

Dr. Charles A. Sommer  
Associate Professor  
Theology

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ST. THOMAS  
HOUSTON

## Curriculum Vitae

### Academic Specialization:

Old Testament

### Teaching Competence:

New Testament, Catholic Theology, Biblical Hebrew

### Languages:

Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Greek, Latin, Syriac, German (reading), French (reading)

### Education:

The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

October 2007 Ph.D., Biblical Studies

January 2005 M.A., Biblical Studies

City University of New York

Summer 1998

Summer Latin Institute

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX May 1999

B.A., Philosophy  
*Summa cum laude*  
Honors Program

### Academic Positions:

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Associate Professor of Theology, 2013 - Present

Undergraduate Theology 2005 - Present

UST School of Theology @ St. Mary's Seminary 2023 - Present

Assistant Professor of Theology, 2007-2013

Visiting Instructor of Theology, 2005-2007

St. Mary's Ryken Catholic College Preparatory School, Leonardtown, MD

Teacher, Theology Department, 2003-2005

## **Administrative Positions**

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Chair, Undergraduate Theology Department, August 2020-May 2023

Interim Director of Graduate Programs, Theology, Jan 2019-June 2019

## **Courses Taught:**

### Undergraduate Theology

Hebrew 2333 / 2334: Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1 & 2

Theology 1301/3301: Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures

On-line only: Summer 2020

Asynchronous: Winter Mini-Session 2021, 2022, Fall 2023

Theology 2300/3300: Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures

Theology 2314: Theological Methods

Theology 3351: Prophets of Ancient Israel

Theology 3353/5353: Pentateuch

Theology 3354/5354: Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke

Theology 3355/5355: The Book of Psalms

Theology 3365/5365: Gospel and Letters of John

Theology 4323: Teachings of Jesus

Theology 4351/6351: Wisdom in Israel

Theology 4368: The Book of Revelation

### UST Reformed Core

THEOC 1301: Faith, Reason and Revelation

THEOC 2301: Scripture and Salvation History

LS 1301: Foundations of Liberal Learning

### Other UST Courses

Honors 1391: The Tribe and the City

UNIV 1101: The Odyssey

UNIV 1111: Freshman Symposium

EVNG 5312: Biblical Studies for Evangelists

### School of Theology @ St. Mary's Seminary

CU 2214 – Synoptic Gospels

Synchronous online

CG 6301 – Paul & His Letters

Synchronous online

YSS 5303: Pentateuch

YMS/YSS 5305: Synoptic Gospels

YSS 5308 Prophets

YSS/YLSS 6305: Old Testament Writings

YSS 7303: Johannine Literature

YSS 7306 Pauline Literature

**Awards:**

St. Thomas Aquinas Excellence in Teaching Award (UST)  
Nominee: 2024, 2025, 2026

**Research:**

Projects at CUA

*Kingship in Ben Sira's "Hymn of the Ancestors"*; Ph.D. Dissertation, The Catholic University of America, 2007. Director: Dr. Michael P. O'Connor

*The Sin in the Garden: The Narrative of Genesis 3*; M.A. Thesis, The Catholic University of America, 2004. Director: Rev. A. A. DiLella, O.F.M.

**In Progress**

*"Lord Open My Lips": The Psalms in Theology and Liturgy*  
Textbook in draft stages  
Proposal to be submitted June 2026

"Teaching Like a River."  
Academic Paper on Sirach and his place in the canon  
In Progress  
Draft ready October 2027

"Wherein Lies the Bond: Permanency of Marriage"  
Academic Paper on the Sacramentality of Marriage  
In Progress

Poetic Analysis of the Psalms  
In Progress – Draft translation completed  
To yield:  
Analysis of the Alphabetic Acrostics in the Book of Psalms  
Additions to *Hebrew Verse Structure* – conjoint lines and extended syntactic dependency

**Academic Presentations:**

"God's Inspiration of the Individual: A New Look at θεόπνευστος"  
2025 Academy of Catholic Theologians Annual Meeting  
May 20, 2025

"Benedict XVI & Tradition: How to Read the Bible"  
Truth in Tradition Summer Lecture Series, University of St. Thomas  
June 2, 2021

“‘To Make the Hands Unclean’: The Rabbinic Understanding of Canon”  
HBU Theology Conference: How the Bible Came into Being  
March 3, 2017

“The Alpha and Omega: Marriage in the Bible”  
26<sup>th</sup> Lenten Lecture Series, University of St. Thomas  
March 18, 2015

“Word of God in Human Words: Biblical Interpretation from Vatican II to Benedict XVI”  
24<sup>th</sup> Lenten Lecture Series, University of St. Thomas  
March 20, 2013

“Solomon: Portrait of Lost Wisdom (Sir 47:12-22)”  
Paper presented at the Hebrew Bible Section (SBL) of the Southwest Commission  
on Religious Studies, March 15, 2008, Irving, TX

**Research Interests:**

Hebrew Poetry  
Wisdom Literature  
The Psalter  
Sirach  
Genesis 2-3 and the Theology of Sin  
Old Testament Theology  
The relationship between the Old and New Testaments  
The Old Testament Canon  
The Sacraments

**University Service:**

Member, UST Campus Enrollment Committee, 2026-Present  
UST Faculty Senate, Dec 2024-May 2027  
    Past Chair, May 2026-May 2027  
    Chair, May 2025-May 2026  
    Vice-Chair, Dec 2024-May 2025  
Member, UST Curriculum Committee, 2018-Present  
    Chair, 2019-Present  
Member, UST Grievance Committee, 2019-2021, 2024-2025  
    Chair, Nov 2024-2025  
First Year Experience Advisor, 2007-Present  
Member, UST Benefits Committee, 2016- 2023  
Member, UST Faculty Compensation Committee, 2017-2025, 2026-2027  
    Chair, 2023-2025  
Member, Theology Philosophy Coordination Task-force 2012  
Member, UST Admissions Committee, 2009-2015  
Member, Honors Advisory Committee, 2009-2012

Member, Educational Technology Committee, 2009-2012  
 Member, Undergraduate Research Committee, 2006-2012  
     URC Proposal Funding Subcommittee 2006-2011  
     Proposal Funding Subcommittee Chair 2009-2010  
 Member, Pathways Subcommittee, CCRC 2008-2009

### **University Search Committees**

|                                                       |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Vice President for Academic Affairs                   | 2026      |
| Department of Mathematics Position (VPAA Rep)         | 2024-2025 |
| Department of Theology/St Mary's Seminary (Scripture) | 2023-2024 |
| Department of Mathematics Position (VPAA Rep)         | 2022-2023 |
| Department of Mathematics Position (Outside Rep)      | 2021-2022 |
| School of Theology/Graduate Theology Joint Position   | 2021-2022 |
| Philosophy Position (VPAA Rep)                        | 2010      |
| School of Theology Position                           | 2008-2009 |

### **Community Service:**

Volunteer Adult Leader, Sam Houston Area Council, Scouts USA, 2010-Present  
     Cubmaster, Pack 930, La Porte, September 2020-Present  
 A.C.T.S. Retreat Team Member, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 2012-2016, 2018  
     Director, July 2015 Retreat  
     Co-Director, July 2014 Retreat  
 Instructor, Formation Toward Christian Ministry, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
     (2011-2018, 2020-2022, 2024-2026)  
     Classes Taught:  
     Introduction to Sacred Scripture  
     Old Testament  
     New Testament  
     Church Doctrine/Creed (Revised in Summer 2013)  
     Christology  
     Morality  
     Sacraments and Prayer  
 Core Member, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Life Teen,  
     2007-2010, 2025-Present  
     Coordinator, St. Mary's Confirmation Program 2010  
 Catechist, St. Joseph Faith Formation, Baytown, TX  
     Edge Program - Middle School (2019-2022)  
     3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (2020-2021)  
     Adult Faith Formation (2020-May 2023)  
         Adult Faith Formation Coordinator (Aug 2022- May 2023)  
         Baptismal Preparation (2020-2023)  
     Sacramental Preparation Classes – Secondary (2021-2023)  
 Instructor, St. Mary's RCIA Program, 2008-2010

Member, Knights of Columbus Council 5232, 2005-Present  
Council 9968, 2003-2005  
Officer, Knights of Columbus Council 5232, 2024-2026  
Officer, Knights of Columbus Council 9968, 2004-2005  
Member, Pastoral Council, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,  
2007-2010.  
President, 2009-2010

### **Community Presentations**

Adult Bible Study; St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Houston,  
“Matthew 2:13-3:17” 6/1/2025  
“Matthew 23” 10/26/2025

#### Series

Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite Catholic Church Adult Catechism Series  
*Dei Verbum* 10/4/2025  
“Promote the Culture of Life & Marital Fidelity” 2/22/2025  
Baptism and Confirmation 11/2/2024

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (La Porte) Adult Faith Formation Presentations:  
The Jubilee Year 1/12/2025  
The Ten Commandments (Family Catechesis) 2/4/2024  
“*Cur Deus Homo?*” (Family Catechesis) 12/4/2023

St. Joseph Adult Faith Formation Presentations:  
Regular Sunday Presentations (Various topics), AY 2022-2023  
Presentation, “Mary, Mother of God – Mary at the Foot of the Cross,” Faith Exploration  
Series, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Baytown, October, 17, 2021

#### General:

Presentation, “The One Sacrifice of the Mass in Scripture,” CSA Speaker Series, Rice  
University, 7 March, 2023  
Presentation, “The Old Testament and Mass,” English Bible Study, Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Baytown, TX, 28 February, 2023  
Presentation, “Hebrew Poetry and the Psalms,” Galveston Young Adult Group, Galveston, TX  
7 February, 2023  
Presentation, “Beyond the Quotation: the Importance of the Old Testament,” Galveston Young  
Adult Group, Galveston, TX, April 26, 2022  
Presentation, “Liturgy of the Word,” Adult VBS, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, La  
Porte, July 2021  
Presentation, “Lex Praxis, Lex Credendi,” with Kristina Sommer, East Harris County Serra Club,  
February 13, 2020  
Presentation, “Bible 101,” Southern Catechist Day Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, August  
25, 2012

Presentation with Dr. Steve Jensen, "Creation & Evolutionism: Faith & Reason," Chi Rho's Theology at the Lab, April 7, 2009

Presentation on Scripture and the Priesthood to the East Harris County Serra Club, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Bible Study on Acts of the Apostles given at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Summer 2009