



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY  
CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

**Aquinas House of Studies**  
**Theology of the Body**  
**Rooted**  
**(Middle School)**

Yearlong Course 2023-2024

Instructor: Jillian Strecker

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Class Times: Mondays 2:00 pm- 3:15 pm EST

Office Hours: By appointment

**ELIGIBLE STUDENT:**

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**Grades 6-8, 9<sup>th</sup> graders welcome**

The Catholic Church recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children, so it is important that parents pray and discern if their child is ready for this class. Look over class topics listed in the syllabus and feel free to email me, the instructor, with any questions. Students must be mature enough to handle the subject content, and parents must be comfortable with the content. Parent resources and recordings will be provided to help parents discuss this course with their children. Students are expected to have proficient reading and emerging writing skills as well as the interest and willingness to grow in discussion skills about the Church and history.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:\***

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A Bible (RSV Catholic Edition recommended)

3 Common Place Books - all available from Ruah Woods Press store:

<https://www.ruahwoodspress.com/product/grades-6-8-tob-bundle/>

- Grade 6 TOB Common Place Book \$10
- Grade 7 TOB Common Place Book \$10
- Grade 8 TOB Common Place Book \$10

Blessed John Paul II: Be Not Afraid by Susan Helen Wallace Published by Pauline Press / Available at Barnes & Nobles: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/blessed-john-paul-ii-susan-helen-wallace/1100041318> \*To be read for the first day of class.

**Additional Materials for projects:**

Giant 12 x 18 Construction paper, markers and crayons

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

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**ORIENTATION SESSION:**

The date and time of the student/parent orientation will depend on the particular section in which you are enrolled, but all orientation sessions will be scheduled during the week prior to the start of the class.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Your teachers are available outside of scheduled class times! During “Office Hours” students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material. This can happen via email or a meeting in the Zoom classroom. Your teacher will do their best to respond within 24-48 hours; please keep in mind that they likely will not respond immediately to messages after 5 p.m. EST.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course will introduce students to the Theology of the Body (study of what it means to be a human) at a very basic level. Theology of the Body is rooted in St. John Paul’s writings which help us understand God’s plan for humanity and the body. His writings were a response to the cultural chaos he saw happening in the 20th Century. While there are many books to help us understand his rich, philosophical writings, this course will use three books written specifically for a middle school audience. In addition, we will be reading tales and fables that demonstrate teachings of Theology of the Body.

The goal is that this course would feel more like a small catechetical group with prayerful discussion and reflection and minimal homework.

The five main goals of this course are for students to:

- 1) Know God’s big plan for humanity.
  - Original man (Genesis)
  - Historical Man (Fallen and Redeemed)
  - Eschatological Man (Heaven)
  
- 2) Understand the importance and gift of the three “original” experiences in Genesis.
  - Original Solitude (God created humans different than animals)
  - Original Unity (God created humans male & female to complement one another)

- Original Nakedness (God created humans to know and love each other; not use or hurt each other)

3) Recognize that the laws God and the Church give us lead to freedom and joy.

4) Recognize the gifts of Theology of the Body in all vocations.

5) Foster a prayer life and an inner dialogue with the Lord.

## **COURSE MAP**

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### **QUARTER 1**

1. St. John Paul II's biography and Intro to Theology of the Body
2. Creation as a Gift
3. The Image of God
4. The Body Reveals Man
5. Original Solitude

### **QUARTER 2**

1. Original Unity
2. Original Nakedness
3. Man of Concupiscence
4. Redeemed and Called
5. Law and Love

### **QUARTER 3**

1. Life According to the Spirit

2. The Heroism of Love

3. The Spousal Meaning of the Body

4. Vocation and Gift

5. Virginitly for the Sake of the Kingdom

### **QUARTER 4**

1. The Sacrament of Marriage

2. Saint Paul on Flesh and Spirit

3. Logic of Domination vs. Logic of Gift

4. Final Victory over Death: Resurrection of the Body

5. TOB in Literature

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS**

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Students suited for this course will also be cultivating the following scholarship skills:

1. **Engaging the Material:** This student is one who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, ask questions, supply answers, and consider how the discussion at hand applies to oneself.
2. **Attention to Detail & Preparedness:** This student consistently adheres to deadlines, submission requirements, adheres to style guides and codes, confirms technology is working prior to the start of class, is responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, is responsible for consulting their course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.
3. **Critical Reflection:** This student receives feedback on their submissions, and then applies that feedback to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. This student also gleans information from the live class critiques of fellow students and learns from others what mistakes to avoid.
4. **Initiative/Maturity:** This student will be proactive in listening to the teacher's comments, assessing how they apply to his/her work, taking the initiative to schedule office hours with the teacher if necessary.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION**

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1. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared: with reading assignments completed and contemplated, all materials present, and ready to actively participate.
2. Students are expected to be engaged: listening carefully, asking and answering questions, and thinking about the matters under discussion.
3. Students are expected to submit assignments on time, completed neatly and thoroughly by submitting to the Canvas Classroom.
4. Students are expected to act responsibly: to let the teacher know if he or she will be absent and seek a way to make up for the lost class; to keep up with all reading and writing assignments and ask for guidance and direction from the teacher whenever necessary.
5. Students are expected to be respectful to their teacher, their classmates and the material.

## **STUDENT GRADING AND EVALUATION**

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While pursuing coursework through Scholé Academy will be “restful” and lots of fun, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their prepared college 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 mastery of this discipline. I will 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). As much as you

might be fully on board with this grading method in theory, there will undoubtedly be the need to complete a college transcript with either a numeric or traditional letter grade. Traditional percentage grades will be provided and will be readily accessed on the course Canvas course page. Additionally, Mrs. Strecker will provide a transcript of that grade to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

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### **STUDENT EVALUATION : MASTERY PORTRAIT**

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Students should be able to have a basic understanding of the five goals outlined in the course description. They should also grow in understanding and practice of Lectio Divina.

Students will also be guided in development of the virtues of Truth, Goodness and Wisdom.

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### **STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS**

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Mrs. Strecker will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Canvas. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the Canvas course page. Student's grades will be comprised of:

- Class Participation and Classwork: 40%
- Unit Reflections: 30%
- Quarterly Projects: 30%

#### **Class Activities**

- Lectio Divina to start each class
- Sacred Art
- Learn about virtues
- Short Lecture covering the pages in the book
- Individual/Silent Reflection through writing and journaling in common place books
- Class Discussion

#### **Assignments**

- Unit reflections done in common place books.
- End of Quarter Projects: Please see Canvas for more information.

**Please note: Photographs of completed assignments will not be accepted as they are incredibly difficult to read. Please submit all work in PDF format. Documents must be scanned right-side-up and not sideways.**

Late homework will be given a **5% penalty** for each weekday that the assignment is late. Assignments seven or more days late must still be completed in a satisfactory manner but will be assigned the minimum satis grade of 70%.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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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.

Specifically, cheating and plagiarism are punishable offenses. Copying the work of other students is prohibited and proper citation of all sources is essential.

## **THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

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We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom. The live, interactive nature of our courses is foundational, and we require cameras to be on during all class sessions. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio 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. Courses will be managed through our learning management system, Canvas.

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.

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

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### **Jillian Strecker**

Instructor and Tutor

[jstrecker.scholeacademy@gmail.com](mailto:jstrecker.scholeacademy@gmail.com)



Jillian Strecker has a BA in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville, a MA in Russian literature from University College London and is currently working on a certificate in Classical Learning from the University of Dallas. She has shared her passion for literature, writing and poetry with children at private schools in New York City and New Orleans for over a decade. She is also a homeschool mom who has been educating her children for more than 13 years. Additionally, Jillian is a published poet who is currently working on two books of poetry, one for children and one for adults. When not teaching, Jillian loves reading literature. Her favorite writers are Fyodor Dostoevsky, Ray Bradbury, H.G. Wells, Flannery O' Connor and Charles Dickens. She also loves riding her bike with her husband and two sons, baking and watching the original Twilight Zone series with a large bowl of popcorn.

*Please note: While this syllabus addresses details specific to this course, it is not extensive. Parents should also read the Student-Parent Handbook located on [scholeacademy.com](http://scholeacademy.com) and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.*