

## Course Descriptions

**ENGL 202 The Literature of Western Civilization IV** The fourth semester of the literature core examines literary developments within the context of the secularization of Western culture consequent to the fragmentation of Christendom by the Protestant Revolt and the Enlightenment. Focusing on the tensions emerging between a Christian understanding of man's nature and destiny and the various distorted modern views of man, students will study Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Hawthorne's short stories, Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, and T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*. A recovery of the Christian vision of man in the twentieth century will be investigated in Eliot's "Ash Wednesday," Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, and short stories by Flannery O'Connor.

**THEO 101-102 Fundamentals of Catholic Doctrine** (2 semesters, 3 credit hours each semester) A systematic presentation of the mysteries of the Faith, the moral and spiritual norms of Christian life, the liturgy and the sacraments, as revealed in Scripture and Apostolic Tradition and as defined by the magisterial documents of the Church.

**THEO 201 Introduction to the Old Testament** Major selections from the books of the Old Testament are read within the norms of Catholic exegesis. Special emphasis is placed upon the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Wisdom literature. One major purpose is to inspire a love of God's Word, which is fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

**THEO 202 Introduction to the New Testament** The Gospels and other books of the New Testament are read in the light of Catholic norms of exegesis. The course will show how the Gospel texts reveal the real historical Jesus, true God and true Man, and will address contemporary critics who seek to distance the texts from Him. The course will also introduce the main themes of the Pauline corpus, the Johannine literature, and the Catholic Epistles. The primary goal is to make manifest through an in depth study of the Sacred texts that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's Revelation.

**PSAE 201 Principles of Political Theory** An introduction to Classical and Catholic ideas on the relationship between man and the state, the sources of power and authority, inter-relationship between natural law and the conduct of government, and the common good and its application to social and economic problems. The course deals with these topics in light of classical, medieval, modern, and contemporary thinkers.

**PSAE 202 The Social Teachings of the Church** An introduction to the major social and political teachings of the Catholic Church as found in Revelation, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and the authoritative documents of the Holy See. The major topics covered include the duties of the individual to the state and society, the duties of the government to its citizens, wealth and poverty, property, the relationship of the state and the Church, socialism, capitalism, and the family in the life of society.

**HIST 101 History of Western Civilization I: The Ancient and Biblical World** This course presents the historical reality of Old Testament history, the rise and decline of classical Greece, and the building of the Macedonian, Hellenistic, and Roman empires, the wars of the Maccabees, the age of Herod, and the Incarnation as an historical event. Primary texts include substantial portions of the Old Testament, Plutarch's Lives, and essays by Cicero.

**HIST 102 History of Western Civilization II: The Formation of Christendom** The course treats the rise and development of Christian Europe, from the foundation of the Church at Pentecost through the end of the Crusade to the Holy Land in 1291. Topics covered include the decline and fall of the Roman Empire and the triumph of Christianity, the challenge of the great heresies and how the Church overcame them, the conversion of

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the barbarians, the assault of Islam, the founding of the Holy Roman Empire, the Crusades, and the development of medieval Christendom. Primary texts include St. Athanasius' Life of St. Anthony, St. Augustine's Confessions, the Rule of St. Benedict, and the Song of Roland.

**HIST 201 History of Western Civilization III: The Division of Christendom** This course treats the division of Western Europe by the rise of incipient nationalism in the late-medieval period and the Protestant revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries. Topics covered include Spain and Portugal in the Age of Discovery, late-medieval religious culture, The Renaissance, the causes and character of the Protestant Revolt and the Catholic Reform, and the division of Western Europe into confessional kingdoms. Primary texts include William Langland, *Piers Plowman*; Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty*; Francis Bacon, *New Atlantis*; and Pedro Calderon de la Barca, *Life is a Dream*.

**HIST 202 History of Western Civilization IV: Church & World in the Modern Age** This course treats the secularization and dechristianization of Europe and the rise of the culture of death. Topics covered include the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, Nationalism, Communism, Fascism, the growth of modern science, World Wars I and II, the Cold War, the Second Vatican Council, and the Pontificate of John Paul II. Primary texts include Voltaire, *Letters concerning the English Nation*; Marx & Engels, *Communist Manifesto*; Pius XI, *Quas Primas*; and John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*.

**Students may choose from a variety of Mathematics, Science, or Language courses in order to fulfill the core requirements.**

**MATH:** Introduction to Mathematical Thought, Euclidean Geometry, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Computer Programming, Calculus I, II, III, Linear Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Symbolic Logic, Modal Logic, Mathematical Logic, and Differential Equations.

**SCIENCE:** Introduction to Scientific Thought, Descriptive Astronomy, General Physics I and II, and Laboratory for General Physics I & II.

**LANGUAGE:** Elementary French I & II, Intermediate French I & II, Survey of French Literature I & II, Elementary Italian I, Intermediate Spanish I & II, Elementary Latin I & II, Intermediate Latin I & II, Latin Composition and Reading, The Augustan Age, The Imperial Age, Patristic Latin, Medieval Latin, Latin Readings in St. Thomas Aquinas, Elementary Greek I & II, Intermediate Greek I & II, Homer, Classical Greek Theater, Patristic Greek, Advanced Readings in Greek Philosophy and Rhetoric, Special Topics in Greek Language and Literature, and Introductory Biblical Hebrew.



**CHRISTENDOM  
COLLEGE**

A Roman Catholic Liberal Arts College

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*Christendom College does not discriminate against any applicant or student on the basis of race, sex, color, or national origin.*

# CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE



**An Introduction to the  
Academic Program**

## Curriculum Overview

Studies at Christendom College are both demanding and exciting. In addition to its core curriculum of liberal studies, the College offers six carefully selected majors for students seeking the degree of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.).

**Majors: History, Classical and Early Christian Studies, English Language and Literature, Philosophy, Theology, and Political Science and Economics**

**Minors: Math, Liturgical Music, and any of the above**

### The Core Curriculum

Christendom's academic program is characterized by an exceptionally strong core curriculum, designed to provide the orderly, sequential presentation of fundamental principles of theology, philosophy, and mathematical science along with the historical and literary knowledge which is foundational for an understanding of our civilization.

### The Introductory Curriculum

Christendom's exploration of truth begins with a systematic exposition of the fundamentals of Catholic doctrine in the freshman year, followed by two courses in Sacred Scripture during the sophomore year. In conjunction with this, courses in the Thomistic philosophy of human nature, ethics, and metaphysics assist the student in using reason to understand the nature of reality and to illumine further the truths of Revelation.

An indispensable element in any sound education is learning to distinguish truth from error or distortion, and then to communicate truth accurately, effectively, and convincingly to others. Therefore, Christendom requires an introduction to the fundamental questions and methods of philosophy, the study of logic, mathematics and scientific thought, and training in the arts of discourse, along with at least four semesters of a foreign language.

The study of a foreign language, particularly of an inflected language such as Latin or Greek, leads the student to an understanding of the nature and structure of language as such, and hence to a true command of language. Furthermore, foreign language study both enhances linguistic skills and enables the student to gain a fuller appreciation of the European roots of American culture, a purpose which is also served by four courses each in the great heritage of Western literature and the history of Western civilization.

The transformation of all history by the Incarnation makes a truly Christ-centered study of the past indispensable to any who would understand the present and shape the future. At Christendom such a study includes a four-semester chronological examination of the formation and disintegration of Christian culture from ancient times to the present. Moreover, to assist students going on to make history themselves, there are courses in political theory and the social teachings of the Church which provide a sound alternative to modern economic systems and ideologies.

## The Core Curriculum at a Glance

The following chart shows the place and sequence of the core curriculum upon which studies for the majors are based.

Subject Matter	Theology	Philosophy	English	Math & Poli-Sci	Language	History
Freshman Year Fall Semester	Fundamentals of Catholic Doctrine I	Introduction to Philosophy	Literature of Western Civilization I	Mathematics	Classical or Modern Language	Ancient and Biblical World
Freshman Year Spring Semester	Fundamentals of Catholic Doctrine II	Philosophy of Human Nature	Literature of Western Civilization II	Natural Science	Classical or Modern Language	The Formation of Christendom
Sophomore Year Fall Semester	Introduction to the Old Testament	Ethics	Literature of Western Civilization III	Principles of Political Theory	Classical or Modern Language	The Division of Christendom
Sophomore Year Spring Semester	Introduction to the New Testament	Metaphysics	Literature of Western Civilization IV	Social Teachings of the Church	Classical or Modern Language	Church and World in the Modern Age
Junior Year Fall Semester	Moral Theology	History of Ancient & Medieval Philosophy				
Junior Year Spring Semester	Catholic Apologetics	History of Modern Philosophy				
Senior Year Fall Semester	<b>Major and Electives</b>					
Senior Year Spring Semester	<b>Major and Electives</b>					

The primary aim of Christendom College is of course academic, but intellectual formation is never severed from spiritual, social, and personal formation. Just as the different disciplines are integrated in the Christendom curriculum, so too that curriculum is integrated with the rest of the student's life at Christendom College. Education is furthered not only in the classroom but also in the chapel, and at mealtime, in leisure time, and throughout the entire day as students converse with each other and with professors.

Christendom College is not merely a curriculum of courses: it is a season of life in which the whole man matures in wisdom, in virtue, and in ability—intellectually, morally, socially, and spiritually.

## Core Curriculum Course Descriptions

**PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy** An introduction to the philosophical project through a consideration of key themes of Ancient Western philosophy. The course will include pre-Socratic thought, but will emphasize the thought of Plato and Aristotle. Roughly half of the course will focus on Aristotelian logic. This may be done either by splitting the course into two halves or by working the logical material into the treatment of the thinkers covered. Required of all students.

**PHIL 102 Philosophy of Human Nature** A systematic investigation of the nature of man, including a demonstration of the immateriality of the intellectual soul, the unity of the human person, his subsistence, freedom of the will, sensory and intellectual knowledge, and his natural end: God. The study will be based largely on texts of St. Thomas Aquinas and will include a consideration of contrasting positions.

**PHIL 201 Ethics** A systematic investigation of Aristotelian/Thomistic ethics, the subject of which is human action ordered to an end. The good human life is understood in terms of achieving the ultimate end of contemplative union with God through growth in virtue, with the instruction of law. Other topics include the voluntary character of human action and moral good and evil. Primary texts include the *Nicomachean Ethics* of Aristotle and the *Prima secundae* of St. Thomas' *Summa Theologiae*. Other major contemporary ethical systems will also be considered.

**PHIL 202 Metaphysics** An introduction to an elementary Christian metaphysics of being based on the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Topics covered include an analysis of being in terms of essence and existence, a demonstration of the existence and nature of God based on that analysis, the categories, the transcendental modes of being, and cognitional being.

**ENGL 101 Literature of Western Civilization I** This first-semester freshman course begins Christendom College's two-year literature core curriculum studying masterworks of the Western literary imagination. Beginning with the wisdom of St. Basil the Great's *Address to Young Men on Reading Greek Literature*, the course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about the Homeric epic and Classical Greek tragedy, including the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, and Aeschylus's dramatic trilogy, the *Oresteia*, in the light of the *Poetics* of Aristotle. Developing the student's writing skills through practice in composition, specifically exposition and argumentation, conforming to academic standards of format and style, is a complementary goal of the Literature of Western Civilization core curriculum.

**ENGL 102 Literature of Western Civilization II** The second semester of the Western literature core focuses on the literary, philosophical, and thematic continuity from late Classical Antiquity through the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Included are Cicero's *Dream of Scipio* and three forms of the epic: Virgil's *Aeneid*, the Old English *Beowulf*, and Dante's *Divine Comedy*. In addition to extensive writing practice, students receive an introduction to the conduct of academic research.

**ENGL 201 The Literature of Western Civilization III** The third semester of the Western literature core treats vernacular literature of the High Middle Ages through the seventeenth century, beginning with two works of medieval Arthurian romance, the *Old French Quest of the Holy Grail* and the Middle English *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, followed by Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*; the medieval Mystery play, the *Second Shepherd's Play*, and the morality play *Everyman*; Christopher Marlowe's *Tragical History of Dr. Faustus*; Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*; and finally, Milton's *Paradise Lost*.