

Earn a Catholic Studies Minor in Holy Land & Italy in One Semester



University of St. Thomas students will have the unique opportunity to earn a minor in Catholic Studies in one semester while studying abroad in the Holy Land and Italy. UST will offer this rare pilgrimage, integrated learning, and immersion in faith and culture, for the first time in spring 2011. Courses will be offered for undergraduate and graduate credit.

“Catholic Studies is one of UST’s premier programs designed specifically to

integrate the Catholic intellectual tradition with a range of academic majors,” said Dr. Dominic Aquila, vice president for Academic Affairs. “The Catholic Studies semester abroad in the Holy Land and in Rome is a new and exciting way to achieve this integration. Students in this program will experience directly the places and cultures that form the foundations of the Catholic tradition.”

Sister Paula Jean Miller, FSE, director of the Catholic Studies Program, designed the new study abroad program to highlight the University’s Catholic identity as it strives to integrate multiple disciplines included in the core curriculum. While other Catholic universities study abroad in Italy, Sr. Paula Jean said there are very few universities that take students to Israel – much less both countries in one semester.

“You can only begin to grasp the richness of the church’s heritage by going to these lands and experiencing both the universality and the particularity of the Church. The Church is embodied in the uniqueness of each culture, even as it is universal to all cultures,” Sr. Paula Jean said. “You can’t get it by just reading it on a page; the only way is to be there long enough to begin to experience the land, the people, and the multifaceted nature of that people.”

Students of all faiths are welcome, but they must have taken Teachings of the Church and Introduction to Sacred Scripture before applying for the new Catholic Studies program, since these are prerequisites for upper division theology courses. Alongside the concentrated study abroad minor, dual or joint majors, the minor, and the Master in Liberal Arts concentration in Catholic Studies will still be offered in the traditional format. Read the complete story and download Catholic Studies Study Abroad itinerary and application at www.stthom.edu/catholicstudies.

- Program Accepts 15-20 Students
- You will Earn 18 Hours of Course Credit in 5 core disciplines (A Complete Catholic Studies Minor in one Semester)
- About 60 Days in the Holy Land and Italy
- Apply by **Nov. 15**

University Introduces New First-Year Symposium for Freshmen

The University of St. Thomas is proud to introduce a new first-year experience program for the incoming freshman class of 2010. The Freshman Symposium: Educating Leaders of Faith and Character will provide an appreciation of the University's commitment to "educate leaders of faith and character." Drawing upon previous orientation programs, the Freshman Leadership Symposium will introduce students to the University by focusing on St. Thomas' mission to educate leaders who can think critically, communicate effectively, lead ethically and succeed professionally. The program will explain the role of the Basilian Fathers who founded the university in 1947 and whose faithful and welcoming charisma continues to shape the institution.

Guide Me: Mentorship

Mentor teams will not only teach and guide the incoming freshman class, but they will act as valuable advisors on ways to improve the scope and content of the entire freshman experience at St. Thomas. Freshmen will participate in the program in groups of 15 to 20. Each group will have the benefit of a university mentor team composed of a faculty member, staff member and upper division student. These mentor teams will meet with their freshman group for each of the 15 sessions to provide guidance and support. Under the direction of the faculty mentor, the team will teach the basics of servant leadership and explain how it complements St. Thomas' core values of goodness, knowledge, discipline and community. The mentor teams will guide and encourage the freshman class to develop their intellectual, social, and leadership abilities. Freshmen will gain an appreciation of the integration of how faith and reason shapes the academic program at St. Thomas.

Talk to Me: Presentations

The 2010 cohort will meet five times during Freshman Orientation and in 10 one-hour sessions throughout the fall semester. The program will be highlighted by six presentations. Featured speakers include UST President Dr. Robert Ivany; UST Basilian Superior Fr. Robert Barringer, CSB, Jim McIngvale, CEO of Gallery Furniture; John Whitney, Burnett Family Chair of Leadership and professor emeritus of Columbia University; Dean of Students Lindsey McPherson, director of the Career Services and Testing Center; and Dr. Michelle "Mikki" Hebl, professor of psychology at Rice University.

Give me a Reference

Students will incorporate insights from works by Fr. John Gallagher, CSB, Adjunct Professor of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and lessons from *The Servant: The Simple Story About the True Essence of Leadership* by James C. Hunter.

My Opinion Counts

During the final session, students and mentors will be asked for their feedback on the program for integration into future programs. The faculty leadership team coordinating the symposium include Dr. Jo Anne Meier-Marquis, associate professor of psychology; Dr. Vinita Ramaswamy, associate professor of accounting and Dr. Emiliano Gonzalez, associate professor of education.

During the final session, students and mentors will be asked for their feedback on the program for integration into future programs.

Five Incoming Freshmen Merit 2010 Fr. Vincent J. Guinan Scholarships

The University of St. Thomas has awarded five incoming freshmen with the Father Vincent J. Guinan Scholarship, which covers full tuition for four years. This year's awardees are Kelsey Boor, Gregory Heerensperger, David Markus, C.J. Miller and Dominika Snodgrass.

The scholarship is named after Father Vincent J. Guinan, who led the Basilian fathers in establishing the University and served as the founding president.

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must be Catholic, meet specific academic requirements, submit a 500-word essay and recommendation letter from a high school principal or guidance counselor. The top 15 finalists must also complete an on-campus interview with the selection committee. The recipients are required to join UST's Presidential Ambassadors and be active in Campus Ministry.

"This annual scholarship is awarded to a select number of students who excel academically and demonstrate themselves to be a good fit for the Catholic mission of the University of St. Thomas," said Arthur Ortiz, Associate Director of Admissions. "Candidates are Catholic students who are serious about attending a Catholic university in order to strengthen their Catholic formation. The selection committee determines which students are likely to contribute to the UST community in keeping with the Basilian core values of goodness, discipline, and knowledge. Students receiving a Guinan Scholarship are considered the elite of the elite."



Alumna Produces Video of Fr. Keon for Incredible Priest Contest

If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Father James Keon, CSB, just venture into Crooker Student Center Cafeteria during lunch. Chances are, he will be there, telling stories and laughing with students. And now, he just might start signing autographs.

Fr. Keon, a retired UST philosophy professor, was among 20 priests nationwide who were named as finalists in the Catholic Company's Incredible Priests, Incredible Stories essay/video contest. A video tribute to Fr. Keon was featured on the contest website and the UST campus community rallied their support for Fr. Keon.

The video was created by Cimela Kidonakis, a 2009 UST graduate, who currently owns and operates the video production company Optix Studios. Kidonakis worked with Darnell Miller, a 2010 UST graduate.

Kidonakis said she and Miller wanted to make a video to chronicle the impact Fr. Keon has made on students and honor him on his 85th birthday, which he celebrated on May 18.

"Everyone loves Fr. Keon, and almost everyone has a unique Fr. Keon story," Kidonakis said. "He has a close relationship with so many students because he takes the time to eat lunch, and get to know the students."

A fixture on the faculty and favorite among students since 1965, Fr. Keon is beloved for his witty sense of humor, remarkable ability to recall students' names and imaginative stories. He officially retired in 1997, but continued teaching philosophy part time until 2002. He continues to live in the Basilian residence on campus. Father Keon Days, an event which encourages students and faculty and staff to dine together, are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

"Fr. Vincent Guinan, the University's founding president, loved for the priests to interact with the students," Fr. Keon said. "In the early days the priests had both breakfast and lunch with the students, and I wanted to bring that back. I am pretty good with names, so it's fun to walk into the cafeteria and make the rounds."



Upcoming Events



Invest in Success

The Invest in Success program will be held at 4 p.m. **Sept. 1** in Guinan Hall and 12:30 p.m. **Sept. 2** in Ahern. These events discuss effective strategies for studying, time management, overcoming stress, focusing in the classroom and much more. For more information, call 713-525-6939 or email guthmanl@stthom.edu.



Irish Event

Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum will host “Céili House: An Evening of Traditional Tales from Ireland” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, **Sept. 15** in Cullen Hall. Award-winning Houston Storyteller Guild members Susan Gallagher, Sally Bates Goodroe and Brian Herod specialize in Irish and Celtic folktales, tales from the Irish Mythological Cycles and much more.



Soccer & Volleyball Home Games

Cheer on the Celts at the first Men’s Soccer and Lady Celts Volleyball games of the season. The Soccer team will play William Carey University on Friday, **Sept. 3**. The Lady Celts will play Texas Wesleyan at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, **Sept. 4** in Jerabeck Gymnasium.



Welcome Back Tailgate

Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society, will host a welcome back barbecue for the UST community at 12:15 p.m., Friday, **Sept. 3** at the Political Science House, 4104 Mt. Vernon. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP to cddupree61@gmail.com.



Mass of the Holy Spirit

Join the University in prayer and celebration of the new semester, with the campus-wide Mass of the Holy Spirit at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, **August 31** in Jerabeck Gymnasium. All are welcome to attend. A reception will follow the Mass in Scanlan. This opening Mass will invoke the presence, protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Faith in Public Life

Join the Honorable Rick Santorum, former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, as he explores “The Role of Faith in Public Life: Fifty Years After Kennedy’s Speech to the Greater Houstonian Ministerial Association” The JPII Forum talk will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, **Sept. 9** in Jones Hall.

UST To Add Women’s Basketball Program in 2011-2012 Season

With the success of women’s volleyball, men’s soccer, and men’s basketball over the last three years, the University of St Thomas is preparing to take the next step into intercollegiate athletics by introducing the women’s basketball program in the 2011-2012 season.

The search for the program’s first head coach began this summer to lay a solid foundation for their inaugural season.

“The time is right for St Thomas to take the next step in intercollegiate athletics,” said Athletic Director and Men’s Basketball Coach Todd Smith. “There are so many great women’s basketball players in Houston and the surrounding area who have to leave home to continue their academic and athletic careers. I believe we can become competitive quickly while providing an excellent education for these student-athletes.”



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