention for a particular reason, or perhaps even surprised you. Explain why. 5. This reflection assignment may be sent as an e-mail attachment using .doc or .pdf extensions; it may also be composed and submitted as an e-mail message. 6. Although this is a single course, it is very comprehensive, so all requirements must be met within a four month timeframe. |

| Course Title | Morality |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course emphasizes that the Christian moral life begins with the experience that we are loved by God in an unimaginable, unfathomable way and that living faithfully is our attempt to respond to the gift of that love. This course will help students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the meaning of Christian morality • Explain why morally good choices lead to true human fulfillment • Examine and explain what the true human goods are and why they lead to human fulfillment in this life and in the next • Clarify what is meant by "loving others" • Realize and embrace the Christian's moral responsibility to take an active role in the work of establishing the reign of God • Understand the reality and meaning of "conscience" • Comprehend the nature of "sin" and its power in individual lives and in the world • Understand how resurrection faith and Christian hope impact the human process of conversion • Examine issues of medical ethics from a Catholic perspective • Examine several important themes and ideas concerning human sexuality • Examine key convictions of Catholic social teaching |
| Online Tutorials (4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Discerning the Voice of the Good Shepherd: Part 1 - Principles of Morality - Toward True Human Fulfillment; Part 2 - Modes of Responsibility and Modes of Christian Response</i> by Michelle Willis -- Based on The Way of the Lord Jesus (Volume 1) <i>Christian Moral Principles</i> by Germain Grisez ▶ <i>The Ten Commandments: Sounds of Love From Sinai</i> by Alfred McBride, O. Praem. ▶ <i>Who Will Be Saved? What Catholics Believe About Salvation</i> by Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M. |
| Required Text | <p style="text-align: center;">Christian Morality: <i>In the Breath of God</i> Russell B. Conners, Jr., Ph.D. Loyola Press • List Price: \$7.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the four online tutorials and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a single course, but fairly comprehensive, all requirements must be met within a four month timeframe. |

| Course Title | Social Doctrine |
|---|---|
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course stresses that "to work for social justice is embedded in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, who came 'to bring good tidings to the poor ... liberty to captives ... and recovery of sight to the blind'" (NDC #42-C). This course will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist students in understanding and carrying out the seven key themes at the heart of Catholic social teaching articulated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops • Familiarize students with important Social Justice terms and how they apply to the work of catechizing for social justice • Present an exploration of the contributions of five Popes who played an important role in formulating, articulating, and expanding the Church's social teachings • Provide an examination of eight social documents (six Social Encyclicals and two USCCB Pastoral Letters) and stress the key points of each • Clarify the distinction between "social justice" and "private charity," leading students to understand how and why the Church's social teaching "seeks to apply the Gospel command of love to and within social systems, structures, and institutions" (NDC #43-C) • Establish a Biblical foundation for the Church's social teachings, one which clarifies the framework through which both the Old and New Testaments have established a "living tradition of social justice in thought and action" (NDC #43-C) • Provide an overview of Vatican II's <i>Gaudium et Spes</i> - The Constitution of the Church in the Modern World |
| Online Tutorials (1 Comprehensive Six-Step Tutorial) | <p>▶ <i>Building A Culture of Life: The Church's Social Teachings - A Six-Step Tutorial</i> by Michelle Willis Theological Advisor: Rev. John D'Mello, Ph.D., S.T.L.</p> <p>The Six Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building Your Social Justice Vocabulary 2. The Popes of Social Justice 3. The Social Encyclicals 4. Social Justice: More Than Private Charity 5. A Biblical Foundation For Social Justice 6. Evangelizing for Justice: Based on the Vatican II Document <i>Gaudium et Spes</i> |
| Required Text | <p style="text-align: center;">A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching Kevin E. McKenna Ave Maria Press • List Price: \$13.95</p> |

Course Requirements

- Complete all six steps of the Online Tutorial for the Social Doctrine Course.
- Submit the completed Course Worksheets to the Searchlight Virtual School.
- Purchase and read: *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* by Kevin E. McKenna, Ave Maria Press.
- Submit a written reflection on the effect of the Church's Social Teachings on your spiritual outlook. Your reflection should clearly take into account the material learned through the online tutorials and what you read in the course text.
- This assignment may be sent as an e-mail attachment using .doc or .pdf extensions; it may also be composed and submitted as an e-mail message.
- Since this is a single course, all requirements must be met within a three month timeframe.

| Course Title | Spirituality |
|--|---|
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course is a clear and effective presentation of Catholic teaching on the spiritual life. This course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates the wisdom of the classic spiritual direction of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross into understandable contemporary principles without compromising their depth and richness • Presents six keys for a deeper spiritual life: prayer, Scripture and spiritual reading, the sacraments, community, virtue, and forgiveness • Offers light on the path toward spiritual growth • Invites believers to follow the steps the saints have taken and to discover how to deepen the quality of one's spiritual life • Presents a concise and accessible thematic overview of the various ways Christians have approached God in prayer and practice |
| Online Tutorials (1 Comprehensive Eight-Step Tutorial) | <p>▶ <i>Six Keys to a Deeper Spiritual Life: An eight-step tutorial based on the book: Six Keys to a Deeper Spiritual Life by Therese Cerner</i></p> |
| Required Text | <p>Christian Spirituality: Themes from the Tradition Lawrence S. Cunningham and Keith J. Egan Paulist Press • List Price: \$16.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the eight-step online tutorial and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a single course, all requirements must be met within a three month timeframe. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Course Title | Pastoral Ministry |
| Course Goals and Objectives | <p>This course provides an overview of lay ecclesial ministry situated within the social and ecclesial environment and within the framework of the Church's belief, teaching, and pastoral practice. This course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents a foundation for lay ecclesial ministry grounded in Scripture and the teachings of the Church • Outlines the specific characteristics of lay ecclesial ministry as laid out by the USCCB • Explains the sacramental basis for lay ecclesial ministry • Explains why "all ministry finds its place within the communion of the Church and serves the mission of Christ in the Spirit" • Examines why the Church is a "communion for mission" and explains the role of lay ecclesial ministers in that mission • Demonstrates the possibility of a fruitful collaboration between ordained and lay ecclesial ministry in the service of the Church • Examines the call of lay ecclesial ministers and challenges the whole Church to move forward in hope |
| Online Tutorials (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Co-Workers Tutorial 1: Describing and Responding to New Realities</i> ▶ <i>Co-Workers Tutorial 2: Understanding the Realities in Light of Theology and Church Teaching</i> <p>These tutorials are based on Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry -- A Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops</p> |
| Required Text | <p>Forward in Hope: <i>Saying AMEN to Lay Ecclesial Ministry</i> Bishop Matthew H. Clark Ave Maria Press • List Price: \$11.95</p> |
| Course Requirements | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the online tutorials and submit the completed corresponding course materials to the Searchlight Virtual School. 2. Purchase and read the required course text. 3. Complete and submit the "Assessment" materials associated with the course text. The format for the Text Assessment is "open book." 4. Since this is a single course all requirements must be met within a three month timeframe. |