THEO 722: Catholic Education: Ends, Principles, Means
June 20 through 24 and during the months of July and August via distance education
Professors Christopher O. Blum and Jeffrey S. Lehman

**Course Description:** This course offers students an opportunity to reflect upon the ends and principles of Catholic education and also to begin to inquire into the means, that is, the practices and tools, of the craft of teaching. This reflection will be nourished by the writings of some of the most notable educators in the Catholic tradition: especially Bl. John Henry Newman and St. Thomas Aquinas, but also contemporary Catholic educators, including St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Alasdair MacIntyre. Significant attention will be paid to the contemporary challenges—moral, intellectual, institutional, and cultural—besetting the renewal of Catholic education.

**Course Objectives:**
1. To develop an account of Christian maturity and acquired wisdom as the twin goals of Catholic education.
2. To reflect upon the office and craft of the teacher and the perennial and contemporary challenges posed to the teacher by the moral and intellectual condition of the student.
3. To encourage renewal for the teacher through the pursuit of wisdom and for the school through the pursuit of the common good of truth.

**Course Requirements:** Participation in discussions in preliminary forum and conversation during the intensive week (20%); shorter essay (20%); longer essay (40%); final examination (20%).


**Syllabus of Readings and Topics for Discussion**
Readings to be made available in pdf or by link on the course’s Canvas site are marked *

**MONDAY, JUNE 13**
First discussion due: Briefly describe your experience as a teacher, being sure to note how long you have taught, what subjects you have taught, and what kind (e.g. age, religion, ethnicity, special needs, etc.) of students you have taught. Then share one lesson about teaching that you have learned, either by experience and/or from wise counsel. If you have no experience as a teacher, kindly share something about your aspirations as an educator and experiences as a student.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16**
A. By this date, read part III of the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and listen to the introductory audio lecture by Professor Blum, “Charity’s Burning Lamp: St. Francis de Sales and the Renewal of the Catholic Mind.”
B. Shorter Essay due (1,500 words +/-): In the third part of *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales argues that Christians should make a “choice” of the virtues to exercise on a daily basis. How can his teaching on this subject help us to frame an account of Christian maturity as the end at which education aims?

**MONDAY, JUNE 20**

8:15-9:45 a.m. **Where should an education begin? Toward what ends should it be directed?** (Blum)
*Richard Rorty, “Education as Socialization and as Individualization” [1989]*
*Second Vatican Council, Declaration on Christian Education, *Gravissimum Educationis* [1965]*
*Benedict XVI, “Munus docendi,” General Audience Address of 14 April 2010*
*“Alasdair MacIntyre on Education: In Dialogue with Joseph Dunne” [2002]*

10:15-11:45 a.m. **What is Christian Maturity?** (Blum)
St. Francis de Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, Book III
Steven Jensen, *Living the Good Life*
*--both texts are to have been read in full prior to the course*

1:30-3:00 p.m. **Wisdom as an End of Catholic Education** (Lehman)
*Selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, tba*

3:30-5:00 p.m. **Charity as an End of Catholic Education** (Lehman)
*St. Augustine, *Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Charity* (selections) together with selections from Sacred Scripture*

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21**

8:15-9:45 a.m. **The Habits of Students as a Starting-Point for Education** (Blum)
*Selections from works of contemporary sociologists and psychologists, tba*

10:15-11:45 a.m. **Moral Formation in Schools** (Blum)
*Benedict XVI, Address to Catholic Educators at the Catholic University of America [2009]*

1:30-3:00 p.m. **What is a Teacher? What is a Student?** (Lehman)

3:30-5:00 p.m. **Learning from the Master Teachers** (Lehman)
*Augustine, *Confessions* (selections)*
*Dante, *Divine Comedy* (selections)*

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22**

8:15-9:45 a.m. **Living a Healthy Life of the Mind Yesterday & Today** (Blum)
10:15-11:45 a.m.  **Discipline of Mind & the Liberal Arts** (Blum)

1:30-3:00 p.m.  **The Arts of the Trivium** (Lehman)
    *Plato, *Meno* (selections)

3:30-5:00 p.m.  **The Arts of the Quadrivium** (Lehman)
    *Euclid, *Elements of Geometry* (selections)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 23**
8:15-9:45 a.m.  **Teaching Literature in Catholic Schools** (Lehman)
    Basil the Great, “To the Young Men . . .,” in Gamble, pp. 182ff.
    *Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act I

10:15-11:45 a.m.  **Teaching History in Catholic Schools** (Blum)
    *Montaigne, “On the Education of Children,”* (selection)
    *Joinville, *Life of St. Louis* (selections)

1:30-3:00 p.m.  **Teaching Catholic Culture through Performance** (Adams)
    *Joseph Ratzinger, “What Corpus Christi Means to Me”*

3:15-4:45 p.m.  **Inviting Students to the Pursuit of Wisdom** (Lehman)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24**
8:15-9:45 a.m.  **Catholic Education and the Common Good** (Lehman)
    Christopher Dawson, *The Crisis in Western Education*, in Gamble, pp. 627ff.

10:15-11:45 a.m.  **Teachers in His Image: Imitating the Pedagogy of Christ**
    *Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* III, Q. 1, Arts. 1-2 Q. 40, Arts. 1-3

**Final Examination** (due in July, date *tbd*). Study questions will be made available on June 26.

**Longer Essay** (due in August, date *tbd*): A substantial reflection upon the office of the teacher and the task of Catholic education in light of the texts we have considered together this semester (4,000 words +/-).

**For continuing education credit:** a final reflection paper will serve to validate your participation in the course.