

Ecumenism

RS 5511A

Monday / 9:30-11:30 am / SPS 115

St. Peter's Seminary / King's College University
at the University of Western Ontario
Fall Semester 2015-16

Instructor: Name: Fr. Denis Grecco, Ph.D
Office: St. Peter's Seminary (SPS) 326
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 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 justice 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.

Format: Class format is a combination of lecture and discussion. Discussions will focus on the appointed article 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 article. 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.

Required Reading: The course-pack is available at the Western University Bookstore.

Dates and Topics:

Sept 14	Introduction
Section I: History: Unity and Division	
Sept 21	Scriptural & Patristic Background
Sept 28	Horizons of Church Division
Oct 5	Emerging Catholic Interest
Section II: Methods: Dialogue and Encounter	
Oct 12*	Principles & Norms
Oct 19	Nature & Types of Dialogue
Nov 2	Memory & Encounter
Section III: Doctrine: Convergence and Differences	
Nov 9	Belief: God, Church and Sacraments
Nov 16	Authority: Petrine & Marian Doctrine
Nov 23	Doctrinal Identity: Distinctive & Common
Section IV: Practices: Opportunities and Limitations	
Nov 30	Hospitality & Co-operation
Dec 7	Spiritual Ecumenism & Prayer for Christian Unity

Methods of Evaluation:

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 of the designated articles; listening well to the contribution of others and responding respectfully.

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.

* Thanksgiving: A suitable alternative date for this class will need to be found in consultation with the students.

Three Expository Papers:

Each expository paper is to be **2 pages in length.**

Three expository papers are required; the first is to be written on your choice of one article from 'Section I - History: Unity and Division'; the second is to be written on your choice of one article from 'Section II - Methods: Dialogue and Encounter'; and the third is to be written on your choice of one article from 'Section III - Doctrine: Convergences and Differences'.

What is an expository paper? An expository paper explains in your own words the author's purpose, meaning, and reasoning in writing the article. Because the goal of an expository paper is to explain the purpose, meaning, and reasoning of the author, it is more than a mere summary of an article.

The structure for each expository paper is as follows. It 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 idea which you think determines the purpose of the article under consideration; and to state in a few words or phrases the reasoning which supports the leading idea. Then following the thesis statement, your Exposition (double-spaced, 12 point) explains, in your own words, the meaning 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 refer to:

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

Final Exam:

The final examination will be a take-home. It 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.

Grading:

	<u>Due Date</u>
20% Participation	
45% Three Reflection Papers	
(15%) First Reflection Paper.....	October 19th 2015
(15%) Second Reflection Paper.....	November 9th 2015
(15%) Third Reflection Paper.....	November 30th 2015
35% Final Exam.....	April – 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