

**MACS 699**  
**Master's Thesis**  
Christian Brothers University

Syllabus for Fall 2020

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN CATHOLIC STUDIES has as its major goal the broadening and deepening of the understanding of the Catholic faith through the study of Catholic theology and the interdisciplinary study of Catholicism's influence in the world.

The program offers systematic and critical exploration of the diverse ways in which the Catholic tradition informs theology, culture, institutions, and identity. The study of the Catholic faith will help individuals develop an intellectual and academic approach to Catholicism which does justice to the richness and profound truth of Catholicism as a Christian religious tradition. An additional goal is that through the study of Catholicism, individuals will come to understand and deepen their knowledge and love of God, seek the well-being of humankind, and provide well-reasoned motives for the practice of Christian principles. This program will help prepare students for diverse ministries, such as primary and secondary school religion teaching, religious education in parish settings, pastoral leadership, and social service.

**Instructor Information:**

Mr. William F. Slavney, S.T.L.  
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**Office Hours:**

Mon 12:45 pm – 4:30 pm  
Tues 8:15 am – 9:15 am; 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm  
Wed 12:45 pm – 4:30 pm  
Thur 8:15 am – 9:15 am; 12:45 pm – 4:30 pm  
Fri 12:45 pm – 4:30 pm

**Course Description:** (from catalog) the thesis is a substantial revision and development of a term paper written for a different course in the program. Students are advised and graded jointly by the director and professor for whom they originally wrote the paper.

**Course Materials:** There are not any concrete textbooks that are required for this course since we will not meet like a normal course. The following resources will most likely be of great reference to you.

- Baretto, Eric D. *Thinking Theologically*. United States, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, 2015.
- Baretto, Eric D. *Writing Theologically*. United States, Fortress Press, 2015.
- Smith, Kevin Gary. *Writing and Research: A Guide for Theological Students*. United Kingdom, Langham Global Library, 2016.
- Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. United States, InterVarsity Press, 2016.
- Aureada, Jose Antonio E.. *Thesis Writing for Theology Students: A Primer*. Philippines, UST Publishing House, 2009.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

**Course Notes:** The preparation and defense of your master's thesis is the culminating experience in the MACS Program. Students are expected to work with a high level of self-motivation. Successful students exercise initiative and exhibit strong communication skills in working with their advisors and committee members.

This course requires individual effort that is overseen by the course instructor, your Thesis Advisor. Weekly or bi-weekly meetings will be held to discuss progress and review submitted documents.

Once the research and necessary analysis and results compilation are completed, then individual thesis chapters will be written and revised iteratively until we both agree that the document is ready for submission to the Thesis Committee. If the committee agrees, then a Defense of your thesis will be held. Following successful completion of the Defense, the manuscript is revised a final time and once approved, can be uploaded.

**Course Assignments:** There are no formal assignments in this course. In consultation with the course instructor, your Thesis Advisor, students develop a personal work schedule with specified deliverables. Weekly or bi-weekly individual meetings will be held online to discuss submitted deliverables and revise the work plan if needed.

**Grading Policy:** Since there are no assignments, there is no assignment grades in this course. Completion of this course is determined when each member of your Thesis Committee digitally signs the Approval to Upload form. This form is signed after successful completion of the oral defense and acceptance by each committee member of the thesis document. Only after all of this has been completed will you receive a passing status.

**Course Schedule:** In consultation with the course instructor, each student will develop his or her own work schedule for the course. This schedule will be uploaded into Bb at the beginning of the semester and revised as needed as the work progresses.