

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy  
Lauralton Hall**

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
Course Descriptions 2012-2013**

**Service Requirement**

*Religion credit is dependent upon satisfactory completion of service hours.*

<b>Freshmen:</b>	Ten hours of community service.
<b>Sophomores:</b>	Thirty hours of community service outside Lauralton Hall.
<b>Juniors/Seniors:</b>	Fifteen hours of community service each year, of which at least ten hours must be outside Lauralton Hall. Five hours may be served within the Lauralton Hall community.

**(0132) Freshman Religion 1 – The Bible** **First Semester** **.5 Credit**

*Required of freshmen.*

Recognizing that incoming freshmen have varying degrees of familiarity with Catholicism, this course begins by orienting students to the basic beliefs and practices of Catholicism. It does not assume any previous knowledge of the subject. Freshman Religion 1 provides an introduction to the Sacred Scriptures and to the unfolding of salvation history, with a particular focus on Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of salvation history. It explores Divine and natural Revelation, inspiration, and Biblical interpretation. The course guides the students in coming to know the people of salvation history and the role of the Scriptures in the life of faith for the individual and for the entire Church.

**(0142) Freshman Religion 2 – Who is Jesus Christ?** **Second Semester** **.5 Credit**

*Required of freshmen.*

In this course the students encounter Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity. This course leads the students toward a deeper understanding of Divine Revelation, the Trinity, and salvation through the life and teachings of Jesus. It also explores discipleship as a response to God's love.

**(0242) Sophomore Religion 1 – The Paschal Mystery** **Frist Semester** **.5 Credit**

*Required of sophomores.*

The goodness of creation, original sin, and the promise of a Messiah are the starting points for this course, which explores our salvation through the life, suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. The course also explores how the Paschal Mystery impacts our daily lives, our prayer, and our participation in the life of the Church.

**(0252) Sophomore Religion 2 – The Church** **Second Semester** **.5 Credit**

*Required of sophomores.*

This course provides an overview of the Catholic faith in an effort to deepen our awareness of what it means to be a people of God. The mission, identity, structure, and origin of the Church is explored. Special emphasis is placed on the different responses required of all members of the church, including the laity, the clergy, the hierarchy, and those in religious life. The course also highlights the seven sacraments and the global presence of the Church as a light to all people.

**(0362) Junior Religion 1 – Comparative Religions**

**First Semester**

**.5 Credit**

*Required of juniors.*

This course explores the world's major religious traditions and their influence on history, culture, and society. The course begins by exploring the foundations of the discipline of religious studies then continues with a brief overview of ancient religions. The core of the course is dedicated to the study of Judaism, Christianity (including Protestant denominations), Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religious traditions (including Confucianism and Taoism) and Japanese religious traditions (including Shinto and Zen Buddhism). The course concludes with a brief overview of new religious movements (including Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses). This course teaches an appreciation of diversity and respect for the values of these religious traditions while emphasizing Christian principles. Significant attention is paid to current events and to women's roles in religion.

**(0372) Junior Religion 2**

**Second Semester**

**.5 Credit**

**Women Responding to the Call of Jesus**

*Required of juniors.*

One of the core values of a Mercy education is concern for women and women's issues. The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. Christian women throughout history are studied as exemplars of how diverse gifts can be used in the service of God and others. The course begins with women of the Bible, then considers women's roles in the early Church and in monastic life. It continues with an exploration of medieval mystics and the history of active religious sisters. It also examines the task of theology, the roles of Eve and Mary in the Bible and the Christian imagination, and the situation of women in the US and around the world in conjunction with the Christian call to justice.

**(0472) Senior Religion 1 - Morality**

**First Semester**

**.5 Credit**

*Required of seniors.*

This course addresses how a relationship with Christ and the Church can lead to choices that are in accord with God's plan. It emphasizes the way that choices (both large and small), habits, and patterns of behavior affect the student's relationships with God and others. Course topics include virtues, vices, love, sin, honesty, alcohol and drug abuse, sexuality, and more. Activities in class help students come to a better understanding of how attentiveness to these areas of human development serves as a basis for sound moral decision making.

**(0482) Senior Religion 2 – Christian Peace and Justice Second Semester .5 Credit**

*Required of seniors.*

This course explores the Christian call to peace and justice that stems from the life and teachings of Jesus and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The goal of the course is to empower students to promote the Reign of God in the world today as compassionate disciples and thoughtful citizens capable of eliminating injustice. After a brief overview of the history of Catholic Social Teaching, the class explores local and global issues, including discrimination, poverty, and a consistent ethic of life, in relation to the principle of the life and dignity of the human person. Special attention is paid to the way that the individual's choices impact the common good.