

One of my primary academic goals during my undergraduate education is to further understand what might be called the “Catholic intellectual tradition.” That is, one of my major research interests lies in understanding the history, literature, language, philosophy, and theological ideas operative within Catholic thought over the past two millennia. Many colleges and universities, including non-religious and public universities, offer such a course of study, often as a major called “Catholic Studies.” Although, the University of Utah offers a great variety of majors, it unfortunately does not offer such an area of study.

Granted, there is a fairly new Religious Studies major, but this course of study would not meet my academic goals due to the fact that it addresses a wide variety of the religions in the world and concerns methodological questions about the general study of religion from, for instance, sociological, psychological, and historical perspectives. While I plan to take advantage of some such courses offered within it, for my purposes this major is too general; what I am looking for is a specialized major that would help me to study the Catholic intellectual tradition in particular. I cannot see any way in which pairing any of the majors offered here at the University of Utah would allow me achieve the depth of study that I am seeking in this field.

What I am proposing is a Catholic Studies major which will be comprised of four different academic areas: English, History, Philosophy and Religion. Firstly, the English section will be made up of two courses which I have chosen in order to give me a foundation of good literary, composition, research and analysis skills. I plan on use these acquired skills in order to properly compose, research and put together well thought out responses and papers.

Next, I chose History because the University of Utah offers three courses in Christian history ranging from Ancient, Medieval and Modern times. I have chosen these courses with the

hopes that I will come to have a good understanding of the history of Christianity which will help me to understand the development of the Church over time.

Additionally, I added Philosophy to my grouping of courses in order to give myself a philosophical foundation which will hopefully aid me in my studies of Catholicism. Many elements of the Catholic intellectual tradition are derived from different philosophies and some of the greatest Catholic minds were philosophers, such as Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and even John Paul II. Since various philosophical schools provide a framework within which Catholic thought has developed, courses in philosophy are essential for understanding the origin and meaning behind certain elements in the Catholic thought.

The following academic areas all lead up to the fourth and final area which is Religion. Prof. Brandon Peterson, a specialist in Catholic systematic theology who recently came to the University of Utah from Notre Dame, has agreed to lead three directed readings courses that are well suited to my academic interests. In addition to these courses I will be taking four other courses which concern Christian thought taught by him and one other professor who will be teaching a New Testament Studies course.

All of these academic areas combined are put together in such a way that I will leave this University with a good understanding of the theological tenets, history, and philosophical foundations of the Catholic intellectual tradition. It is my hope that this degree will help to qualify me for acceptance into a Master's program in theology. Upon completion of my Master's degree it is my hope to either go into secondary education as a religion teacher or to go on to get my Ph.D. in order to teach at the post-secondary level. Other career paths which stand as possibilities include becoming a priest or working for the Diocese of Salt Lake City. In any case, my professional goals

center upon educating people about the rich Catholic intellectual tradition which I have discovered to be so captivating.

In regard to my thesis, I plan on studying the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) within the broader context of the conciliar history of the Catholic Church. I would specifically like to focus on how the Council retrieved much of its teaching from early Christian thought and studying its ongoing implementation within the world today. I have access to a fairly large digital library called Verbum which is a program that contains many books which can be read, analyzed and collected for use in research and study. I also will hopefully have access to a 38 volume set of the Early Church Fathers which will supply plenty of information for my thesis.

Finally, I hope that with the help of the B.U.S. Program I will be able to design a Catholic Studies major in order to further educate myself in order that I might be properly prepared for graduate school. In addition, I stand behind the academic areas and courses that I have chosen and have confidence that they will be able to help me accomplish my academic goals. Lastly, I know this will not be easy and will mean a lot of hard work for me, but I find comfort in the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI when he said, “the world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

Major-Emphasis Courses

Code	Course Number	Course Title	Department	Credit Hours
	2010	Intermediate Writing: Academic Writing and Research	Writing and Rhetoric Studies	3.0
	2010	Intro to the Study of Literature and Culture	Languages and Literature	3.0
	6040	Christianity in the Ancient World	History	3.0
	4050	Christianity in the Medieval World	History	3.0
	4120	Christianity in the Modern World	History	3.0
	4410	Ancient Greek Philosophy	Philosophy	3.0
	1000	Intro: Survey of Philosophy	Philosophy	3.0
	3600	Philosophy of Religion	Philosophy	3.0
	1002	Intro: God, faith and reason	Philosophy	3.0
	4900 (Special Topics)	Who is Jesus?	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4900 (Special Topics)	Jews and Christians (Prospective)	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4900 (Special Topics)	Early Christian History (Prospective)	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4880 (Directed Readings)	Environmental Theology	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4880 (Directed Readings)	Catholicism	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4880 (Directed Readings)	Vatican II	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4960	New Testament Studies	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
Total Credit Hours			47.0	
Total Hours Above 4000			33.0	

College of Humanities			84.0	
Total Hours of Courses by College			84.0	
Code	Course Number	Course Title	Department	Credit Hours
	2010	Intermediate Writing: Academic Writing and Research	Writing and Rhetoric Studies	3.0
	2010	Intro to the Study of Literature and Culture	Languages and Literature	3.0
	6040	Christianity in the Ancient World	History	3.0
	4050	Christianity in the Medieval World	History	3.0
	4120	Christianity in the Modern World	History	3.0
	4410	Ancient Greek Philosophy	Philosophy	3.0
	1000	Intro: Survey of Philosophy	Philosophy	3.0
	3600	Philosophy of Religion	Philosophy	3.0
	1002 or 3002 if offered	Intro: God, faith and reason	Philosophy	3.0
	4900 (Special Topics)	Who is Jesus?	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4900 (Special Topics)	Jews and Christians (Prospective)	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4900 (Special Topics)	Early Christian History (Prospective)	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4880 (Directed Readings)	Environmental Theology	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4880 (Directed Readings)	Catholicism	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4880 (Directed Readings)	Vatican II	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	4960	New Testament Studies	Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies	3.0
	3720	Philosophy of Education	Humanities	3.0
	3750	Philosophy of Literature	Humanities	3.0

	5130	History of Ethical Theory	Humanities	3.0
	3600	Philosophy of Religion	Humanities	3.0
	5400	Metaphysics	Humanities	3.0
	3400	Mind, Language and Reality	Humanities	3.0
	4110	Ancient Greek Philosophy	Humanities	3.0
	5110	Issues in the History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	Humanities	3.0
	4130	Nineteenth-Century Philosophy	Humanities	3.0
	3200	Deductive Logic	Humanities	3.0
	4010	Senior Seminar	Humanities	3.0
	1000	Intro: Survey of Philosophy	Humanities	3.0
Credit Hours above the 3000 level				87.0
Major-Emphasis Credit Hours				47.0
Philosophy Major Credit Hours				36.0
General Education and Bachelor Degree Requirement Credit Hours				54.0
Total Overall Credit Hours Counting Towards Graduation				122.0

*Note: The overall credit hours counting towards graduation might appear to be off, but with the help of Mr. Corbett (Philosophy Advisor) she found that there were many overlapping courses which counted for various things. Thus the total number of 122.