

Instructor:	Name:	Fr. Denis Grecco, Ph.D
	Office:	SPS 317
	Hours:	By appointment
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Description:

An introduction to the history, theology, and practice of the ecumenical movement and inter-religious relations. The scope of this study includes the major teachings of the Magisterium, the divisions and quest for unity among churches of the East and West, and the concepts and methods of ecumenism. The broader context includes encounters with other religions which will be examined from a theological and pastoral perspective.

Learning Outcomes:

- | <i>The student will have basic knowledge of:</i> | <i>The student should have the ability to:</i> |
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| a) History of the modern ecumenical movement and recent encounters of inter-religious engagements. | e) Witness to Christian Unity, when appropriate, through pastoral work and social initiatives. |
| b) Church teaching on ecumenism and inter-religious relations. | f) Act with integrity in ecumenical and inter-religious encounters in a pastoral setting. |
| c) Method of ecumenical theology practiced in bi-lateral and multi-lateral dialogue. | g) Promote spiritual ecumenism including the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. |
| d) Fruits of ecumenical agreements derived from the exchange of gifts and reception. | h) Explain ecumenical and inter-religious relations in the life of the Church today. |

Dates & Topics:

Sept 6	Introduction	Nov 1	Synodal Discernment - Ecumenism
Sept 13	Churches of the East	Nov 8	Inter-religious Relations
Sept 20	Churches of the West	Nov 15	Inter-religious Dialogue
Sept 27	Decree on Ecumenism & Ut Unum Sint	Nov 22	Jews & Catholics
Oct 4	Dialogue & Reception	Nov 29	Islam & Catholicism
Oct 11	Worship & Witness	Dec 6	Synodal Discernment - World Religions
Oct 25	Midterm Exam		

Methodology:

The course consists of various modes of delivery including readings of scholarly articles and Church documents, watching and reflecting on videos, participation in synodal processes, listening attentively and making thoughtful contributions to classroom discussion. Be prepared to engage in class conversation by sharing your comments, questions, and insights. The classroom discussion is intended to help you process your thinking and to offer the opportunity to ask questions about the designated topics. Your attendance and thoughtful contribution to the class conversations are valued and are considered in the grade for participation. Taking notes from the readings, videos, and conversations is recommended as an aid to learning.

Evaluation & Grading:

10%	Brief Reflection Paper.....	Sept 13
10%	Brief Reflection Paper.....	Nov 8
15%	Participation.....	Ongoing / Weekly
30%	Mid-term Exam.....	October 25
35%	Final Exam.....	Dec. Exam Schedule

Two Brief Reflection Papers

These two papers will be written in class. You will have approximately 20 minutes to write your reflection. Take notes while watching the video. In your reflection paper identify what 'seized your attention' or 'stands out for you' from the video. Then explain 1) why it seized your attention, and 2) the impact on you for your formation in ecumenism and/or inter-religious relations and dialogue.

Participation:

Grading for participation includes attendance, active participation by making thoughtful contributions to the class discussion on the designated readings, listening well to the contribution of others, and responding respectfully. The following is a guide to participation:

- Level 1: (60 +) Participation in class discussion is minimal and includes attendance at all classes.
- Level 2: (70 +) Participation in class is average; student puts in a good effort to discuss their understanding of the reading.
- Level 3: (80 +) Participation in class is above average; student is prepared and contributes to a deeper understanding of the reading.
- Level 4: (90 +) Participation is outstanding. The student is exceptionally well-prepared for class, inspired, motivated and draws out the contribution of others without dominating the discussion.

Mid-term & Final Exam

A midterm and final examination will take the form of several questions. The midterm will be written in class and the final exam during the exam schedule. The goal is to demonstrate your ability to think through the Church's teaching in the field of ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue arising from the course readings, lectures, videos, questions, and discussions.

Required Reading List

(Available on the OWL Bright-space Course Website)

Class 02 Sept 13 Churches of the East

Thomas E. FitzGerald, "Historic Church Divisions" *The Ecumenical Movement: An Introductory History*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2004, p 33-58.

Class 03 Sept 20 Churches of the West

Jerome-Michael Vereb, C.P. "Introduction" and an excerpt from "Ecumenism, the Roman Catholic Church and the Twentieth Century" *'Because He Was German!' Cardinal Bea and the Origins of Roman Catholic Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans, 2006, p 11, 26-57.

Class 04 Sept 27 Decree on Ecumenism & Ut Unum Sint

Decree on Ecumenism http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19641121_unitatis-redintegratio_en.html

John Paul II. *Ut Unum Sint (Christian Unity: On Commitment to Ecumenism)* http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25051995_ut-unum-sint.html

Class 05 Oct 4 Dialogue & Reception

Michael Fahey, "A Promising New Thrust in Ecumenical Theology" *A Church with Open Doors: Catholic Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2015, p 181-196.

Ladislav Orsy, SJ, "Authentic Learning and Receiving - A Search for Criteria" *Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning*. Edited by Paul D. Murray. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, p 39-51.

Class 06 Oct 11 Worship & Witness

Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism. <http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/documenti/testo-in-inglese.html>

Chapter 4: "Communion in Life and Spiritual Activity Among the Baptized"

Chapter 5: "Ecumenical Cooperation, Dialogue and Common Witness"

Class 07 Oct 25 Mid-term Exam

Class 08 Nov 1 Synodal Discernment - Ecumenism

B 1.4 "How Can a Synodal Church fulfil its mission through a renewed ecumenical commitment?" *Instrumentum Laboris: Synod 2021-24 For A Synodal Church*. XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops; First Session, October 2023.

Class 9 Nov 8 Inter-religious Relations

Gerald O'Collins, SJ "John Paul II on Other Religions" *The Second Vatican Council on Other Religions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013, p 167-180.

Class 10 Nov 15 Inter-religious Dialogue

Roch A. Kereszty, "The Word of God: A Catholic Perspective in Dialogue with Judaism and Islam." *Communio* 28, Fall 2001, p 568-580.

Roch A. Kereszty, "The Universal Significance of Christ in the Context of Other Religions" *Jesus Christ: Fundamentals of Christology*. New York: St Paul's, 2002, p 443-454.

Class 11 Nov 22 Jews & Catholics

Commission for the Religious Relations with the Jews, "The Gifts and the Calling of God are Irrevocable" http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/relations-jews-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20151210_ebraismo-nostra-aetate_en.html

Class 12 Nov 29 Islam & Catholicism

Charles Ocherio Cornelio, "Dialogue for Peace-Building in the Light of Human Rights" *Visions of Hope: Emerging Theologians and the Future of the Church*. Kevin J. Ahern ed., Maryknoll: Orbis, 2013, p 123-127.

Martin McGee, OSB, "Father Christian: Discovering God's Presence Together" and "A Doctrinal Note on How Christians and Muslims Speak of God: The French Bishops' Conference" in *Dialogue of the Heart: Christian-Muslim Stories of Encounter*. Dublin: Veritas, 2015, p 54-73; p 149-153.

Class 13 Dec 6 Synodal Discernment - World Religions

B 1.5 "How Can We Recognize and Gather the Richness of Cultures and Develop Dialogue Amongst Religions in the Light of the Gospel?" *Instrumentum Laboris: Synod 2021-24 For A Synodal Church*. XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops; First Session, October 2023.

University Regulations

Students are responsible for knowing the University'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:

Accommodations for Tests/Examinations:

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

How to Request Academic Accommodation – King's Students:

(<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/medical-accommodation/>)

UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

All students requiring academic accommodations for tests and examinations must use the services offered through King's University College.

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

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>

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>)

Scholarly Citation: 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.

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Students who are unable to hand in assignments or take examinations for legitimate reasons must consult with the instructor. If the reason is medical, students may be required to provide a note from a doctor. Ordinarily, all assignments and exams will be made up at a later date. In certain circumstances, the final grading scheme may be re-weighted if the missed assignment is of a low weight.

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.

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.

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

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 form.