



## UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Donald S. Nesti, CSSp  
Center for Faith & Culture

### Marriage Catechumenate – WGS 6393 Catholic Women's and Gender Studies Program University of St. Thomas, Houston

#### **Who is this course for?**

This course is designed for priests, deacons, seminarians, and Catholic marriage preparation ministers. It is also ideal for those who have participated in Witness to Love training programs. Participants must have completed a bachelor's degree and meet the University of St. Thomas's requirements to be admitted as a visiting graduate student.

#### **What will I learn in this course?**

You will gain the theological, psychological, and philosophical foundation needed to accompany engaged and married couples effectively. The course provides a deeply integrated formation model for marriage catechesis rooted in Catholic teaching.

#### **Can I take this course without enrolling in a degree program?**

Yes. This course is offered as an elective within the Master of Arts in Catholic Women's and Gender Studies (MACWGS) and the Master of Arts in Faith and Culture (MAFC) programs, but it can also be taken independently by visiting graduate students for continuing education or enrichment.

#### **What makes this course unique?**

This course is offered in collaboration with Witness to Love, a nationally recognized Catholic marriage catechumenate ministry. It draws on their extensive pastoral experience and is taught by a highly qualified instructor who blends theological depth with practical insight.

#### **How is the course delivered?**

The course is offered online in a synchronous format. Classes meet once a week on Tuesday evenings from 5:30–8:15 PM (Central Time). The Fall 2025 term begins August 19 and concludes December 1.



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### **What kind of coursework and workload should I expect?**

You should anticipate graduate-level reading assignments, written reflections, discussion participation, and applied ministry projects. Plan for approximately 2–3 hours of reading and assignments each week, in addition to weekly class sessions.

### **Can I audit this course?**

Auditing is reserved for priests and religious who have taken a vow of poverty. Please contact the program manager to inquire if you qualify.

### **What are the admissions steps for visiting students?**

Submit an application to UST as a visiting graduate, send Leah Jacobson a short interest essay at [leah.jacobson@stthom.edu](mailto:leah.jacobson@stthom.edu), email official transcripts sent directly to [graduateadmissions@stthom.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@stthom.edu). An interview with Leah will follow, with decisions typically provided within 24 hours.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Contact Leah A. Jacobson, Program Manager of the MA in Catholic Women's and Gender Studies, at [leah.jacobson@stthom.edu](mailto:leah.jacobson@stthom.edu). You may also reach the Office of Admissions at [admissions@stthom.edu](mailto:admissions@stthom.edu) or 713-525-3500.