

Ecumenism

SPS 5211 A
Fall Semester 2017-18
Wednesday 9:30-11:30 am / AH0
St. Peter's Seminary

Instructor: Name: Fr. Denis Grecco, Ph.D
Office: St. Peter's Seminary (SPS) 231
Hours: Contact me by email to arrange an appointment.
Email & Phone: dgrecco@uwo.ca 519-432-1824 ext. # 247

Description: An introduction to the history and theology of the ecumenical movement. Reference will be made to the teaching of the Magisterium, significant achievements in ecumenical dialogue, and prospects for future achievements. Exposure to the rich variety of Christian ecclesial communities and traditions will be included.

Objectives:

The student should have basic knowledge of the:

- a. History of the unity and division of the Church, the modern ecumenical movement, and the retrieval of patristic literature on inter-religious relations..
- b. Principles, norms and methods of ecumenical theology including types of dialogue and the nature of the hierarchy of truths.
- c. Fruits of some ecumenical dialogues including studies in doctrine; and possibilities for cooperation on the pastoral level.
- d. Practices that shape contemporary ecumenical and inter-religious relations including dialogue, hospitality, cooperation, spiritual ecumenism, and prayer for Christian Unity.

The student should have the ability to:

- a. Distinguish that which Christians hold in common from points of disagreement; and to identify the opportunities and limitations manifest in the ecumenical movement.
- b. Analyze the theological reasoning which shapes the discussions which are at the core of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogues and practices of hospitality.
- c. Promote, when appropriate, co-operation through prayer, social initiatives, and to witness to the Catholic Church's commitment of ecumenism.
- d. Teach and explain the place of ecumenical and inter-religious relations in the life of faith and the Church today.

Dates and Topics:

Sept 13 Scope of Ecumenical Theology

Section I History: Unity and Division

Sept 20 Voices of the Past

Sept 27 Quest for Unity

Section II Theology: Principles and Practices

Oct 4 Commitment to Dialogue

Oct 18 Ecumenical Orientations

Oct 25 Spiritual Ecumenism

Section III: Ecumenical Dialogues

Nov 1 Bilateral & Multilateral Dialogues

Nov 8 Perspectives on Reception

Section IV: Inter-Religious Relations

Nov 15 Relations with Jews

Nov 22 Relations with Islam

Nov 29 Church and Other Religions

Dec 6 Christ and Other Religions

Text:

Course-pack is available at the Western University Bookstore

Class Format:

Class format is a combination of lecture and discussion. Discussions will focus on the appointed articles for class. Each student is to prepare for discussion by carefully reading each article, formulating questions and comments; and then to engage in the class conversation of the assigned articles. Depending on enrolment the class may be divided into groups for discussion. Taking notes from the discussion may assist you in writing the final exam.

Methods of Evaluation:

Reading: A set of scholarly articles have been chosen with care to elucidate some of the key questions in the field of ecumenical theology and the Catholic engagement with world religions. Read them carefully and attentively. On average, two hours of reading is expected of you for every hour in class. I suggest that you set aside three to four hours per week to read the appointed articles.

Papers: Two brief papers are required: one, research; the other, expository; *5 to 6 pages* each. Staple the pages of your essay in the upper left hand corner. The research paper should address three questions: What is the problem? Why is it significant? How is the problem addressed?

First paper: research a topic concerning the first half of the 20th century quest for Christian Unity. Choose one of the following topics: 1) 1910 Edinburgh Missionary Conference; 2) Orthodox Contribution to Ecumenism; 3) World Council of Churches; 4) Faith and Order Commission; 5) Catholic Conference for Ecumenical Questions (CCEQ); 6) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; 7) 'Malines Conversations' 1921-26.

Due: October 18, 2017

Second paper: write an appreciation of either 1) Relations with the Jews, or 2) Relations with Islam based on the course readings and class discussions. Demonstrate your understanding and ability at skillful exposition of Catholic church teaching on inter-religious relations on your chosen topic and its significance for pastoral ministry. **Due: December 6, 2017.**

***NEW*:** According to the policy adopted by the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary, all citations, references and bibliographies in written assignments are to follow the formatting prescribed in the Chicago Manual of Style. Footnotes are to be used, rather than author-date references in the body of the text. Please review and consult the summary provided by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary at <https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf> for further information.

To assist with research and writing consult the following:

Guide to Research: Gregory Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Third Edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Guide to Writing: Joseph M. Williams and Gregory C. Colomb, *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. Tenth Edition. Boston: Longman, 2010.

Seminar Participation: Grading for participation includes attendance, active participation by making thoughtful contributions to the class discussion on the designated articles; listening well to the contribution of others, and responding respectfully. Each student is required to present in class a brief (5-10 minute) reflection on one or two significant points from the designated readings for the week. The number of reflections will be based on class enrolment.

The following is a guide to participation:

- Level 1: Participation in class discussion is minimal.
- Level 2: Participation in class is average; student puts in a good effort to discuss their understanding of the reading.
- Level 3: Participation in class is above average; student is prepared and contributes to a deeper understanding of the reading.
- Level 4: Participation is outstanding. The student is exceptionally well-prepared for class, inspired, motivated and draws out the contribution of others without dominating the discussion.

Examination:

The final examination will take the form of several specific questions that you will be asked to answer in essay form. It will provide you with an opportunity to tie together the various threads of the course arising from the readings, lectures, questions, and discussions. Date is to be determined.

Grading:

Due Date

15%	Participation	
50%	Two Brief Papers	
	(25%) Research Paper.....	October 18 2017
	(25%) Expository Paper.....	December 6 2017
35%	Final Exam.....	December (See Exam Schedule)

Availability of Grades: Graded assignments will be returned to students in class, normally within 7 days. Grades will not be made available through e-mail. Access to final grades is through the UWO website.

Online Resources:

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNITY
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/index.htm

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
http://www.pcinterreligious.org/nature-and-goals-of-the-council_34.html

MOUNT TABOR ECUMENICAL CENTRE FOR ART AND SPIRITUALITY
<http://mounttabor.it>

ORIENTALE LUMEN FOUNDATION
<http://olfoundation.net>

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/>

CENTRO PRO UNIONE
<http://www.prounione.it/en/>

FELLOWSHIPS AT AUSCHWITZ FOR THE STUDY OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (FASPE)
http://www.faspe.info/pr_seminary.html

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices and Communications:

No texting or use of electronic devices in class with the exception of the sole purpose of taking notes. Notify the instructor of your absence from class (e-mail preferred). Emails will be answered as soon as possible from Monday to Friday.

University Regulations taken from Western University Academic Calendar:

Statement on Academic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

Plagiarism and Scholastic Discipline

“Plagiarism is the “act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.” (Excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This is the definition used by Western’s [Scholastic Discipline](#) document. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. Either way, plagiarism is a **Scholastic Offence.**” Western resources can help students avoid plagiarism: See the website: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism>.

Student Responsibility for Course Selection

“A student in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Many courses have prerequisites or require the approval of the Department. These requirements, and any enrolment limitations, should be noted carefully prior to registration. Substitutions for prescribed courses require the written approval of the Department and the Dean. Students registering in the Fall/Winter Session and intending to take second-term half-courses must register for those courses during the course registration period.”

“Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, and does not have written special permission from his or her Dean to enrol in the course, the University reserves the right to cancel the student’s registration in the course. This decision may not be appealed. The normal financial and academic penalties will apply to a student who is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

Support Services

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

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Students who need accommodation for medical illness should refer to the following site: http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
Students can access the required Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform/pdf