

# National Youth and Religion Study Online Course

If **time, money, or distance** prohibits a face-to-face workshop with ministry leaders on the National Study of Religion, consider having a two to three week online course facilitated by Ministry Training Source and taught by researchers and authors of the National Catholic Report.

Through **MTS online courses**, interaction between instructors and students occurs in three formats:

- *synchronous* (which takes place in real time or at the same time as other learners);
- *asynchronous* (which takes place at different times); and,
- *a combination of both* synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Instructors provide content and learning materials in a variety of formats, which include written content materials, audio broadcast lectures, PowerPoint shows for lecture or content delivery, and Web links to content on the Internet about the subject matter of the course. The NSYR course utilizes a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous online learning.

## Course Technology

MTS uses **Horizon-Wimba technology** for synchronous or live learning experiences. This technology provides the opportunity for up to 15 people at a time to interact over the Internet using voice-over technology or two-way audio, in combination with PowerPoint presentations, interactive surveys, and a text-chat line for private conversations among students and/or instructors. This technology also provides for live sessions to be archived for later viewing by those who did not participate in the live session. To view a demo of Horizon-Wimba, visit [www.horizonwimba.com](http://www.horizonwimba.com).

MTS uses **Blackboard**, a well-known learning management system for asynchronous learning activities. This technology provides opportunities for password-protected access to online threaded discussions, downloading of learning materials, including Adobe documents and PowerPoint lectures, group survey, and email communication among students and instructors. To learn more about Blackboard, visit [www.blackboard.com](http://www.blackboard.com).

## Course Details

**Number of Students:** Between 15 and 45 (minimum of 15 is required).

**Cost Per Student:** \$75, which includes access to all online learning sites, a copy of the National Catholic Report, and technical support for MTS course-related technology.

**Time Commitment Required of Students:** Approximately ten hours, spread out over two or three weeks, depending on course length.