

CTH209/PSC 335 Theories of the Church

Autumn 2014

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Course Description: This course explores the topic of “ecclesiology,” which is the branch of theology that concerns various theories of the church – ideas about its origins and purposes, notions of authority and membership, relations with secular powers, and more. Historically, ecclesiology has been among the most controversial areas in the development of Christianity; the concept can be studied from political, sociological, and theological perspectives.

In this course, students will learn about the basic structures and roles of the Catholic Church (e.g., bishops, dioceses, the Vatican, religious orders and congregations) and the theories of the church embedded in these structures and roles. Students will also explore other ecclesiologies within Catholicism and the larger Christian community that have influenced Catholic life.

Method of Instruction: This course will combine lectures, discussion and film. Given the nature of the course, students must keep up with assigned readings; discussions will presume that students have read the materials assigned for a given day (and this is a reading-intensive course – you have been forewarned).

Grading: Student grades will be based on two quizzes, an in-class midterm exam, a take-home final, and overall participation and attendance. The quizzes (focusing on the assigned course reading) and participation/attendance will contribute one-third of your final grade; the other components (midterm and final exams) each contribute one-third of the grade.

Readings: Five books are required; used copies are available for most, and all are available through the DePaul University bookstore and other outlets. Students will also read the complete text of a major document from the Second Vatican Council (available online). Additionally, students will be required to access a set of photocopied articles via D2L.

The **required books** (all in paper edition, many available second-hand):

Mark Francis, Local Worship, Global Church: Popular Religion and the Liturgy, Liturgical Press, 2014,

Thomas Kelly, When the Gospel Grows Feet: Rutilio Grande, S.J., and the Church of El Salvador, Michael Glazier Publishing, 2013.

Bernard Prusak, The Church Unfinished, Paulist Press (2004).

Brent Laytham, ed., God is Not, Brazos Press (2003).

John Allen, The Catholic Church: What Everyone Needs to Know, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Classroom Environment: To minimize distractions and interruptions, please do not bring (or refrain from using) computers, cell phones, tablets, or similar devices. Students in noncompliance with this policy may be asked to leave the session (see 'Special Needs' section below for one exception).

Students with special needs: Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the:

- PluS Program (for LD, AD/HD) at 773-325-1677 Student Center #370, and/or
- The Office for Students with Disabilities (for all other disabilities) at 773-325-1677, Student Center #370.

Academic Integrity: Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the Student Handbook or by visiting Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>).

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>) for further details.

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Wednesday, September 10: First Class (Reading: “A Big Heart Open to God: The *America* Interview, September 30, 2013; “The Pope: How the Church Will Change,” an interview in *La Repubblica*, October, 2013, both on D2L).

Monday, September 15: Catholic Christianity: Some Basics: Reading: John Allen, The Catholic Church: What Everyone Needs to Know, Intro and Ch. 1).

17: Some Questions and Categories (Reading: Allen, Chs. 2-3; Ernst Troeltsch, “Church and Sect,” on D2L).

22: Early Christian Ecclesiology (Reading: Bernard Prusak, The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology Through the Centuries, Intro and Ch. 1).

24: Early Christian Ecclesiology (Reading: Prusak, Ch. 2). **Quiz One.**

29: Constantine and Beyond (Reading: Prusak, Ch. 3).

October 1: Constantine and Beyond (Reading: John Howard Yoder, “The Constantinian Sources of Western Social Ethics;” “The Edict of Milan,” both on D2L).

6: Midterm Exam.

8: Ecclesiology and Modernity (Reading; Prusak, Ch. 4).

13: Ecclesiology and Modernity (Reading: William T. Cavanaugh, “Destroying the Church to Save It,” on D2L).

15: Vatican II and the New World (Reading: Thomas Kelly, When the Gospel Grows Feet: An Ecclesiology in Context, Intro and Chs. 1-2).

20: Vatican II and the New World (Reading: Kelly, Chs. 3 and 4).

22: Liturgy, Politics, and Prayer (Reading: Mark Francis, Local Worship, Global Church, Chs. 1-2).

27: Liturgy, Politics and Prayer (Reading: Francis, Chs. 3-4).

29: Liturgy, Politics and prayer (Reading: Francis, Chs. 5-6). **Quiz Two.**

November 3: Movie: The Mission, directed by Roland Joffe, first half.

5: Movie: The Mission, directed by Roland Joffe, second half.

10: Issues in Contemporary Ecclesiology (Reading: Laytham, God is Not, Intro and Chs. 1-2).

12: Issues in Contemporary Ecclesiology (Reading: Laytham, Chs. 3-4).

17: Pope Francis and the Future Church? (Reading: Excerpts from *Evangelii Gaudium*, on D2L, TBA).

Final Exam: Take-Home Final Exam is due through D2L by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 24.