

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Spring 2018

HS 2195 Church Modern to Contemporary

3.0 units (5 ECTS) - Thursday mornings: 9.40-12.30, DSPT Room 1

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Course Description

Church History, 1451-2013: a survey of the life and story of the Catholic Church from the fall of Constantinople to the start of a new millennium and the fiftieth anniversary of the convocation of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, celebrated with the Year of Faith and the election of the first pope from the Americas. While the intent of the course is to trace the general trends and conditions that shaped the Catholic over the expanse of six centuries, students have the opportunity to study more localized events and traditions, noting where movement has taken place to renew the Church and re-launch the Gospel mission.

Goals and objectives

The principle objective of this course is to offer you the opportunity to survey Catholic belief and practice in the context of shifting times and diverse cultures beginning in Western Europe in 1451 and concluding with a global Church Catholic in 2000. You will examine critical issues faced by the Catholic community during key periods of Western civilization (the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution and Napoleonic War, the *Risorgimento* and *Kulturkampf*, the World Wars and the Cold War) without ignoring significant questions in non-European contexts (colonization, imperialism, missionary strategies, evangelization and church-forming). You will analyze key movements (conciliarism, Jansenism, Josephism, ultramontanism, the proliferation of religious institutes) and recent trends (secularism, fundamentalism, *resourcement*, renewal, inculturation, interculturality) and their impact on the Church.

Expectations

Teaching method: HS2195 is primarily a survey course. My presentations will highlight critical periods in Church history. I will make use of lectures, PowerPoints or other means to help you to visualize the times and personages that you will be studying; I provide a text to coincide with my lectures and to develop material at greater depth. I shall also indicate some primary source documents that emanate from the periods and movements under examination. At key intervals we will dedicate time to group work and class discussion.

Student roles: While I hope to provide you with positive input, I want to say that I believe that you and your classmates have the greatest role in creating a good learning environment. In this context, let me state clearly what are my expectations in terms of your participation in the course. I expect that you will attend all the class sessions; if there is a serious reason that prevents you from doing so, I would appreciate your speaking to me about your absence. I expect that you will participate in all group projects, giving everyone a chance to speak and building on one another's contributions (I believe that students add breadth and depth to the course for one another through class participation). Finally, I expect that you will complete reading and written assignments in a timely fashion.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you will have gained an overview of the global Catholic story and movement during the last half of the second Christian millennium.

You will have learned the principles of historiography, and honed skills in critical analysis of written text through participation in class/group discussions and by developing a research paper written in a succinct and organized fashion.

Tools for assessment

In addition to attendance and class participation, your learning in this course will be assessed on the basis of class discussions and three key written assignments. The first written assignment will be an annotated bibliography of recent works in the field of the history of the Church. The second assignment will be two book reviews. The third will be a class presentation based on one of the books that you will be selecting for the above-mentioned book reviews. The scope and procedure to be followed, as well as the due dates, will be discussed early in the semester, and the assignments will be due *in installments*.

Scheduling

HS2195 is slated to meet on Thursdays during 2nd and 3rd periods (9:40-12:30) in DSPT Room 1. During the second week of the semester we will firm up the instruction calendar and due dates for assignments; lecture schedules and reading deadlines will be finalized during the third week of class.

Texts

Boenzi, Joseph. "Church Modern to Contemporary: Notes for the private use by students of the course in Historical Theology HS2195" [Bound photocopy notes, \$35.00].

Vidmar, John. *The Catholic Church through the Ages: A History*; 2nd ed. New York: Paulist Press, 2014 [ISBN: 978-0809149049; paperback \$24.95; also available for Kindle].

Sources, Surveys and Methodologies

If you so wish, you may choose one of the following texts, or a similar survey, for a personal following of the themes of this course instead of the text by Fr John Vidmar OP.

Bokenkotter, Thomas. *A Concise History of the Catholic Church*. Rev. and expanded, 4th ed. Garden City: Doubleday-Image, 2005 [ISBN: 978-0385516136; paperback \$12.21].

Comby, Jean, with Diarmaid MacCullough. *How to Read Church History*, vol. 2: *From the Reformation to the Present Day*. New York: Crossroad, 1998 [ISBN: 978-0824509088; paperback \$22.95].

Gerhart, Mary, and Fabian E. Udoh, editors. *The Christianity Reader*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007 [ISBN: 978-0226-28959-1; \$40.00].

Hitchcock, James. *History of the Catholic Church, From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2012 [ISBN: 978-1586176648; hard cover \$29.95; also available for Kindle].

Lindberg, Carter. *Brief history of Christianity*. Series: Blackwell Brief Histories of Religion. London: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2005 [ISBN: 978-1405110471; paperback \$23.95].

Internet sites for Church-document links

Spring Hill College Theology Library: <http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/>

The Holy See (Official Vatican website, in the principal languages, with menu items for historical documents of the Holy See since 1878, including the documents of Vatican II): <http://www.vatican.va/>

Course Outline - Topics to cover

Introduction:

Themes to explore: overview and plan for the semester.
A guide to steer our way through Church History: historiography.

Early Modern Period

Christendom: life and values in fifteenth-century Europe.
Renaissance and calls for reformation.
Reformation in Germany, radical reformations, Genevan reformation
Council of Trent: religious and social context for reform; calling the council, starts and stops (1543-1561); deliberations and decisions (1561-1563)

17th Century

Conflicts and adjustments: the Thirty-Years War.
British evangelism: Reformation to Purification to Great Awakening.
Ecclesiastical Life in France: Spiritual Renewal, Gallicanism and Jansenism.

18th Century

Enlightenment and Revolution.
Churches pre-industrialized England & the North American Colonies.

19th Century Europe:

Free churches, Catholic emancipation in Ireland, Tractarian/Oxford Movement
Restoration vs Liberalism; *Pio Nono* and Vatican I.
Secularization: compact governments, pluralism and concordats.
Missionary Movement: European Christians in Asia and Africa; Church developments in Latin America.

20th Century

World War I and its aftermath.
Totalitarian regimes vs universal Church.
Lessons of war: new thrusts in western Christianity.
Church in America and worldwide.

The Journey of Renewal

Vatican II: its import and influence.
The duty to preach the Gospel: Church as missionary.
The pope that came from afar: shifts in perspectives.
The Church in the outskirts: renewed call for evangelical witness and joy.
Global Church at the start of the Third Millennium.