

Ecumenism

SPS 5511 A
Fall Semester 2016-17
Thursday 9:30-11:30 am / AQH
St. Peter's Seminary

Instructor: Name: Fr. Denis Grecco, Ph.D
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Hours: Contact me by email to arrange an appointment.
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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 modern ecumenical movement and its theological foundation in Scripture and Tradition including patristic literature.
- b. Principles, norms and methods of ecumenical theology including types of dialogue and the nature of the hierarchy of truths.
- c. Fruits of the 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.

Text: Course-pack is available at the Western University Bookstore

Dates and Topics:

Sept 8 Scope of Ecumenical Activity

Section I: History: Unity & Division

Sept 15 Narratives of the Ecumenical Movement

Sept 22 Emerging Catholic Interest

Section II: Theology: Principles & Norms

Sept 29 Vatican II to *Ut Unum Sint*

Oct 6 Gift, Memory, & Dialogue

Oct 13 Hierarchy of Truths & Reception

Section III: Encounters: Dialogues & Relations

Oct 20 Churches of the East

Nov 3 Churches of the Reformation

Nov 10 Relations with Jews

Nov 17 Relations with Islam

Section IV: Witness: Prayer, Hospitality & Gifts

Nov 24 Receptive and Spiritual Ecumenism

Dec 1 Ecumenical and Inter-religious Transformation

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 the discussion by careful reading of the article, formulating questions, comments, and 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:

a) Weekly Reading and Participation:

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.

Grading for participation includes attendance, active participation in the class 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, twice each term, to present in class a brief (10-15 minute) reflection on the significant points from the designated readings for the week.

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.

b) THREE Expository Papers are Required:

NOTE: YOUR CHOICE IS LIMITED TO ARTICLES WITH AN ASTERISK (*)

The first is to be written on your choice of one article* from 'Section I - History: Unity & Division'.

The second, on your choice of one article* from 'Section II - Theology: Principles & Norms'.

The third, on your choice of one article* from 'Section III - Encounters: Dialogue and Relations.'

What is the aim of an expository paper? The aim of an expository paper is to demonstrate your ability to analyze and explain the leading idea, argument, and evidence from a scholarly article.

It is more than a mere summary. A strong paper is detailed, shows a solid grasp of the discussion and clarifies the concepts or arguments under discussion. It is clearly and succinctly written.

The structure for each expository paper is as follows: Each expository paper is to be **2 pages in length**. The structure consists of a thesis statement and an exposition. In one or two sentences your Thesis Statement, (single-spaced, 12 point) clearly and concisely expresses the *leading idea*. The key to your exposition is to focus your thesis statement on the 'leading idea', that is, the one major idea which you think determines the purpose of the article under consideration; and to state in a few words or phrases the argument or evidence which supports the leading idea. Then following the thesis statement, your Exposition (double-spaced, 12 point) explains, in your own words, the argumentation and reasoning which supports the leading idea.

Staple the pages of your essay in the upper left hand corner. Papers will normally be returned within 7 days.

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

c) Final Exam:

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. Due date is to be determined.

Grading:

Due Date

20%	Participation	
45%	Three Reflections Papers	
	(15%) First Reflection Paper.....	September 29 2016
	(15%) Second Reflection Paper.....	October 20 2016
	(15%) Third Reflection Paper.....	November 30 2016
35%	Final Exam.....	December (See Exam Schedule)

Availability of Grades:

Graded assignments will be returned to students in class. Grades will not be made available through e-mail. Access to final grades is through the UWO website.

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