

**Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary
Orchard Lake, Michigan**

PM 872 Penance Practicum

Rev. Bryan Patterson, STL
248.683.9719 bpatterson@sscms.edu

Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Two Credit Hours

CAC 109

Course description:

Instruction in the integration of moral, liturgical and pastoral principles and applications of moral and canonical norms in offering guidance. Utilization of the case method approach to issues related to the family, liberation, violence/non-violence, the environment, business, medicine, sexuality, and issues surrounding life and death. Emphasis placed on the rôle of the confessor and the application of various personal skills for celebrating the Rite of Penance/Reconciliation.

Course objectives:

- In this course students will acquire the skills necessary for being ministers of reconciliation.
- Students will acquire a knowledge of the Church's tradition regarding the practice of Penance and how to apply this tradition in the present day.
- Students will become familiar with the various forms of penitential practices and will learn how to develop both sacramental and non-sacramental penance services.

Required texts:

The Rite of Penance (Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, and other publishers)
Stasiak, Kurt. *A Confessor's Handbook*. New York: Paulist Press. 1999

Magisterial Documents:

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Rite of Penance

John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, Encyclical Letter. 1980

John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et poenitentia*, Apostolic Exhortation. 1984

Pontifical Council for the Family. *Vademecum for Confessors concerning Some Aspects of the Morality of Conjugal Life*. 1997

Course requirements:

This course will help the student develop the necessary skills to be a good confessor. The first half of the course will be composed of lecture and discussion to cover the academic material necessary build confessional competence. The second half will deal with the application of these learned principles. This will include live confessional experiences. These will be discussed and evaluated in a positive manner to help the student develop as a confessor. Each student will be required to prepare four confessional experiences. The topics of these confessional experiences will be assigned.

Grading:

The course will be graded using the traditional letter grade system. The student will be graded on four quizzes 10 points each equaling 40%, the four confessional experiences, 10 points each equaling 40% and participation, discussion and contribution to the class equaling 20%.

Grade Interpretation

Grade Honor	Points	Percent Interpretation	
A	4.0	100-94	Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90	Superior
B+	3.3	89-87	Very Good
B	3.0	86-83	Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80	Average
C+	2.3	79-76	Below Average/Below graduate performance
C	2.0	75-70	Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below	Fail
F	0		Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0		Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0		Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0		Incomplete - No credit or honor points

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, "I," grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the "I" from the instructor before the final class of the course. A Petition for an "I" Grade is filed with the Academic Dean's Office and Registrar's Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an "I" is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an "F."

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog.

Bibliography:

A bibliography is found at the back of Stasiak's book which the student is encouraged to consult for further reading in this course.

Course calendar:

10 January	Introduction, Stasiak 1-24
24 January	Quiz on 1-24, Discussion on Stasiak 25-48
31 January	Quiz on 25-48, Discussion on Stasiak 49-69
7 February	Quiz on 49-69, Discussion on Stasiak 70-98
14 February	Quiz on 70-98, Discussion on Practicum
21 February	Confessions
24 February – 4 March	<i>Spring Break</i>
7 March	Confessions
14 March	Confessions
21 March	Confessions
24 March – 2 April	<i>Easter Break</i>
4 April	Confessions
11 April	Confessions
18 April	Confessions
25 April	Confessions – Final Class

Notice of Change:

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.