

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at Western University
Fall/Winter 2024-2025

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY 5123A / 5124B
A HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Thursdays 9:30 am to 12:20 pm
St. Peter's Seminary – Room 143

Professor: Father J. Comiskey

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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. (Antirequisites: RS 170 & 250E, Historical Theology 221A/222B & 5221A/5222B.) **This course is offered in person.**

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 Development of Monasticism and the End of the Roman Empire
- VII The Middle Ages and the Dawn of Christendom
- VIII Christendom: Challenge, Demise, and some "Bright Lights"
- 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 The Age of Enlightenment and Revolution
- 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 Pope Pius XII
- XX The Second Vatican Council and the Post-conciliar Years

C. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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. COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS – REQUIRED READING

(1) Hitchcock, James, *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2012;

(2) Comiskey, John P. *My Heart's Best Wishes for You, A Biography of Archbishop John Walsh*, Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012;

(3) Primary and secondary documents as provided in the "custom course book" obtained from the UWO bookstore; (The "course book" is ordered through the Western bookstore under The5123A/5124B. The textbooks may also be found there.) Students have the option to obtain the documents through "Course Readings" at the A. P. Mahoney Library.

(4) Additional reading as may be indicated by the professor from time to time.

E. METHODS OF EVALUATION

(1) *Précises*: Students are to submit **eighteen *précises*** for grading throughout the course of the year, based on the primary documents in the course pack. 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:

I	3 October 2024,	IV	23 January 2025,
II	24 October 2024,	V	6 March 2025, and
III	14 November 2024,	VI	27 March 2025.

NB: The last *précis* to be done is a submission on *My Heart's Best Wishes for You*. Instructions will be given closer to the "due" date for this particular assignment.

(value of *précises*: 50% of the total mark for the year)

Scholarly Citation: Students may choose to use the MLA or the Chicago Manual of Style for citations, references and bibliographies in the written assignments. In the MLA style, author and page references are put in the body of the text. In the Chicago Manual of Style, footnotes are to be used. For further information see:

<https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf>

(2) Tests: The tests will be given in class, and will be based on lecture material and assigned readings (documents and textbook).

a. Two seventy-five-minute tests will be held on the following dates:

I	21 November 2024, and
II	13 February 2025.

(value mid-term tests: 25% of total mark for the year)

b. The final test will be held on the date assigned by UWO.

(value of final test: 25% of total mark)

All written assignments and tests must be completed to pass the course.

F. ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION

While it is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time, academic consideration will be given on an "as needed" basis. Students who are unable to hand in assignments or take tests for legitimate reasons must consult with the professor in advance. After a first consideration is given, formal supporting documentation will be required for others. Ordinarily, all assignments and tests will be made up at a later date that is mutually agreed upon by the student and the professor. Extraordinary circumstances will be dealt with accordingly. A penalty of 5% of the value of an assignment will be deducted for each day one is overdue without permission/consideration. Further information is at:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

G. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

(1) Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a "scholastic offence" at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

(2) Use of Artificial Intelligence: King's is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community – faculty, staff, and students – have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, it is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course professor. Within this course, use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as Chat GPT) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use will be subject to academic discipline.

H. OTHER UNIVERSITY AND SEMINARY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Students are responsible for knowing the University's and the Seminary's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

(1) Scholastic 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

(2) 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. <http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

(3) Copyright re: Course Material: Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty Members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a Faculty Member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's

answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student's written permission. (Commercial use of Course material - <http://umd.edu/legal/commercial.html>)

(4) Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

(5) Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for everyone and with professionalism in all classroom activities. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used for classroom academic activities only. The use of such devices must always be in accord with the common good of the whole learning community as specified by the instructor. The instructor may choose at any time to limit their use for instructional purposes or because of the disruptive use of such devices.

(6) You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

(7) Support Services: Information about Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

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

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <https://uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.

I. A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

I 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.

II 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 at St. Peter's Seminary 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, and Vatican Council II.

III 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 complete bibliography for the primary sources can be found in the "Detailed Course Outline and Reading Guide" at the beginning of the "course pack".

