



CATHOLIC BIBLE | INSTITUTO BIBLICO
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ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

Syllabus

New Testament Year & Practicum Year (2021-2022)

Co-sponsored by the Office of Religious Education, Archdiocese of Los Angeles &
the Center for Religion & Spirituality, Loyola Marymount University Extension

Catholic Bible Institute (CBI)

The Catholic Bible Institute is a comprehensive, three-year Bible study program: one focuses on the Old Testament, another on the New Testament, and a third on biblical topics, along with practical skills for facilitating Bible-based programs.

The goal of the Catholic Bible Institute is growth in relationship with Jesus Christ through the study of the Bible and the formation of ministers of the Word for parishes.

CBI participants study the Word of God according to Catholic principles and connect the Word with life through prayer, conversation, and written reflection.

CBI learning entails:

- Presentations from a wide range of Bible scholars and experts via live web conference
- Prayer and small-group conversation
- Readings from the Bible and Bible commentaries
- Written reflections
- Accompaniment by a team of facilitators

The Practicum Year focuses on topics such as the Bible and evangelization, Catholic teaching on the Bible, the Bible and the liturgy, the Bible and the spiritual life, as well as small-group facilitation skills. Practicum Year participants plan and facilitate a six-week Bible reflection group in parishes.

Participants can earn a Certificate in Bible Leadership from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (and LMU Extension Semester Hours) in the Certification-Track or participate simply for their own learning in the Enrichment-Track.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the three-year Certification-Track program, you will:

- Grow in knowledge and love of the Word of God
- Understand the Catholic approach to the Bible
- Integrate Bible study with life and prayer
- Share the Word of God and your faith in Jesus Christ with greater clarity and confidence
- Plan and facilitate a Bible reflection group

Certification

After successful completion of the Old Testament and New Testament years in the **Certification-Track** program, you will receive Loyola Marymount University Extension Semester Hours. After successful completion of the entire three-year Certification-Track program, you will receive a Certificate in Bible Leadership from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. All the requirements of this syllabus apply to Certification-Track participants.

The **Enrichment-Track** is for those who choose not to complete all the requirements of this syllabus; Enrichment-Track participants view videos and complete reading assignments at their own discretion. You can switch from Certification-Track to Enrichment-Track at any time. You can switch from Enrichment-Track to Certification-Track by January 31 of your first year in CBI (after January 31 of your first year, you can no longer switch to Certification-Track). When transferring from Enrichment-Track to Certification-Track, you must complete all missing reading and written assignments.

Required Texts

All years:

Senior, Donald and John J. Collins, editors. *The Catholic Study Bible: The New American Bible; Third Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016 (the 2011 second edition is also approved). [Other study Bibles may be approved by request.]

New Testament Year:

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Practicum Year:

Binz, Stephen J. *Scripture: God's Handbook for Evangelizing Catholics*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2014.

Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation).¹

Pope Benedict XVI. *Verbum Domini (Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of God in the Life of the Church)*.²

¹ http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

² http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20100930_verbum-domini.html

Schedule (New Testament Year)

The following sessions occur on *Zoom* from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

August 21, 2019: Orientation

August 28, 2021: Introduction to the New Testament (Fr. Tim Peters)

BROWN: Chapters 1-6

September 11, 2021: Gospel of Mark (Fr. Patrick Mullen)

BIBLE: Mark

BROWN: Chapter 7

October 9, 2021: Gospel of Matthew (Dr. Michael Barber)

BIBLE: Matthew

BROWN: Chapter 8

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on Mark

November 13, 2021: Gospel of Luke (Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson)

BIBLE: Luke

BROWN: Chapter 9

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on John

December 4, 2021: Acts of the Apostles (Sr. Laurie Brink, OP)

BIBLE: Acts of the Apostles

BROWN: Chapter 10

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on Luke

January 15, 2022: Gospel of John (Fr. Slawomir Szkredka)

BIBLE: John

BROWN: Chapter 11

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on Matthew

February 12, 2022: Letters of Paul 1 (Fr. Thomas Stegman, SJ)

BIBLE: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon

BROWN: Chapters 15-24

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on Acts of the Apostles

March 12, 2022: Letters of Paul 2 (Dr. Peter Williamson)

BIBLE: Colossians, Ephesians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

BROWN: Chapters 25-31

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on 1 Corinthians

April 9, 2022: Hebrews, Catholic letters, & Johannine letters (Dr. Sherri Brown)

BIBLE: Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter, James, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude

BROWN: Chapters 12-14, 32-36

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one page paper on Ephesians

May 14, 2022: Revelation (Dr. Eugenia Constantinou)

BIBLE: Revelation

BROWN: Chapter 37

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on 1 John

June 18, 2022: New Testament theologies & Apocrypha (Fr. Felix Just, SJ)

BROWN: Appendix II

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: one-page paper on Revelation

Schedule (Practicum Year)

The following sessions occur on *Zoom* from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

September 25, 2021

October 23, 2021

November 27, 2021

December 18, 2021

The following sessions occur in-person from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at *Incarnation Church in Glendale*:

January 22, 2022

February 26, 2022

March 26, 2022

August 6, 2021

Readings (*New Testament Year*)

You must complete all reading assignments before coming to each session. For each book of the Bible, read the biblical text itself *and* the introduction(s) in your Study Bible. Chapters in Brown are long and detailed; you are *not* expected to read every single word; for each chapter, carefully read the “General Analysis of the Message” and “Background” sections, but only briefly skim the “Issues and Problems for Reflection” sections and others in between.

Written Reflections (*New Testament Year*)

Reflection Paper Instructions

Section	Questions
Message	What is the content of this biblical text? What is the event or situation? Who are the characters? What is the conflict? What is the literary genre of this text? What is the context? What is the message the author of this text probably intended for the original audience? What did the author probably want the original audience to know or do? <i>Use background information from your study Bible and/or textbook.</i>
Personal Reflection	What does this biblical text say to me personally? How have I applied, or how can I apply its message to my own personal life? What does this text mean for my relationship with Jesus Christ? <i>Use “I/me” language and be specific.</i>
Communal Reflection	What does this biblical text say to a particular situation in the Church or society today? What does this text mean for good of the Church and the transformation of the world? <i>Use “we/us” language and be specific.</i>

After completing the assigned readings, write a one-page reflection paper covering the three sections above. Write three paragraphs of approximately equal length (one for each section) and label each section: Message, Personal Reflection, and Communal Reflection.

In the top right corner of the page, include a header with your name, the topic, and the date. Use parenthetical citations to acknowledge ideas derived from the textbook and any additional reference sources. For example: (Brown, 214), where “Brown” is the last name of the author, and “214” is the page number.

All papers must be typed, single-spaced (double-spaced between sections), on a standard 8 ½” x 11” page, using 12-point Times New Roman, Cambria, or Calibri font, with one-inch margins all around (top, bottom, left, and right).

Papers are due by the beginning of each session via MOODLE. Papers will be evaluated and returned the following month. Papers not meeting the standards above may be returned for re-writing. No credit will be given for late papers or failure to complete them.

Reflection Paper Evaluation Rubric

Score	2 (Credit)	1 (Credit)	0 (No Credit)
Format	Sections are of approximately equal size. No errors in formatting, citation, and spelling.	One section is obviously not equal in size to the others. Few errors in formatting, citation, and spelling.	The paper is obviously not one full page. Multiple formatting, citation, and spelling errors.
Message	Demonstrates careful reading of assigned texts. Interprets text according to Catholic principles. Content is clear and thorough. Includes background information from study Bible and/or textbook.	Demonstrates reading of assigned texts. Interprets text according to Catholic principles. Content is clear and adequate. Includes minimal background information from study Bible and/or textbook.	Reading of assigned texts is not demonstrated. Does not interpret text according to Catholic principles. Content is unclear and inadequate. Does not include background information from study Bible and/or textbook.
Personal Reflection	Expresses personal application in "I/me" language. Connects assigned text to a personal experience with concrete specifics.	Expresses personal application, but deviates from first person singular. Reflection is general, and the connection to the assigned text is vague.	Does not express personal application. No "I/me" language. Reflection is general, and the connection to the assigned text is not evident. Repeats content from previous reflections.
Communal Reflection	Expresses communal application in "we/us" language. Connects assigned text to a situation in the Church or society with concrete specifics.	Expresses communal application, but deviates from first person plural. Reflection is general, and the connection to the assigned text is vague.	Does not express communal application. No "we/us" language. Reflection is general, and the connection to the assigned text is not evident. Repeats content from previous reflections.

Group Discussion Forums (*New Testament Year*)

You can contribute to an online conversation each month in the Group Discussion Forums on MOODLE by posting responses to questions, as well as responses to other posts; this is a way to continue connecting the Word with situations in the Church and society today.

Group Discussion Forums (*Practicum Year*)

You will contribute to an online conversation each month in the Group Discussion Forums on MOODLE by posting brief answers to questions on the assigned readings (25-word maximum for each question).

Practicum Project (*Practicum Year*)

The Practicum project is a Bible reflection group organized and facilitated by teams of two for a parish or other Catholic setting. The project can occur online or in-person. You will choose a biblical topic, use appropriate biblical resources (e.g. *Little Rock Scripture*, *Six Weeks with the Bible*, *Threshold Bible Study*, *Encounter Jesus*, *Paulist Bible Study Program*, biblical commentaries, etc.), plan each session, arrange the appropriate online platform or parish permissions and facilities, promote the group, and facilitate each session with an emphasis on biblically-based prayer and conversation. The practicum project will consist of one orientation session, plus at least six additional sessions occurring between April and July. In addition to facilitating your own Bible reflection group, you will observe at least one session of another team.

Practicum Project Book

You will submit your Practicum project plan in sections each month.

- Chapter One contains the Practicum project proposal:
 - names of team members
 - topic (e.g. biblical book or books, Lectionary readings, or biblical theme, etc.)
 - statement of objectives and anticipated participants
 - location of group (online platform or physical address)
 - dates and times of each session
 - titles of resources to be used by group participants
- Chapter Two contains samples of marketing used to promote the Bible reflection group (e.g. webpage, bulletin announcements, flyers, postcards, script for Mass announcements, email announcements).
- Chapter Three contains documentation for the orientation session, including an agenda, prayer plan, copy of handouts (if used), copy of PowerPoint presentation (if used), materials to be used by participants.
- Chapter Four contains documentation for the second session of your Bible reflection group, including an agenda, prayer plan, copy of handouts (if used), copy of PowerPoint presentation (if used), materials to be used by participants, and a list of questions for group conversation.

- Chapters Five through Nine contain documentation for each subsequent session, following the description for Chapter Four above. If your group will meet for additional sessions beyond the requirements, you do not have to submit additional documentation.

Attendance

You may be absent from no more than two sessions per year in the New Testament Year to obtain certification credit. **In the Practicum Year, you may be absent from no more than one session per year** to obtain certification credit. You are responsible for completing all reading and written assignments even when you are absent.

Please inform the Program Coordinator of any special accommodations you require. Participants with documented physical, learning and/or psychological disabilities may request specialized assistance to achieve maximum independence through LMU Disability Support Services (DSS) prior to enrolling in an LMU Extension course. You must provide documentation for your disability from an appropriate licensed professional. Contact DDS at (310) 338-4535 for additional information.

LMU Extension Semester Hours

Certification-Track participants will be enrolled in three courses with Loyola Marymount University Extension (one for each year) as follows:

- Catholic Bible Institute I (two semesters; 5 LMU Extension Semester Hours)
- Catholic Bible Institute II (two semesters; 5 LMU Extension Semester Hours)
- Catholic Bible Institute III (one semester; 2.5 LMU Extension Semester Hours)

You must meet attendance requirements and complete all written assignments each year with a score of "Credit" to receive LMU Extension Semester Hours; you must meet attendance requirements and complete all written assignments with a score of "Credit" before being enrolled the following year.

Certificate in Bible Leadership

You must meet attendance requirements and complete all written assignments each year with a score of "Credit" to receive a Certificate in Bible Leadership from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Tuition

Tuition for the New Testament Year is \$380 (not including textbooks). Tuition for the Practicum Year is \$190 (not including textbooks).

You may withdraw from the program at any time and receive a refund of tuition paid for the year (less a fee of \$50) if you notify the Program Director in writing prior to the November session. There will be no refund of fees paid for withdrawals after the November session.

Participant Appeals

To appeal a program decision:

1. State your case in writing (e-mail) to your Spiritual Companion and the Program Director, as soon as possible.
2. Meet with your Spiritual Companion and the Program Director together to discuss your case.
3. The Program Director will inform you of the outcome via e-mail (you may choose to meet again with the Program Director upon receipt of the written outcome for further explanation of the decision).

LMU Academic Honesty Policy

Loyola Marymount University Extension is dedicated to academic excellence, participant-centered education, and the Jesuit and Marymount traditions. As such, LMU expects all members of its community to act with honesty and integrity at all times, especially in their academic work. Academic honesty respects the intellectual and creative work of others, flows from dedication to and pride in performing your own best work, and is essential for true learning to take place. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: all acts of cheating on assignments or examinations (or facilitating other participants' cheating); plagiarism; fabrication of data, including the use of false citations; improper use of non-print media; unauthorized access to computer accounts or files or other privileged information; and improper use of Internet sites and resources. Academic dishonesty may result in any of the following actions: (1) require assignment or exam to be resubmitted, (2) reduce the grade on the assignment, project or exam, (3) fail the participant on the assignment or exam, (4) fail the participant in the course. A detailed outline of the university honesty policy is available [here](#).

LMU Library Policy

The Loyola Marymount University Library is available for use by Certification-Track participants. Should you like to have borrowing privileges or access after 8 p.m., an LMU Library Card may be purchased for

an annual fee of \$300.00 (with check, Visa, or Master Card only). The LMU Library Card is valid for one calendar year from the date of issue, granting you:

- access to the library from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- a maximum number of ten checkouts at any one time
- a check-out period of three weeks, with two renewals (nine weeks total)
- requests for basement retrievals
- in-house use of journals, reference materials, and media

To obtain an LMU Library Card, please go to the Circulation Desk of the William H. Hannon Library during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.