Dignitas Lab Indicators

Dignity

Human dignity is the idea that every person is an end-in-itself who ought never to be treated merely as a means. It is the foundational moral principle—the criterion by which we evaluate all other moral claims. Human dignity is about honoring and respecting each other as persons created in the image and likeness of God.

- engage the core meaning of human dignity, i.e., the intrinsic and insuperable value of every human person;
- explore various violations of human dignity, ways of redressing such violations, and ways of promoting respect for human dignity;
- address related topics such as human rights, peace, justice, and equality.

Diversity

The College of St. Scholastica is a Catholic Benedictine community that welcomes people from all cultures and faith traditions. CSS prepares students to live and work in a diverse and expanding world. In Dignitas, we provide our students with a context for thinking about diversity and with a framework for understanding how our individual identities impact relationships. Approved labs must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Addresses existence of privileged and oppressed statuses.
- Presents historical or present information about marginalized groups, without reinforcing stereotypes
- Main focus is on at least one systemically marginalized social identity category. (such as: race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic, gender and/or gender identity, biological sex, religion, abilities, language, citizenship, veterans, etc.) In your submission, please identify which category will be addressed.

Benedictine Tradition and Values

At CSS, we are standing on the shoulders of giants and we have the unique privilege of upholding the Benedictine tradition. To be Benedictine means actively and intentionally living out our values on a daily basis.

Catholic Intellectual Tradition

The Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) affirms the value of rational inquiry and the human search for truth and meaning. In the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, faith and reason complement each other in a never-ending quest for wisdom. The CIT represents a disciplined exploration into the human condition in light of divine revelation as received by the Catholic faith community.
Throughout its extensive history, the CIT has conducted this exploration in a variety of ways, utilizing the totality of human faculties and experience. As a result, the CIT has taken as many forms as there are ways of exploration, including not only formal expressions, as found in academic disciplines and artistic achievements, but also informal, as in folk beliefs and social movements. Dignitas Labs, therefore, offer students, faculty and staff alike the rare privilege of exploring the rich diversity of the CIT.

How do I know an event qualifies for a CIT lab? Following from the above definition of the CIT, you know an event can qualify as a CIT lab when *it clearly says something about how Catholics understand something of serious concern to themselves and/or to the human condition*. Let’s break this down:

- **“clearly”**: the link to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition should be a clear one. This does not mean that it will necessarily be an easily understandable link, but only that it should be clear that a link is being made.

- **“how Catholics understand”**: the lab should address something about the mind of Catholics, or, in other words, how Catholics have attempted to express themselves intelligently today or at any point in the long history of Catholicism. In short, there must be intellectual content which is identifiably Catholic.

- **“something of serious concern to themselves and/or to the human condition”**: what is understood should be of real weight and significance to Catholic life or the human condition as a whole. For example, issues such as interpretation of Scripture, exercise of authority, and celebration of the sacraments are issues that Catholics keep coming back to as important aspects of Catholic life. But issues pertaining to the wider human community are also of central importance to Catholics, issues such as human dignity, poverty, and the environment. To get a sense of what are important issues to Catholics, instructors should familiarize themselves with “The Catholic Intellectual Tradition: Some Key Dimensions” and other resources available on the CIT LibGuide.

And, of course, if you have any questions on whether an event qualifies as a CIT lab, your friendly neighbourhood SME will be only too happy to help!

**Catholic Social Teaching**

Catholic Social Teaching challenges our community to live in justice and peace. Catholic Social Teaching examines the radical idea that God calls us to live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with ALL people--especially the poor. The lab indicators are the 7 principles:

- Life & Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community & Participation
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor & Vulnerable
- Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God’s Creation