

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

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
Course Descriptions 2008-2009**

FRESHMAN SERVICE REQUIREMENT: Ten hours of service. Religion credit is dependent upon satisfactory completion of the service hours.

**(0102) Introduction to Catholicism (CP1)** **Year** **1 Credit**

*Required of all freshmen.*

This year-long course presents to the student an overview of all the basic tenets of the Catholic Church. Following the major themes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church the course will cover the beliefs of our faith as expressed in the Apostles Creed; the mysteries of our faith: the Seven Sacraments; our faith life in Christ: the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and Prayer. Time will also be devoted to: the life of Catherine McAuley and the works of the Sisters of Mercy; the seasons of the Church year, Advent, Lent, and Easter.

SOPHOMORE SERVICE REQUIREMENT: Thirty hours of service. Religion credit is dependent upon satisfactory completion of the service hours.

**(0202) Hebrew and Christian Scriptures (CP1)** **Year** **1 Credit**

*Required of all sophomores.*

This course offers an introduction to the Old and New Testament. In the first semester students will focus on the Old Testament, which will help them understand God's call to be a chosen people. The second semester will focus on the New Testament and will help students to know the life of Jesus Christ and what this message means in the life of a Christian woman of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During both semesters special attention will be paid to prominent women of faith, including the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley.

JUNIOR SERVICE REQUIREMENT: Ten hours of service. Religion credit is dependent upon satisfactory completion of the service hours.

**(0302) The Catholic Church (CP1)** **Year** **1 Credit**

*Required of all juniors*

This full year course explores the historical growth and theological development of the Catholic Church from the first century to the present. The student will also study the development of the Church in North America. This course will give the students the necessary background to understand and explore the challenges the Church experiences in today's world.

SENIOR SERVICE REQUIREMENT: Ten hours of service. Religion credit is dependent upon satisfactory completion of the service hours.

**(0422) Comparative Religions** **Semester** **.5 Credit**

*Required of all seniors*

This course is an exploration of the basic elements of the world's major religious traditions as they influence history, culture and society. The beginning of the course is devoted to the study of ancient religions including the exploration of the religious traditions of ancient: Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, Rome and Native American civilizations. The core of the course is dedicated to the study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese religions (Confucianism, Taoism), Japanese religions (Shinto, Zen Buddhism), Judaism, Islam and Christianity (including Protestant denominations). This course teaches an appreciation of diversity, as well as a respect for the values of these religious traditions.

**(0452) Women in Christianity**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Senior Elective*

One of the core values of a Mercy education is concern for women and women's issues. In this course, students will explore the contributions of women throughout history who have been nourished by the Christian faith. In addition, students will examine the situation of women in the US and around the world in conjunction with the Christian call to justice.

**(0462) Spirituality and Art**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Senior Elective*

This course will explore the individual student's development of her own spirituality through art. Many vehicles will be used to accomplish this spiritual growth including, analysis of religious paintings from the Byzantine to the Baroque eras of art history, using images and metaphors to explore one's spiritual self-expression through the use of watercolor, pastels, colored pencils, charcoal, etc., and building a small Zen meditation garden on the grounds of Lauralton Hall.