

**Theology 501: Special Issues in Catholic Apologetics**

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**St. Columcille Institute 2022 Syllabus**

**Objectives:** As part of the “New Evangelization” this course will examine the historical credibility of the Gospels including the arguments underlining the historic credibility of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Other topics will include the problem of evil, the importance of the Aristotelian/Thomistic understanding of the cardinal virtues and how these virtues can be brought to bear upon both our contemporary culture and our personal lives as leaders of the new evangelization. An examination of recent magisterial documents revealing the mind of the Church in her call to the new evangelization will also be discussed.

**Required Texts:** *The Problem of Pain*, *(POP)* C.S. Lewis (book to purchase)

*The Four Cardinal Virtues,* Pieper Joseph, (UND Press ISBN-10: 0268001030 and   
ISBN-13: 978-02680010321966) (book to purchase)

“Dispensis” of readings, including selections from:

* + - *To The Catholics of Ireland,* Pope Benedict XVI (find on Vatican website, [link](http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/letters/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_let_20100319_church-ireland.html))
    - *Novo Milennio Ineunte*, *(NMI)* St. John Paul II (find on Vatican website, [link](https://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2001/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20010106_novo-millennio-ineunte.html))
    - *Lumen Fidei, (LF)* Pope Francis(find on Vatican website, [link](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20130629_enciclica-lumen-fidei.html))
    - *Evangelii Gaudium*, *(EG)* Pope Francis (find on Vatican website, [link](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html))

**Requirements/**

**Grade:** The grade for THEO 501 will be determined by class participation and a take home exam to be given after last class. Students must complete all assigned readings.

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Assigned Reading** |
| *Week One* | | |
| *JUL23-24* | *Weekend* | Letter: “To the Catholics of Ireland” |
| JUL25 | Intro: Apologetics and the New Evangelization | NMI #1-28 |
| JUL26 | Historicity of the Gospels | NMI #29-59 |
| JUL27 | Historicity of the Gospels | Problem of Pain 2-5 |
| JUL 28 | Historicity of the Resurrection | Problem of Pain 6-10 |
| JUL 29 | Seminar: Problem of Pain | LF chapter 1-4 |
| *JUL 30-31* | *Weekend* |  |
| *Week Two* | | |
| AUG 1 | Seminar: NMI | EG chapter 1-3 |
| AUG 2 | Seminar: Lumen Fidei | EG chapter 4-5 |
| AUG 3 | Seminar: Evangelii Gaudium | Pieper: pp 3-40 |
| AUG 4 | The Cardinal Virtues: Prudence | Pieper: pp 43-80 |
| AUG 5 | The Cardinal Virtues: Justice | Pieper: pp 81-113 |
| *AUG 6-7* | *Weekend* |  |
| *Week Three* | | |
| AUG 8 | The Cardinal Virtues: Justice | Pieper: pp 117-141 |
| AUG 9 | The Cardinal Virtues: Fortitude | Pieper: pp 145-206 |
| AUG 10 | The Cardinal Virtues: Temperance |  |