
ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at Western University
Fall/Winter 2017-2018

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY 5123A / 5124B
A HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Wednesdays 7:00 pm to 9:50 pm
St. Peter's Seminary Auditorium

Professor: Father J. Comiskey, B.A., M.Div., Hist.Eccl.L., Hist.Eccl.D.
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Office hours by appointment

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey, in chronological fashion, of the growth of the Church from the time of the apostles to the modern era. The teaching and learning strategies attempt to relate the past with its context and significance. Students are guided to read some key documents of the Church's history to complement the approach of the lectures and the textbooks. This course fulfills the requirements for RS 2250E. (Antirequisites: RS 170 & 250E, Historical Theology 221A/222B & 5221A/5222B.)

B. STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

- I The Birth of the Church
- II Christians in the Post-apostolic Age
- III The Church in the Christian Empire
- IV The Development of the Papacy
- V The Early Ecumenical Councils
- VI The Beginnings of Monasticism and the End of the Roman Empire
- VII The Middle Ages and the Dawn of Christendom
- VIII Christendom: Challenge and Demise
- IX The East / West Schism
- X The Renaissance
- XI The Reformation
- XII The Catholic Renewal
- XIII The Church in North America
- XIV Evangelization in the New World
- XV Enlightenment and Revolution – Europe in the 18th Century
- XVI Restoration, Liberalism and the First Vatican Council
- XVII The Growth of the Church in Canada

- XVIII The Church in the Industrial Society
- XIX From the First World War to the Reign of Pius XII
- XX The Second Vatican Council and the Post-conciliar Years

C. GOALS

The course is designed to assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

KNOWLEDGE

1. To know and understand the development and growth of the followers of Jesus Christ since the beginning of the Christian era, through a study of events and facts.
2. To be able to articulate the development of the Catholic Church from the movement begun by Jesus, to an association of his followers, to the institutional Church.
3. To know and name key people and events as a means of seeing history and theology in context.
4. To understand history from the perspective of the institutional, sociological and popular views.

SKILLS

1. To be able to apply the historical-critical method.
2. To read and analyse primary documents in their context.
3. To analyse the significance of events and facts, and what this significance teaches us for understanding the life of the Church today.
4. To separate the transitory from the enduring, the accidental from the essential in the life of the Catholic Church.

ATTITUDES

1. To appreciate the witness given by the followers of Jesus throughout the centuries.
2. To consider that the Church has confronted difficulties in the past, sometimes successfully, sometimes not.
3. To realize the importance of impartiality in studying history, never daring to utter falsehood, never fearing to speak the truth.
4. To appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church throughout the ages.

D. ASSESSMENT

I Required Reading: (1) Bokenkotter, Thomas. *A Concise History of the Catholic Church*, Toronto: Doubleday, 2004; (2) Comiskey, John P. *My Heart's Best Wishes for You, A Biography of Archbishop John Walsh*; (3) primary and secondary documents as provided in the "course pack" obtained from the UWO bookstore; (4) additional reading as may be indicated by the

professor from time to time. (Book and course pack at the Western bookstore under HT 5123/4 – look for books in the Theology section.)

II *Précises*: (1) Students are **encouraged** to prepare a *précis* for each of the documents in the course pack, including a summary of their content, context and significance. (2) Students are **required** to submit eighteen of the *précises* for grading throughout the course of the year. These must be in narrative form, two pages each (double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman or its equivalent). Three *précises* are **due at class time** on each of the following dates: **4 October, 25 October, 29 November, 31 January, 28 February, and 21 March**. (value: 50% of the total mark)

III *Tests/Examination*: The tests and examination to be given will be based on lecture material and assigned readings (documents and textbook). (1) Two seventy-five-minute, in-class tests will be held on the following dates: **15 November and 7 February**. (value: 25%) (2) The final examination will be held on the date assigned by UWO. (value: 25%)

E. POLICIES REGARDING SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS

I Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates as given above. Assignments may NOT be submitted electronically.

II It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. For a serious reason, a student may approach the professor before the due-date, and may be granted an extension at the discretion of the professor. A penalty of 5% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission of the professor. Any medical or non-medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office at King's. Access to the required Student Medical Certificate is at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>.

III No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or the examination, unless approved in advance by Student Services at Western or King's. Accommodation for such use will be coordinated through the Academic Services office at King's.

IV Students who miss tests will negotiate a "make-up" date with the professor. Any medical or non-medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office at King's (see E II above).

F. POLICY REGARDING SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

The following is the policy of Western University and of King's:

Scholastic offences (i.e. plagiarism and other forms of cheating) are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence, at the following website:

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

G. SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students, including a health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

For other emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development Services at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/who-we-are/administrative-departments/dean-of-students/>.

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>.

H. POLICY REGARDING SELECTION AND REGISTRATION OF COURSES

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they may have taken.

I. A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

One-volume histories:

DWYER, John C. *Church History: Twenty Centuries of Catholic Christianity*. New York: Paulist Press, 1998.

HITCHCOCK, James. *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2012.

Multi-volume reference works:

CHADWICK, Owen, ed. *The Pelican History of the Church*. London: Penguin Books, 6 vols., 1967-1986.

JEDIN, Hubert, ed. *History of the Church*,. 10 vols., Kent: Burns & Oates, 1981.

MALONE, Mary. *Women and Christianity*. 3 vols., Ottawa: Novalis, 2000.

Other references:

CHADWICK, Henry and G. R. Evans. *Atlas of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Phaidon Press, 1990.

CROSS, F. L., ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.

DI BERNARDO, Angelo, ed. *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2014.

EDITORIAL STAFF, The Catholic University of America. *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1967-. (an on-line version also available)

TRIGILIO, John Jr., and Kenneth Brighenti. *Catholicism for Dummies*. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley, 2003.

As well, the A. P. Mahoney Library has a collection of CDs on various topics related to Church History, including the origins of Christianity, early Christianity, martyrdom and persecution, Tradition and innovation in the Church, Vatican II, along with many topics in Scripture and spirituality.

Some on-line references:

Research Guides at <http://www.stpetersseminary.ca/Library/Church-History/90>

The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion at

http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/guide_headings.aspx

N.B.: A more complete bibliography for the primary sources can be found in the “course pack”.

