

CERS 2016 – The Ministry of Confession
Instructor – John Treloar, S.J.
JSTB

Tuesday 9:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
MUDD 205

Goal:

This course will examine the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation from its historical, theological, moral, pastoral, liturgical and canonical perspectives. The course's emphasis will be an ongoing practicum on confessional counseling, utilizing role playing of a variety of confessional cases and issues. The course will also involve an in depth discussion of moral, liturgical and pastoral theology as it is related to the Sacrament. Attention will be paid to spiritual direction and pastoral counseling in a variety of different contexts of sacramental confession, as well as related pastoral, moral and canonical issues which often surface in the celebration of the Rite of Reconciliation. This course fulfills the Society of Jesus' requirements for confessional counseling. Prerequisites -- Canon Law; Fundamental Moral Theology. Offered only in the Spring Semester of even numbered years. Limited to and **required** for JSTB students in the ordination track of the JSTB M.Div. program.

Method: Lecture/Seminar/Role Playing

Requirements:

Regular Attendance
Readings
Informed participation in the discussions and confessional practice sessions
Submission of written work
Two Ad Auds examinations

Required Readings:

Dallen, James, *The Reconciling Community: The Rite of Penance* (Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 1986).
Stasiak, Kurt, O.S.B., *A Confessor's Handbook* (New Jersey, Paulist Press, 1999).
The Rites of the Catholic Church as Revised by Decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and Published by Authority of Pope Paul VI (New York: Pueblo Publishing Co., 1976) "Rite of Penance," pp. 335-445.
Code of Canon Law, The Sacrament of Penance, cc. 959-997, Delicts and Penalties in General, cc. 1311-1363, Penalties for Individual Delicts, cc.1364-1399. Also available on the Vatican web site <http://www.vatican.va>. Navigate to the English version of the web site. In the 'new search engine' type in canon law and the site will take you to a complete version of the code.

Suggested Readings:

Osborne, Kenan B., O.F.M., *Reconciliation and Justification: The Sacrament and its Theology* (Eugene, OR, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1990)

Rahner, Karl, *Theological Investigations*, Vol. 2 (Baltimore, Helicon Press, 1963), “Forgotten Truths Concerning the Sacrament of Penance,” pp. 135-174; “Remarks on the Theology of Indulgences,” pp. 175-202; and “Guilt and Its Remission: The Borderland between Theology and Psychotherapy,” pp. 265-282.

Rahner, Karl, *Theological Investigations*, Vol. 3 (Baltimore, Helicon Press, 1967), “The Meaning of Frequent Confession of Devotion, pp. 177-189 and “Problems Concerning Confession,” pp. 190-207.

Availability: Office: Dean’s Office

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley

1735 Le Roy Ave

Office Hours – Monday 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Phone: Office – 510 549 5065

Home – 510 883 1745 (No calls, please, after 10:00 p.m.)

Email jtreloar@jstb.edu

Grading:

Written work – 1/3 of the final grade

Ad Auds #1 with priest from the faculty– Pass/ Fail

Ad Auds # 2 with the instructor of the course – Letter Grade

These two examinations – 1/3 of the final grade

Practice confessions during the course of the semester – 1/3 of the grade

Course Outline:

Week of January 31

A. Introduction to the course – Dallen, Chapters 1-3, pp. 5-100

B. Practical points – formula of absolution. Role playing.

Week of February 7

A. Dallen, Chapters 4-6, pp. 100-204

B. Stasiak, *The Sacramental Dialogue*, pp. 1-24. Role playing.

Week of February 14

A. Dallen, Chapter 7, pp. 205-249

B. Stasiak, *Suggestions for Practice: some things to consider*, pp. 25-48. Role playing.

Week of February 21 – RCIA Lesson plan due at class time.

A. Dallen, Chapter 8, pp. 249-297

B. Stasiak, *Suggestions for Practice: some things to avoid*, pp. 49-69. Role Playing.

Week of March 7

A. Dallen, Chapter 9, pp. 297-348.

B. Stasiak, Special Situations, Special People, pp. 70-102. Role playing

Week of March 14

- A. Dallen, Chapter 10, pp. 349-407.
- B. Stasiak, Appendix I – pp. 103-140.

Week of March 21

- A. Code of Canon Law, cc. 959-986.
- B. Role Playing

Week of March 28 – Spring Break, no class.

Week of April 4 – Penance Service plan due at class time.

- A. Code of Canon Law, cc. 987-991, 992-997
- B. Role playing

Week of April 11

- A. Code of Canon Law, cc. 1311-1363.
- B. Role Playing

Week of April 18 – List of priests available to Ad Auds examinations. Choice by the student of three priests. Teacher will choose one.

- A. Code of Canon Law, cc. 1364-1399.

Week of April 25

- A. Decree – Reconciliation between God and Men – Rites, pars. 1-40
- B. Role playing

Week of May 2 – Start Ad Auds examinations with one additional assigned priest.

- A. Rite of Reconciliation of Individual Penitents -- Rites, par. 41-47.
- B. Role playing

Week of May 9

- A. Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution – Rites, 48-59. Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with General Confession and Absolution, -- Rites, pars. 60-66.
- B. Role Playing and Final Questions.

Week of May 16 – Final Ad Auds examinations with the instructor. (Half hour oral examination – practice confessions)

Written Work

1. Lesson plan for an RCIA group. “Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation” This lesson plan should be something that would take you a half hour to forty five minutes to present. – Due at class time – Due February 21, 2006 at class time.

2. Preparation of a penance service using Rite #2 – The service should include a worship aid for the congregation and a presider's guide, and a separate explanation of why you chose the materials that you are using – Due April 4, 2006 at class time.

Policy on Late Submissions: Since it is unfair to give some and not others an extension of time to submit papers, all written work is due at class time on the due date. Exceptions will be made only for very unusual cases (e.g. a death in the family or serious illness such as an ailment requiring hospitalization). A grade penalty will be assessed for late papers turned in without an adequate excuse.

Use of BlackBoard: We will make extensive use of the GTU BlackBoard site for this course. The password for registration on BlackBoard for this course is ##### (note: this registration is independent of registration for the course that takes place in the GTU or your home school). All syllabi, selected class notes, opportunities for internet e-mail regarding the course, shared discussion through the internet will appear on the BlackBoard site.