

**Santa Clara University**  
**Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM)**  
**Intercultural & Interreligious Competencies**  
**RJUS 224 (4 Credits)- Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Fr. James Okafor

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**Office Hours (Zoom):** By appointment

**Course Format-** Hybrid

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The clarion call by Pope Francis for us to become Missionary Disciples challenges us to reach out to all people through “true openness and dialogue” irrespective of their religious or cultural backgrounds. This course on Intercultural & Interreligious Competencies, will prepare students to cultivate necessary theological, pastoral and ministerial skills to grow in this “true openness and dialogue.”

In this course, students through readings, discussions, papers and presentations will explore important intercultural and interreligious approaches and be able to acquire pastoral knowledge, skills and attitudes to serve effectively people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds in a wide variety of situations and pastoral settings like prison, jail, hospital, school, military unit and other related institutions.

**Learning Goals and Objectives**

**Program & Course Learning Objectives:** The GPPM Program learning objectives for the Intercultural and Interreligious Competencies course stipulate that, by the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Integrate core theological competencies in the chosen area of concentration (***GPPM, Objective 1.B***)
  - Identify relationship between culture and religion, and the importance of this relationship towards missionary discipleship (Reflection Paper #1).
  - Develop a program that will enhance intercultural and interreligious dialogue based on a community one is serving or seeking to serve (Class Final Project/Paper)
- Demonstrate a depth of practical and theoretical knowledge in their area of concentration (***GPPM, Objective 2A***).
  - Become familiar with different modules and skills for building intercultural and Interreligious competences for ministers (Reflection Papers #2 & #3).
  - Develop a project that employs different skill that enhance intercultural and interreligious dialogue and openness (Class Final Project/Paper).

- Describe and address cultural and religious differences in faith practice (**GPPM, Objective 5B**).
  - Identify and reflect on different common grounds that will help to foster true openness and dialogue with other cultures and religions (Final Project, Reflection Paper #3).

### **How to Prepare for Class**

*Reading and Study Prior to Class:* Students are required to read before class the readings listed in the class schedule in order to participate fully during class discussions. There will be time for presentations, questions, discussions and small group work. There will be time also for clarifications regarding the next class requirements, especially with regard to papers and the final project.

### **Required Texts**

- Chia, Edmund Kee-Fook. *World Christianity Encounters World Religions: A Summa of Interfaith Dialogue*, Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press Academic, 2018. **ISBN-13:** 978-0814684221. *Amazon-\$29.95*
- Marzouk, Safwat. *Intercultural Church: A Biblical Vision for an Age of Migration*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019. **ISBN-13:** 978-1506433462. *Amazon-\$14.19*
- USCCB, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, *Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers* (USCCB Website)
- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium- The Joy of the Gospel*, 2013 (Vatican Website).

Additional short chapters and articles will be made available in electronic format on Camino.

*Camino is the repository for all course readings that are not in the required textbooks (links appear on the Camino syllabus). Camino is also the site where you will upload your written work for this class.*

### **Course Assessment and Grading:**

Student's progress in the course will be assessed based on:

Class Participation (attendance, Camino discussions and class participation)-	30%
Reflection Papers (3 @ 10 points each) -	30%
Course Project/Final Paper-	25%
Class Presentations-	15%

### ***Attendance & Participation:***

Attendance and active participation are expected at every class meeting. If an absence from a scheduled class is absolutely essential the student should contact me as soon as possible to identify the reasons for the absence and how to make up work missed. Readings and assignments should be completed as and when due. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings, share insights, raise questions and relate the readings to their pastoral and catechetical experiences: 30% of grade.

### **Reflection Papers:**

There will be three reflection papers for this class. These papers will be integrative in style (reading, class discussion and life experience) and are designed to build toward your final project/paper. All typed papers will be due electronically on the course Camino page by 11.59 pm on the due dates (see Course Schedule) 30% of grade.

### **Course Project-Final Paper**

The course project will involve a written (6-8 pages) of a developed program that is related to interreligious & intercultural competencies based on a community one is serving or seeking to serve. The project (25% of grade) should employ different processes and methods that have been discussed in the class.

### **Oral Presentations:**

You will have 20-25 minutes presentations on your final paper. This will be on the last day of class. Be prepared to answer questions after the presentations and to update your final paper with the feedbacks from the presentations. 15% of grade.

### **Writing support**

The GPPM is happy to offer the assistance of Dorothy Suarez who works for our program to help to be sure that your writings reflect your best possible work. She is skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced having worked with many students to help them to shine. We think you will find her a delight to work with. Dorothy can be reached at 408-828-9204 or [GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com](mailto:GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com)

## **Policies & Protections for You**

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.

### **Academic Integrity Pledge**

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:  
*I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.*

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see [www.scu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.scu.edu/academic-integrity).

### **Disability Accommodation Policy**

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities), as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through that office, please discuss the arrangements with the professor during office hours early in the quarter.

While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information you may contact Disabilities Resources at [408-554-4109](tel:408-554-4109).

### **Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students**

In alignment with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and with the California Education Code, Section 66281.7, Santa Clara University provides reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant, have recently experienced childbirth, and/or have medical needs related to childbirth. Pregnant and parenting students can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. Alternatively, a pregnant or parenting student experiencing related medical conditions may request accommodations through Disability Resources.

### **Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX)**

Santa Clara University upholds a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, I encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please consult the University's Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy at <http://bit.ly/2ce1hBb> or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie, at [408-554-3043](tel:408-554-3043), [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu). Reports may be submitted online through the Office of Student Life <https://www.scu.edu/osl/report/> or anonymously through Ethics Point <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>

### **In-Class Recordings**

The [Student Conduct Code](#) (p. 13) prohibits students from “(m)aking a video recording, audio recording, or streaming audio/video of private, non-public conversations and/or meetings, inclusive of the classroom setting, without the knowledge and consent of all recorded parties,” except in cases of approved disability accommodations. The Student Conduct Code also prohibits the “falsification or misuse, including non-authentic, altered, or fraudulent misuse, of University records, permits, documents, communication equipment, or identification cards and government-issued documents.” Dissemination or sharing of any classroom recording without the permission of the instructor would be considered “misuse” and, therefore, prohibited. Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action by the University. At the instructor’s discretion, violations may also have an adverse effect on the student’s grade

### Schedule

Before the first class, students will read:

Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel- Evangelii Gaudium*, #61-#75 & #244-#254

Dates/Time	Topics	Readings/Assignments
<b>Class #1:</b> Saturday September 18th, 2021, 9.00am – 3.00pm	Church's Identity and Mission to Evangelize: Mission Ad Intra (Within) & Mission Ad Extra (Outside)	<u>Reading for Wednesday Sept 22nd:</u> Intercultural Church, p. 1- 116 <b>Reflection Paper 1: Due Wed Sept 29th (See Camino)</b>
<b>Class #2:</b> Wednesday September 22nd, 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	An Intercultural Church- Shared Parishes.	<u>Reading for Saturday Sept 29th:</u> Cultural Diversity in the Church, <i>Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers</i> (USCCB Website)- See Camino
<b>Class #3:</b> Wednesday September 29th, 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Sustaining an Intercultural Church/Community	<u>Reading for Wednesday Oct 6th:</u>  Intercultural Church, p. 117-202
<b>Class #4:</b> Wednesday October 6th, 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers (BICM)- USCCB Modules	<u>Reading for Wednesday October 13th</u> World Christianity Encounters World Religions, p. 1- 63 <b>Reflection Paper #2- Due Wed October 13th</b>
<b>Class #5:</b> Wednesday October 13th, 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Religion, Christianity, & Interreligious Dialogue	<u>Reading for October 16th</u> World Christianity Encounters World Religions, p. 67-148
<b>Class #6:</b> Saturday October 16th, 2021, 9.00am – 3.00pm	Inter- Religious Dialogue: Foundations in the Scripture & Tradition	<u>Reading for Wednesday October 28th</u> World Christianity Encounters World Religions, p. 153-206.
<b>Class #7:</b> Wednesday October 28th, 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Interreligious Competencies- Theologies and Praxis- 1	<u>Reading for Thursday November 18th:</u> World Christianity Encounters World Religions, p. 207-242. <b>Reflection Paper #3 Due Wed November 10th</b>
<b>Class #8:</b> Wednesday 10th, 2021, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	Interreligious & Intercultural Competencies- Theologies and Praxis- 2	. Complete Final Paper/ Project & be ready for presentations
<b>Class #9:</b> Saturday November 20th, 2021; 9.00am-3.00pm	Final Paper/Project Presentations	Final Paper due Monday November 22nd at 11.59PM