Student Guide for the New University Core Curriculum

(Applicable to students entering Summer 2023 and subsequent semesters)

On behalf of the University Core Curriculum Faculty and Advisors Training Working Group, we wish you a great academic year! This document was created to provide you with critical information and guidance in the advisement and programming of courses in the new University Core Curriculum.

Members of the University Core Curriculum Council worked diligently to produce a set of course offerings, across a broad range of academic disciplines, that provide both a relevant and coherent educational foundation for St. John's students. The spirit of our new University Core Curriculum speaks directly to our Catholic, Vincentian, Metropolitan, and Global identity, affirms the values of the liberal arts and sciences, and develops an engaged citizenry to serve their communities.

The University Core Curriculum provides you with a wide breadth of understanding of different subjects which is valuable when participating in a globally competitive world. It helps you achieve success by providing you with a toolbox of skills beyond that which is provided by your major area of study. Most importantly, the University Core Curriculum helps you learn how to be a good and moral person so that you may lead a happy and productive life.

To further assist you, this document includes information that answers the questions many students have concerning their enrollment in core courses.

"Why a new core curriculum?"

"What is it designed to do? "

"What courses should I take?"

In sum, we are excited about the implementation of the new core curriculum and wish you a great academic year.

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A. Vision Statement of the University Core Curriculum

University Core Curriculum Council Core Curriculum Vision Statement Adopted by the UCCC on December 7, 2020 Updated February 2022

Note: This is a living document and may incorporate changes in the future

As a Catholic, Vincentian, Metropolitan, and Global university, St. John's offers a core curriculum that enacts a Catholic and Vincentian identity, affirms the values of the liberal arts and sciences, and develops an engaged citizenry to serve their communities. The core, based in our Catholic and Vincentian traditions, provides a unique foundation emphasizing the dignity of the human person and the diversity of human communities, the objectivity of moral values, and ongoing critical self-reflection on the relationship between faith and reason. The University's Catholic identity demands the inclusion of all voices and perspectives in our common task to understand the world and how we should live in it. It provides an entry into humanity's ongoing search for shared, universal values, as expressed in the University's core values of truth, love, respect, opportunity, excellence, and service.

The core curriculum at St. John's University is driven by the examination of enduring philosophical and theological questions about the nature of reality and knowledge, what it means to be a good human person, the requirements of justice, and how we are defined by our relationship to God. The liberal arts and sciences are at the heart of a St. John's education, emphasizing, as they do, multiple ways of approaching these questions, understanding the world and our place in it. Courses in theology, philosophy, history, literature, the social, physical, and natural sciences are some of the places where students gain access to critical bodies of knowledge about the richness, and complexity of global histories and cultures. Courses in oral and written communication provide students with the habits of mind and eloquence to engage their community in discourse. Taken together, these courses allow students to develop respect and openness as they work for social justice and build a better world.

Ultimately, the core curriculum at St. John's University encourages students to ask the central Vincentian question: "What must be done?" Equipped with the knowledge and values necessary to discern what our moment requires, and with the skills to listen, learn, engage, and persuade, St. John's University graduates are well prepared to flourish in the workforce and make a difference in the world. The core prepares students to become active learners and participants in society, to value all forms of diversity, to engage in informed debate, and to develop as ethical and mindful individuals and citizens of local, national, and global communities.

B. General Overview of the New 39-Credit University Core Curriculum

The 39-Credit University Core Curriculum will provide a unified educational experience among all undergraduate students. It is driven by a multi-perspective examination of the liberal arts and sciences, focusing on enduring philosophical and theological questions about the nature of reality and knowledge, what it means to be a good human person, the requirements of justice, and how we are defined by our relationship to God. Courses in theology, philosophy, history, literature, the social, physical, and natural sciences provide students with critical bodies of knowledge about the richness, and complexity, of global histories and cultures. Courses in oral and written communication provide students with the habits of mind and communicative practices to engage their community in discourse. Taken together, these courses allow students to develop respect and openness as they work for social justice, build a better world, and provide entry into humanity's ongoing search for shared, universal values, as expressed in the University's core values of truth, love, respect, opportunity, excellence, and service.

University Core Curriculum

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| | 39 Credits |

^{***} Students in these subject areas may select from an array of courses. See below.

C. Course Summary, Rationale, and Importance of University Core Academic Disciplines

FYS 1000: First Year Seminar (3 credits)

- Course Summary: Students in the First Year Seminar develop skills in critical thinking, information literacy, and communication by studying a special theme selected by the instructor. The course addresses themes such as immigration, race and ethnicity, social and cultural diversity, wealth and poverty, and environmental sustainability. As an integral part of the course, students participate in field-based learning experiences that relate to the academic focus of their class. Academic Service Learning provides a framework for engagement with the St. John's Vincentian Mission with its dedication to the ideals of service and social justice.
- Rationale: First Year Seminar provides students with opportunities to address essential civic
 awareness as they grow in understanding of their role in society in a global city; combine the use
 of communication skills with the skill of consensus building through collaborative, experiential
 field work; and implement inquiry methods that work across disciplines in the sciences, the arts
 and the humanities.
- Importance: Students in First Year Seminar encounter innovative ideas and build the critical thinking and communication skills needed for success in their chosen fields. Students are encouraged to think in complex ways and communicate in multiple modes using a variety of approaches and technologies. In learning about complex real-world problems, the course encourages students to think analytically and creatively while working together.

FYW 1000: First Year Writing (3 credits)

- Course Summary: First Year Writing students explore a range of compositional and rhetorical strategies, experiment with their own developing styles, and research ideas and topics that are relevant to their lives, chosen disciplines, and future careers. In this course, students develop an awareness of writing as a powerful medium for intellectual, social, and professional growth. They grapple with complex concepts, express original ideas, and communicate with diverse audiences and participate in the robust culture of undergraduate writing at St John's.
- Rationale: The class is mostly interactive and workshop-focused. You will have the chance to be involved in deep discussions that matter. This class will help you get comfortable writing and sharing your writing with peers in a supportive environment where you can learn about yourself as a writer and how to continue to develop your writing skills for a lifetime. You are going to make good friends in this class who will share your college journey with you, and you might even end up being friends for life. We think you will really enjoy FYW and that by the end of the course you'll be transformed!
- Importance: Writing matters. It is a form of personal and cultural power. Writing is a way of understanding yourself, understanding the world, and of making people listen to you. The better you write, the more power you get. Writing can help you chart your own path if you haven't yet decided on a major, or help you navigate the various other subjects you'll take. With a grounding in strong writing, revision, and research practices, you'll be better positioned to succeed academically and in the workforce.

SPE 1000: Core Public Speaking (3 credits)

- Course Summary: Students engage in an introduction to the theory and practice of public speaking in a variety of communication contexts. Students will learn and practice the principles of public speaking, including topic selection, audience adaptation, invention and arrangement of arguments, and the incorporation of the appropriate style to the message. Additionally, students will learn techniques in actively listening and message evaluation.
- Rationale: St. John's University believes strongly in their mission that all students should be given the tools to succeed in college and in life. Public speaking is something you will have to do in your career or in your community, and the university feels responsible for giving you some practice and preparation for these inevitable moments. Professional and personal relationships depend on how well you speak and listen. If you ever have something to say, you will need to know how to say it so that people will listen.
- Importance: The ability to speak persuasively helps you do things in the world it can help you get a job or a promotion as well as gather support for your ideas and causes. During interviews, employers will examine your skill in verbal and non-verbal communication. They will observe your ability to make a point but, also, your verbal style and body language. This course will help you read your situation and help you construct appropriate arguments for the real-life scenarios you face, helping you gain cooperation from people to being about the desired change.

ENG 1100: Literature in a Global Context (3 credits)

- Course Summary: Students in Literature in a Global Context engage in the study of cultural
 artifacts, including literary texts, film, oral literature, and performance, both as ends in themselves
 and as bridges to other ways of knowing and being in the world. The course examines artifacts
 across a variety of time periods, aesthetic traditions, regions, and genres, and analyzes diverse
 language practices and literacies in relation to past and contemporary cultures.
- Rationale: Through reading, analyzing, and comparing texts from different cultures, students will
 explore vast varieties of human experience. Literature in a Global Context encourages students
 to discover the meaning and power of human expression and to understand students' own
 cultural experiences and those of others.
- Importance: Students in this class will learn valuable and transferrable skills: to read and view texts closely; to think critically; to analyze texts; to practice methods of research and analysis, to write, compose, and communicate with creativity and purpose; to understand literary and cultural texts and their wider contexts; to think globally; and, to consider how borders and movement shape art, identity, and the world around us.

HIS 1000: Emergence of a Global Society (3 credits)

Course Summary: In our increasingly globalized society, it is essential for student success to
understand our past and current world from global and diverse perspectives. The course provides
a historical and contemporary approach to comprehending changing structures and processes of
power and their social, economic, political, and cultural contexts and consequences. This includes
an appreciation of the factors influencing the historical movements of people, ideas, and things
as well as the roles of change over time and contingency in the emergence of a global society.
Students will also build key intellectual abilities such as thinking critically, developing information

literacy, evaluating evidence, and creating effective and clear reasoned arguments both in writing and orally.

- Rationale: "Emergence of Global Society" studies multiple, dynamic stories about the historical movements of people, ideas, and things from 1500 to the present day. We can understand our current and past worlds when we focus on global and diverse interconnections. Everything has a history. And you cannot understand who you are, if you do not understand the many contexts that have shaped you and your world. The role of the HIS 1000 in the University Core Curriculum is to allow you to understand history as an inquiry, to explore historical approaches that are meaningful to you, and to craft your own historical narratives for a variety of audiences.
- Importance: History is the study of the human past as it is constructed and interpreted with human artifacts, written evidence, and oral traditions. It requires empathy for historical actors, respect for interpretive debate, and the skillful use of an evolving set of practices and tools. As an inquiry into human experience, history demands that we consider the diversity of human experience across time and place. As a public pursuit, history requires effective communication to make the past accessible. It informs and preserves collective memory. It is essential to active citizenship. As a discipline, history requires a deliberative stance towards the past, the sophisticated use of information, evidence, and argumentation, and the ability to identify and explain continuity and change over time. History allows us to understand the provisional nature of knowledge over a chronological span of time.

(Source – Adapted from American Historical Association advising materials. https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/tuning-the-history-discipline/2016-history-discipline-core)

PHI 1000: Philosophy of the Human Person (3 credits)

- Course Summary: Philosophy of the Human Person begins with an introduction to philosophy as
 a discipline with special emphasis on logic, argumentation, critical thinking, and common forms
 of fallacious reasoning. Central to the course is philosophical investigation of human nature, with
 particular emphasis on the concepts of rationality, freedom, and personal immortality. The course
 addresses one of the chief goals of the University Core Curriculum, an appreciation of the dignity
 of the human person.
- Rationale: Philosophy is neither science nor religion but considers both and seeks to provide answers to the most important questions we have about the meaning of life. Every human being does philosophy. Philosophy courses help you do it right.
- **Importance:** Philosophy means the "love of wisdom." This course introduces students to this most basic form of reasoning about ourselves and concentrates particularly on human freedom and rationality. Are we able to make free choices? Do we have intrinsic worth and dignity?

PHI 3000: Metaphysics (3 credits)

• Course Summary: Metaphysics is an investigation of the most basic philosophical issues, including the nature of thought and reality, the possibility, and limitations of knowledge as well as the existence of God. In particular, the differences from and similarities to theological, scientific, and literary modes of comprehension and the limitations of scientism and relativism will be addressed. This course is central to the University Core Curriculum's goal of examining the "objectivity of

moral values, and ongoing critical self-reflection on the relationship between faith and reason." **Prerequisite: PHI 1000.**

- Rationale: Metaphysics is the ultimate "deep dive" and educates students to identify assumptions and solve problems by means of abstract reasoning.
- Importance: Metaphysics means "after or beyond physics" and it explores the limits of human understanding. Is science the most fundamental form of knowledge? Can we know if there is a God? What is knowledge? Can our values be grounded in reality?

Theology 1000: Perspectives on Christianity: A Catholic Approach (3 credits)

- **Course Summary:** An introduction to Christianity highlighting scripture, creedal statements, rites, theological writings, artistic expressions, and other discourses manifesting and expressing the Christian faith in its various traditions throughout its two-thousand-year development.
- Rationale: "Perspectives on Christianity: A Catholic Approach" is an introduction to Christianity and the field of theology. The course studies the history and development of Christianity as a living tradition traced through the Bible, historical development, religious doctrines, and diverse cultures. The course invites students to ask and analyze questions about God, faith, belief, and how Christian communities have grappled with theological questions. Students will also learn about St. Vincent de Paul and the Vincentian tradition.
- Importance: This course is the foundational theology course in St. John's University. Through "Perspectives on Christianity" students will learn more about the tradition upon which St. John's was founded and by which it continues to be shaped. Religion is often a core component of both personal and communal identity. It has and continues to shape not only individual lives and communities but historical trends and global dynamics. By studying Christian theology in depth, students will develop the skills to recognize the role of religion in our world, to begin investigating systems of belief, and respectfully analyze not only Christianity but other religious traditions as well.

Theology 2000-Level: Sacred Texts and Traditions Courses (3 credits)

- Course Summary: The second theology course, selected from a group of offerings called Sacred Texts and Traditions, builds on the foundation of historical analysis and critical exegesis of theological developments and faith expressions in the first theology course. All sections of the second theology course draw on disciplines such as history and literary analysis. Students will demonstrate an ability to critically interpret religious traditions and texts as both historically embedded and always-evolving responses to the experience of the transcendent in human life. Prerequisite: THE 1000
- Rationale: Building upon the skills developed in THE 1000, the Sacred Texts and Traditions series
 invites students to investigate, understand, and analyze a particular theological tradition through
 its sacred texts, its particular methodology, and communities. Through our offerings, students
 have the opportunity to engage Christianity more deeply, to study in depth another religious
 tradition, or to examine questions from a religious studies methodology.

• Importance: The Sacred Texts and Traditions series invites students to delve deeper into theological study by focusing a particular tradition, religious question, or intersection of religion with other aspects of human experience. All courses options focus around sacred primary texts and traditions, broadly understood and contribute to student's academic and civic growth. Students will choose from a range of options allowing them to direct their own development based upon their spiritual questions or interests.

Choose one course from the approved list below based on your college/academic unit.

For students enrolled in The School of Education:

Spirituality of the Educator (THE 2410)

For students enrolled in St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The Peter J. Tobin College of Business, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Collins College of Professional Studies:

Systematic/Constructive Theology

- The Mystery of God (THE 2200 or THE 1030)
- Jesus in the Christian Faith (THE 2205)
- Perspectives on the Church (THE 2210)
- Women in Theology (THE 2340)
- Liberation Theologies (THE 2245)

Biblical Studies

- Reading the Old Testament (THE 2110)
- Reading the New Testament (THE 2120)

Religious Studies

- Introduction to Judaism (THE 2820)
- Introduction to Hinduism (THE 2830 or THE 1056)
- Introduction to Buddhism (THE 2840 or THE 1060)
- Introduction to Islam (THE 2850)
- Race and Religion in the United States (THE 2255)
- Science and Religion (THE 2920)
- Additional courses approved for Collins College of Professional Studies students only are:
 - o Religions of the World (THE 1050)
 - o Introduction to Krishna (THE 1070)

Historical Theology

- History of Christian Theology I: Origins Through the Middle Ages (THE 2501)
- History of Christian Theology II: Reformations to the Present (THE 2502)
- Global Catholicism (THE 2800)
- Additional course approved for Collins College of Professional Studies students only is:
 - An Introduction to Vatican II (THE 1071)

Spirituality Studies

Christian Spirituality and Mysticism (THE 2400)

Ethics (3 credits)

- Course Summary: Students will study ethics regarding the implications and consequences of
 individual and communal moral decisions from a theological or philosophical perspective.
 Students will address the nature of ethical values, principles, rights, responsibilities, virtues, and
 laws from different perspectives. Further, students will learn to construct and evaluate ethical
 arguments and judgments. Prerequisite: THE 1000 or PHI 1000
- Rationale: Through the ethics requirement, students will learn to critically evaluate the sources, principles, and reasoning behind moral or ethical judgments we make every day. Choosing from a range of philosophical and theological options, students will critically analyze and apply ethical systems and values. In doing so, they will develop their own capacity for moral reasoning and the skills to make ethical judgments.
- Importance: As persons and communities, we are faced with making moral decisions and ethical judgments every day. In diverse contexts, ethics helps us ask: What am I obliged to do? What do others owe me and what do I owe my neighbors? What makes an action right or wrong? Are the answers to these questions personal or communal? subjective or objective? An integral component of the core, the ethics courses invite students to evaluate questions of virtue, character, and the common good. Choosing between options in philosophical and theological ethics, students are able to choose to develop moral reasoning based upon their own particular interest or career pathway.

Choose one course from the approved list below based on your college/academic unit.

For students enrolled in St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The School of Education, or Collins College of Professional Studies:

- Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology (THE 3010)
- Theologies of Peace (THE 3310)
- Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching (THE 3020)
- Ecology and Environmental Ethics (THE 3330)
- Ethics, Religion, and Global Development (THE 3350)
- Justice, Spirituality, and Social Change (THE 3360)
- Ethics (PHI 2200 or PHI 1020)
- Additional courses approved for Collins College of Professional Studies students only are:
 - Media Ethics (PHI 1024)
 - Christian Responsibility (THE 1040)

For students enrolled in The Peter J. Tobin College of Business:

- Ethics and Business (PHI 2220 or PHI 1022)
- Moral Theology of the Marketplace (THE 3305)

For Students in College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences:

- Ethics and Health Care (PHI 2240)
- Moral Theology of Health Care (THE 3300 or THE 1042)

Mathematical, Logical, Quantitative and Computational Reasoning (3 credits)

- Course Summary: Throughout the history of the sciences and humanities, logic and mathematics have served as tools for the acquisition of knowledge and the pursuit of wisdom. Analytical reasoning, using quantitative, computational methodology, has proved crucial in advancing scholarly research, free inquiry, and the enthusiastic quest for truth. These core courses will enhance students' critical thinking skills, foster understanding of how information is processed and analyzed, and provide a concrete experience in rigorous, abstract thinking.
- Rationale: A mathematical, logical, quantitative, and computational reasoning skills course is
 essential for being able to evaluate arguments and for problem solving. These skills are needed in
 our careers and our daily lives. Throughout the course, students will further develop their abilities
 to understand, discuss and explain arguments using mathematical, logical, quantitative, and
 computational reasoning, both in written form and orally.
- Importance: Logical reasoning has become increasingly important in today's world. In virtually every field one needs the ability to identify valid statements and draw appropriate conclusions using mathematical, logical, quantitative, and computational reasoning. Of particular importance is the ability to draw appropriate conclusions based on the quantitative analysis of statistical data, including any assumptions that were made, while recognizing the limits of this analysis, and to identify abuses of statistical information.

Choose one course from the approved list below based on your college/academic unit. Major sequence courses for business, math-intensive, and STEM majors are applicable. See your advisor for course placement/advisement.

For students enrolled in The Peter J. Tobin College of Business:

Modern Statistics I (BUA 1333)

For students enrolled in St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The School of Education, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Collins College of Professional Studies:

- Mathematics for Liberal Arts (MTH 1000)
- Mathematics of Fairness (MTH 1100)
- Introduction to Logic (PHI 3400)
- Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences (PSY 2030). This course has a corequisite of a lab (PSY 2030L). 4 Credits
- Sports Analytics (SPM 4553)

Science/Quantitative Analysis (3 credits)

• Course Summary: Science/Quantitative Analysis introduces students to the way scientists think about and view the world. To understand the empirical process of science, students investigate how experiments are designed and the results interpreted. Students learn the logic of the scientific method and how it may be used to solve problems in their everyday lives. Science impacts the world around us, and students will analyze societal issues that deal with science in terms of values, ethics, and responsibilities. Finally, students will learn to understand, communicate, and discuss topics related to science through effective discussions, activities, as well as written and oral discourse.

- Rationale: Students develop their ability to apply the scientific method through critical thinking, information literacy and quantitative reasoning skills. This method of analysis and problem-solving may be applied in students' other coursework, in their careers, and in their daily lives. Throughout the course, students will build their abilities to understand, communicate, and discuss potentially controversial topics through written and oral discourse.
- when evaluating new concepts and intellectual challenges. The historical development of the specific theme is explored to learn how scientific theories change and develop over time as new discoveries occur. The interpretation and presentation of scientific data have implications on all our lives, from decisions about government funding to medical care to the food we eat. Science is an extremely useful and powerful way of knowing the world. Collectively, these different ways of knowing define humanity. Science is responsible for all the electronic devices we value so much like our cell phones and laptops. It is responsible for all the advances made in medicine and why people are living longer. Thus, it is essential for us to understand the process of science and how it works to make sense of our everyday world. Importantly, a main goal is to help students become educated citizens about current day topics in science like climate change and the sixth extinction so that they may make responsible decisions, for example, when voting.

SCI 1000 or courses in data analysis or science-related disciplines. Major sequence courses for STEM majors are applicable. See your advisor for course placement/advisement.

Social Justice (3 Credits)

- Course Summary: St. John's University identifies social justice as a fundamental priority based on the Judeo-Christian scriptures, the corpus of Catholic Social Teaching and the tradition of St. Vincent de Paul. Social justice courses affirm the inherent dignity of the human person and the diverse communities that work together in pursuit of the common good. These courses will promote critical thinking, understanding, and analysis of the structures, histories and legacies of inequality and injustice that impede the promotion and development of a more just and more equitable society. (Prerequisites, if listed and applicable to your degree, must be followed.)
- Rationale: By taking courses in social justice, students develop a greater understanding of our pluralistic society, learning why conflict between groups exist, why different segments of society needed to fight for their rights, and what barriers they have faced in the social and political realms. Courses in social justice allow students to reflect on cultures that they are a part of and to learn more about other cultures in a thoughtful manner, apply theory and research to increase their awareness in a diverse society, increase the practical in empathetic listening, and advocate for social justice.
- **Importance:** These courses will promote critical thinking, understanding, and analysis of the structures, histories and legacies of inequality and injustice that impede the promotion and development of a more just and more equitable society.

Students can choose one course from the below listing that engages critical analysis of topics such as power, inequality, intersectionality, marginality, difference, and identity.

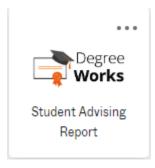
- Language and Culture (ANT 1000)
- Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES 1000)

- Economics of Poverty and income Inequality (ECO 1320)
- Toni Morrison: Selected Novels (ENG 1077)
- Introduction to Literature and Culture/Race in American Culture (ENG 2100)
- Women and Literature (ENG 3750)
- Struggles for Social Justice (HIS 1505)
- History of Colonial South Asia (HIS 2313)
- History of Human Rights and Social Justice (HIS 3160)
- Asian-American History (HIS 3375)
- African-American History to 1900 (HIS 3711)
- African-American History since 1900 (HIS 3712)
- Dante and the Search for Social Justice (ITA 3904)
- Legal Aspects of the Civil Rights Movement (LES 1112)
- Social Justice (PHI 3740)
- Debate in a Global Contexts (RCT 1010)
- Language and Intercultural Communication (RCT 1155)
- Migration and Exile in Latin American and Latinx Literatures (SPA 3917)
- Inequality; Race, Class and Gender (SOC 1170)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Sport (SPM 1552)
- Feminist and Womanist Theologies (THE 3240)

D. Accessing Student Advisement Reports (DegreeWorks)

DegreeWorks is a web-based advising tool and degree audit program. It allows you and your advisor to view up-to-date information about your progress towards graduation.

To begin, log into <u>signon.stjohns.edu</u> and click on DegreeWorks (see below image). Enter your X-ID number to generate your Advisement Report. The Advisement Report shows which degree requirements have been met, which are in progress, and which are still outstanding. Additionally, information on advisement reports is "real-time" – accurate at the point in time the report is run.



For more information regarding DegreeWorks, please refer to the Office of the Registrar's website at https://www.stjohns.edu/academics/office-registrar.