



Religious Studies 8

Dominican International School



Course Syllabus

School Year 2026–27

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: CHURCH HISTORY

"The Church is the same yesterday, today, and forever, because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

– Adapted from *Hebrews 13:8*

Church History is the history of our family in faith, a journey that began over 2,000 years ago when Jesus walked the earth, called His disciples, and entrusted them with the mission to bring the Good News to all nations.

This is a history filled with courage, sacrifice, and hope. It's about ordinary men and women who became saints, missionaries, leaders, and even martyrs—people who faced challenges, made mistakes, but never gave up on the mission entrusted to them by Christ. It's about how the Church grew from a small group of believers in Jerusalem into a worldwide community of faith.

When we study Church History, we're not just memorizing dates or events—we are discovering how God has been at work through time, guiding His people through trials, reforms, and renewals. We'll see how faith survived persecution, how the Gospel spread to far-off lands, and how the Church has continually been called to be a light in a changing world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS:

WORD	<i>to focus attention on the moral teachings of the Catholic Church through a consistent presentation of the sacred scriptures with the special emphasis on the Commandments and the Beatitudes.</i>
WITNESS	<i>to teach the students the doctrines of the Catholic Church and establish a common language of faith so that they can progress from year to year in understanding and</i>

	<i>expressing the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church.</i>
WORSHIP	<i>to engage the students in understanding the sacramental life of the Catholic Church and develop the skills needed to participate in the sacred rites and liturgical celebrations of the Church.</i>

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND DIFFERENT SEASONS OF THE CHURCH

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Ordinary Time
- Feasts and Memorials of Dominican Saints
- Feasts in Honor of Mother Mary

DOMINICAN PILLARS AND CORE VALUES

- **Study**..... Truth
- **Prayer**..... Joy
- **Community**..... Justice
- **Service/Preaching**..... Compassion

PARAGONS OF VALUES: DOMINICAN SAINTS AND BLESSED

Feasts/Memorials of Dominican Saints

August 02- Bl. Jane of Aza

- 08- St. Dominic de Guzmán
- 14- St. Dominic Ibañez
- 17- St. Hyacinth of Poland
- 18- Bl. Mannes de Guzman
- 23- Rose of Lima

September 18- St. John Macias

- 20- St. Francis Posadas
- 28- St. Lawrence Ruiz
- 09- St. Louis Bertrand

November 03- St. Martin de Porres

- 15- St. Albert the Great
- 22- Bl. Cecilia

December 01- Bl. John Vercelli

- The Holy Family

January 07- St. Raymond of Peñafort

- 18- St. Margaret of Hungary

February 13- Bl. Jordan of Saxony

March 07- St. Thomas Aquinas

April 05- St. Vincent Ferrer; 06/29- St. Peter of Verona

- 20- St. Agnes of Montepulciano
- 29/30- St. Catherine of Siena
- 30- St. Pius V

May 10- St. Anthony of Florence

- 12- Bl. Imelda Lambertini
- 20- Bl. Columba of Rieti Others

June 09- Bl. Diana

July 17- Bl. Ceslaus

GRADING SYSTEM:

Part 1: Academic (50 %)	
Section A: Homework, Seatwork, Projects NOTE: Attendance will be included in the RS Grading System.	16.66%
Section B: Quizzes	16.67%
Section C: Major Quarterly Exam/PBL/PETA	16.67%
Part 2: Deportment/Behavior (50 %) STUDENT'S SELF-EVALUATION	
Truthful	19 Points
Organized	19 Points
Reflective	19 Points
Courageous	19 Points
Helpful	19 Points
Total	95 points
Note: The highest possible grade students can obtain every quarter in Deportment is 95 points in conformity with the current grading system. Students are guided on how to self-evaluate their deportment truthfully and reflectively. The Project D (Detention/Infraction) significantly affects students' Deportment Grade.	

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE UTILIZATION OF AI AND GADGETS

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- *Purposely incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's own work; and*
- *Representing another's intellectual work like photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, or research as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.*
- *Employing a tutor, making use of Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgement, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's own work.*
- *Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.*

Note: Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment and deduction from the Department.

The Google Classroom code will be given to all students to access the Religious Studies learning guide and tasks.

- *There will be NO Homework to be given during the weekend except during major exams or quizzes. It is to give students a chance to spend quality time with their family.*

Gadget and Technology Guidelines

- **Cellphones Out of Sight:** Cellphones are strictly not allowed during class time. Cellphones must be surrendered to the prescribed authority in the school (Homeroom teacher and Discipline Officers, every day).
- **Laptops for Learning Only:** Laptops may only be used when explicitly instructed by your teacher for classwork or research.
- **No Social Media:** Accessing any social media platforms (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) on any device is strictly prohibited while on school grounds.
- **Follow Digital Ethics:** Always practice responsible digital citizenship. Use school technology respectfully, stay on task, and follow all school internet rules.
- **Strict Usage Rules:** Gadget privileges are a responsibility. Unapproved use, unauthorized gaming, or browsing non-academic sites will result in device confiscation.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Eusebius. (1999). *The history of the church from Christ to Constantine* (G. A. Williamson, Trans., Rev. ed.). Penguin Classics.

González, J. L. (2010). *The story of Christianity: Volume 1: The early church to the dawn of the Reformation* (2nd ed.). HarperOne.

Shelley, B. L. (2013). *Church history in plain language* (4th ed.). Thomas Nelson.

Chadwick, H. (2001). *The early church* (Rev. ed.). Penguin Books.

Schreck, A. (2012). *The compact history of the Catholic Church* (3rd ed.). Servant Books.

MacCulloch, D. (2010). *Christianity: The first three thousand years*. Penguin Books.

Catholic Church. (n.d.). *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism>

Catholic Education Resource Center. (n.d.). *History of the Catholic Church*. <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/history/catholic-contributions/history-of-the-catholic-church.html>

EWTN. (n.d.). *A short history of the Catholic Church*. Eternal Word Television Network. <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/a-short-history-of-the-catholic-church-10936>

New Advent. (n.d.). *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

Vatican. (n.d.). *History of the Church*. The Holy See. <https://www.vatican.va>

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week & Date	Topics / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 Aug 10 - 14	A. Orientation Agenda: Religious Studies as a Subject of Life • Google Classroom: Setup, notifications, and material access • Course Overview: Objectives, core content, references, and requirements • Grading System: Evaluation criteria (refer to syllabus) • Values and Character: RS Transformative Stamp and TORCH deportment standards • Classroom Expectations: Rules, responsibilities, and accountability B. Orientation and Classroom Management Plan • Community Building and Engagement • Student Welcome: Celebrating the gift of students' presence and participation • Classroom Culture: Group dynamics C. Expectations and Values • Classroom Norms: RS Collective Agreement in the light of the D'TORCH Values D. DIS: Home of the D'TORCH! • Vision-Mission and Philosophy • Basic Prayers (<i>Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angelus, and Dominican Blessings</i>) • The Fundamentals of the Holy Mass • Common Mass Songs

	Class Saint: The Practice of the Dominican Pillar Thursday: <i>Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit 8:00</i>
Week 2 Aug 17 - 21	Topics: UNIT 1 (Marks of the Church) (1) One: Praying for Unity (2) Holy: Jesus Christ in the Sacraments Students' Engagement: Watch: The Catholic Church and its Four Marks,  The Catholic Church and Its Four Marks Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Journal Writing (2) Activity
Week 3 Aug 24 - 28	Topics: UNIT 1 (Marks of the Church) (3) Catholic: Open and Respectful for All (4) Apostolic: Founded on the Apostles Students' Engagement: Read: The Four Marks by Loyola Press, Marks of the Church Loyola Press Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Journal Writing (2) Activity (3) Summative Test
Week 4 Aug 31 - Sep 4	Topics: UNIT 2 (The Growth of Christendom) (1) Councils, Cultures and Conflicts Students' Engagement: Watch: How did Christianity start and spread? Brief History of Christianity/ 5 Minutes,  How Did Christianity Start and Spread Brief History of Christianity 5 ... Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: - Journal Writing - Seatwork

Week 5 Sep 7 - 11	Topics: UNIT 2 (The Growth of Christendom) (2) Liturgy and Unity, Worship and Beauty Students' Engagement: <i>Read:</i> The 21 Ecumenical Councils by Karl Keating, The 21 Ecumenical Councils Catholic Answers Magazine Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Activity (2) Summative Test
Week 6 Sep 14 - 18	Special Topic: Biblical and Historical Accounts of the Holy Rosary (1) Biblical Supports of the Rosary (2) Historical Accounts of the Rosary (3) Significance of the Rosary Students' Engagement: <i>Watch:</i> Is the Rosary Biblical? Is the Rosary Biblical? Is the Rosary idolatry? Where is Hail Mary in the Bible? Holy Rosary Story Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Activity (2) Summative Test
Week 7 Sep 21 - 25	Review of the Topics for the Quarterly Examination: (1) UNIT 1: Marks of the Church (1.a) Apostolic: Founded on the Apostles (1.b) Holy: Jesus Christ in the Sacraments (1.c) Catholic: Open and Respectful for All (1.d) One: Praying for Unity (2) UNIT 2: The Growth of Christendom (2.a) Councils, Cultures and Conflicts (2.b) Liturgy and Unity, Worship and Beauty (3) SPECIAL TOPIC: Biblical and Historical Accounts of the Holy Rosary Assessment: • Visit to the Peace Pole • One-on-one Conference (Department) • Checking of Notes and Bible Reflections

	Wednesday: Pre-Exam Days Thursday: Pre-Exam Days Friday: Moon Festival ~ Public Holiday
Week 8 Sep 28 - Oct 2	1ST QUARTERLY EXAMINATION (Paper and Pen) Monday: Confucius' Birthday ~ Public Holiday Wednesday: Thursday: Major Exams Day 1 Friday: Major Exams Day 2
Week 9 Oct 5 - 9	NO CLASS Monday: Record Day ~ Student Holiday T-W-Th: Teachers Conference ~ Student Holiday Friday: Double 10 Day ~ Public Holiday

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week & Date	Topics / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 (10) Oct 12 - 16	PRELIMINARIES • Rechecking of 1st Quarter Exam • Consultation of Grades • Subject Course Orientation for 2nd Quarter • Marian Activities Announcement • Other Matters/ Announcement
Week 2 (11) Oct 19 - 23	Special Topic: Biblical and Historical Accounts of the Holy Rosary (cont.) (1) Significance of the Rosary Students' Engagement: Watch: The Rosary is a Spiritual Weapon, The Rosary is a Spiritual Weapon w/ Bishop Scott McCaig Pedagogy: Socratic Method (Question and Answer) Assessment: (1) Activity
Week 3 (12) Oct 26 - 30	MARIAN ACTIVITIES (Making)

	Monday Retrocession Day ~ Public Holiday
Week 4 (13) Nov 2 - 6	Topics: UNIT 2 (The Growth of Christendom) (1) The Church and the Empire (2) Prayer for Understanding Students' Engagement: Watch: The Roman Empire;  The Roman Empire Did Not Vanish. It Became the Catholic Church! Pedagogy: Socratic Method (Question and Answer) Assessment: • Seatwork • Journal Writing
Week 5 (14) Nov 9 - 13	Topics: UNIT 3 (The Age of Faith and Beauty) (3) Faith Expressed and Lived (4) Mass in the Cathedral Students' Engagement: Search: Google Tour of any Cathedral in your Country of Origin Pedagogy: Socratic Method Assessment: (1) Summative Test
Week 6 (15) Nov 16 - 20	PBL (Project-Based Learning)/PETA (Performance Task)
Week 7 (16) Nov 23 - 27	PBL (Project-Based Learning)/PETA (Performance Task) Wednesday: Pre-Exam Days Thursday: Pre-Exam Days Friday: Grade 12 Exams
Week 8 (17) Nov 30 - Dec 4	PBL (Project-Based Learning)/PETA (Performance Task) Monday Grade 12 Exams Wednesday Thursday Friday
Week 9 (18) Dec 7 - Dec 11	Monday TBD Tuesday Foundation Day Mass 9:00, Cutting of the Cake Ceremony, Christmas Fair (Whole day) Wednesday: TBD

	Thursday: Major Final Exams half day Friday: Major Final Exams half day
Dec 14 to Jan 1: Christmas Break	

"Ripple by Ripple, Charity in Action: A Year to Seven Decades"