

Rationale. Foundation Courses in CLAS Core Curriculum

The Foundation Courses prepare students “to think rigorously, so as to act rightly and to serve humanity better” (Pope John Paul II, *Ex corde ecclesiae*). In these courses, students consider that the universe and human existence have a deeper meaning inviting discovery. Individually and collectively, they focus on concepts and themes that are central to the global intellectual tradition, with a special emphasis on Catholic, Christian, and Augustinian approaches to four fundamental questions:

Who am I? In the Augustine and Culture Seminars, students focus on the question of identity. Augustine’s account of his own restless search is at the heart of the ACS experience. In the first seminar, students study texts Hebrew and Christian scriptures, Greek and Roman antiquity, Augustine, and the High Middle Ages, and is dedicated to understanding the foundations of our shared intellectual tradition. In the second seminar, students study the question of identity with texts from the Renaissance to the modern era.

What can I know? In the Philosophy course, Knowledge, Reality, and Self, students explore philosophical responses to the questions: how we can know, what is real, and what is the nature of human existence. Through the study of foundational texts, the course also explores the dialogue between classical, Christian, secular, and skeptical perspectives on these questions.

What do I believe? In the Theology and Religious Studies course, Faith, Reason, and Culture, students explore the interrelationships among Christian faith, reason, and human culture through the academic lenses of theological and religious studies disciplines. They embark on a journey that engages them in the quest of faith seeking understanding in the context of contemporary global religious, theological, and cultural pluralism.

How should I live? The course, *The Good Life: Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems*, provides critical reflection on human flourishing, both in their own lives and for the communities around them, by studying distinctive and viable visions of the moral life. The particular focus is on Christian, especially Roman Catholic, Augustinian accounts but also on alternative accounts of the moral life that emerge from other traditions. Students explore the significance of different visions through an examination of various contemporary moral questions

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concerning their relationship to themselves, to others, and to the natural environment.