



Theology of the Body: Foundations

**Year Long Course
2023-24 School Year**



ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: GRADES 9-12

Class Dates: Starts Thursday, September 7th, 2023 and runs through Thursday, May 23rd, 2024.

Class Times: Thursdays at 12:30pm EST

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor: Mrs. Monika Minehart

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CLASS DESCRIPTION:

"The human body includes right from the beginning...the capacity of expressing love, that love in which the person becomes a gift – and by means of this gift – fulfills the meaning of his being and existence."

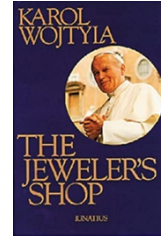
– St. John Paul II, Theology of the Body, January 16, 1980

From September 1979 through November 1984, (Pope) St. John Paul II gave a series of 129 papal addresses we now refer to as the Theology of the Body. In these addresses, St. John Paul II shared theological and philosophical wisdom that was many years in the making during his time serving the church prior to becoming pope. In his teaching on human sexuality, marriage, and family life, he centered on the dignity of the human person and the reality that man cannot fully understand his own identity without existing with someone and further, existing for someone else. That is, unless he makes a sincere gift of self, man cannot participate in love as a part of God's original plan for us.

In this course, we will lay the groundwork for the Theology of the Body through learning about who St. John Paul II (Karol Wojtyla) was before he became pope. We will discover how his theological considerations on human sexuality were formative in the Church and will continue to be increasingly necessary to promote truth, beauty, and goodness in our modern culture. Through studying his teaching on the human person and our relationship to God and each other, we will learn more about our God-given identities which can help us find our place in the world and lead us to the God who loved us into existence.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

- The Jeweler's Shop* by Karol Wojtyla
 - Paperback (1992), Ignatius Press
 - Must have physical copy, digital versions not permitted



- Called to be More*, Ruah Woods Institute
 - Textbook – Online Subscription (\$10/year)
 - Assigned sections may be printed before reading or read online.



- *Gaudium Et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)*, Pope Paul VI

- Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - Any physical copy, digital versions not permitted.

- Bible (New American Bible) (must have personal physical copy – cannot use someone else's Bible)

SCHEDULE FOR: *THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: FOUNDATIONS*

CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Thursdays: 12:30-1:45pm (EST) for 33 weeks and 33 classes*

September (4): 7, 14, 21, 28

October (4): 5, 12, 19, 26

November (4): 2, 9, 16, 30

December (2): 7, 14

January (4): 11, 18, 25

February (4): 1, 8, 22, 29

March (3): 7, 14, 21 [**Holy Week**]

April (4): 4, 11, 18, 25

May (4): 2, 9, 16, 23

**Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. During "Office Hours" students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material.

COURSE MAP

Quarter 1:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, Called to Be More (Ruah Woods Institute)

Quarter 2:

Who is Jesus Christ?, Called to Be More (Ruah Woods Institute)

The Jeweler's Shop, Karol Wojtyla

Quarter 3:

The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery), Called to Be More (Ruah Woods Institute)

The Jeweler's Shop, Karol Wojtyla

Quarter 4:

Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church, Called to Be More (Ruah Woods Institute)

Gaudium Et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), Pope Paul VI

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

Our class will be held once a week on Thursdays. As this is a once-a-week class, staying on top of readings and maintaining regular attendance is very important. Students will be expected to complete all reading assignments on time and come to each class ready to ask questions and participate in discussion.

Each quarter there will be an essay assigned and students will be graded on their knowledge of the course material as well as their ability to show theological reflection. Grammar and syntax will only be critiqued if it strongly detracts from showing one's understanding. Spiritual development and growth are of a greater importance than technical skill in this course.

STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING

While pursuing the course *Theology of the Body: Foundations* through Scholé Academy will be restful and prayerful, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their transcript. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for beginning to explore one's inner spiritual life. Active participation and the ability to challenge oneself through introspective writing and discussion will allow me to assign the following grades to your

student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Inasmuch as you might be fully on board with this grading method in theory, there will undoubtedly be the need to complete a transcript with either a numeric or traditional letter grade. Traditional percentage grades will be provided and will be readily accessed on the *Theology of the Body: Foundations* Canvas page. Additionally, Mrs. Minehart will provide a transcript of that grade to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

Mrs. Minehart will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Schoology. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to *the Theology of the Body: Foundations* course page.

Student's grades will be comprised of:

1. Reading Completion: 25% of the grade
2. Class Participation: 25% of the grade
3. Quizzes: 25% of the grade.
4. Essays: 25% of the grade

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult an appropriate style manual for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the *Theology of the Body: Foundations* Canvas assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Monika Minehart has been working in Catholic Religious Education for over 15 years. She earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Early Christian Studies from the University of Michigan and her M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago with a focus in Biblical Studies and Koine Greek. Having observed teaching styles in a wide array of school settings (homeschooling, private, public & charter) in her own education and that of her children, she understands the necessity of restful learning wherever you may be attending school. She is passionate about reinvigorating Catholic catechetical programs through classic spiritual literature as well as modern Catholic resources. Monika cherishes the time she gets to spend with her husband and four children, enjoys weightlifting and exercising in her garage gym, and loves listening to uplifting music.