

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: RELI 220: Catholicism
FALL 2007
Instructor: James Dallen (dallen@gonzaga.edu)



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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Exploration of the identity of the Roman Catholic tradition, with emphasis on U.S. Catholicism's dialogue with the contemporary world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the meanings and major characteristics of Catholicism, with emphasis on the nature and methods of Catholic theology
- To understand Catholic Christianity as a way of faith, a way of worship, and a way of life
- To understand Catholicism's opportunities and challenges in the contemporary world

REQUIRED TEXT:

Thomas P. Rausch. *Catholicism in the Third Millennium*. Revised Edition. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Other readings will be available in the library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class preparation, attendance, attention, and participation are expected (10% of final grade). Four (4) unexcused absences will result in a "V" grade. Preparation before class requires completing reading assignments. An occasional quiz on the reading will test comprehension.

Testing: Five quizzes (20% of grade) and two exams (20% each) will test students' comprehension of material presented in readings and in class.

Research and Reflection (30% of final grade): Two papers (5-6 pages each, double-spaced) provide opportunity for independent research and personal reflection on a topic of interest. The first paper, in the area of Catholicism as a way of faith, will examine one specific belief, doctrine, or theological issue; it is due on 16 October. (Recommendation: Pay attention to how this changed and developed over time and how culture and society influenced development.) A second paper will be on a contemporary issue in relation to Catholicism - *or* - a project relating to Catholic Florence; it is due 20 November.

- **Research:** At least *four* sources must be used—*other than encyclopedias, Bible, dictionaries, and course readings*. At least *one* must be a post-1960 official Catholic document. Provide list of works consulted, whether cited or not. Be cautious with internet resources!
- **Reflection:** Present research results with your analysis and evaluation; include documentation (inline, footnotes, or endnotes) and bibliography.

Papers are evaluated on

- accuracy of presentation of **Catholic** view(s), official or otherwise
- theological **evidence** and **argument** for personal view
- quality of **writing**.

Plagiarism: no credit for source, no credit for course.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Class 1	18 September	General Introduction <i>Catholicism</i> , pp. xi-xviii: "Introduction"	
Class 2	20 September	Catholicism's Contemporary Context	<i>Catholicism</i>
Class 3	24 September	Faith and Theology <i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 19-25: "The Nature of Faith"	
Class 4	25 September	The Story of Faith <i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 25-40: "God and God's People," "Jesus and God's Reign"	
Class 5	27 September	The Bible and Its Interpretation Jeffrey S. Siker, "Introduction to the Study of the New Testament" from <i>The College Student's Introduction to Theology</i> (Thomas P. Rausch, ed.; Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1993), pp. 45-68.	
Class 6		Berard Marthaler, <i>The Creed</i> (Revised Edition; Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1993), pp. 1-15	1 October
Class 7	2 October	Belonging to Church Chester Gillis, "Who Are American Catholics?" in <i>Roman Catholicism in America</i> (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), pp. 8-47.	
Class 8		<i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 41-65: "A Visible Church"	4 October
Class 9	8 October	TBA	
Class 10	9 October	Episcopacy and Papacy John Quinn, "The Exercise of the Primacy and the Costly Call to Unity"	
Class 11		<i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 66-83: "A Living Tradition"	11 October
Class 12	15 October	Historical Development Edward W. Clark, "Great Ideas Develop Over Time" in <i>Five Great Catholic Ideas</i> (New York: Crossroad, 1998), pp. 116-144.	

Class 13 16 October

Assignment: Be ready to explain orally how the point you researched developed over time and was/is influenced by culture and society.

Class 14 18 October

Lawrence Cunningham, *The Catholic Faith* (New York: Paulist, 1987), pp. 111-126: "Catholicism as Worldview."

Class 15 22 October Sacraments and Christian Initiation

Catholicism, pp. 84-92, 97-101

Class 16 23 October MIDTERM EXAM

The exam will cover classes 1-14.

Class 17 25 October Catholicism as a Way of Worship: Eucharist

Catholicism, pp. 92-97

Class 18 29 October Catholic Communities without Eucharist

James Dallen, "Sunday Worship in the Absence of a Priest: What is Really Missing?"

Class 19 30 October Discipleship and Vocation

Catholicism, pp. 102-123: "Christian Life and Discipleship"

Class 20 5 November

Catholicism, pp. 124-142

Class 21 6 November Sexual Morality

Catholicism, pp. 143-155

Class 22 8 November Selected Issues in Sexual Morality
TBA

Class 23 12 November Social Morality

Catholic

Class 24 TBA 13 November

Class 25 15 November Morality and Conscience

Catholicism, pp. 165-169

Penelope J. Ryan, "Growing Up Responsibly Catholic: Freedom and Loyal Dissent" in *Practicing Catholic: The Search for a Livable Catholicism* (New York: Holt, 1998), pp. 174-189.

Class 26	19 November	Spirituality	
		<i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 170-191: "Prayer and Spirituality"	
Class 27			20 November
		<i>Assignment:</i> Be able to state orally how the point you researched is a Catholic issue or is approached in an identifiably Catholic way.	
Class 28	26 November	TBA	
Class 29	27 November	Faith and Political Life	
		"Bishops' Letters"	
		"Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility."	
Class 30			29 November
Class 31	3 December	Fullness of Christian Hope	
		<i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 192-208	
Class 32			4 December
		<i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 209-227: "Liturgical Renewal," "The Question of Authority," "Women in the Church."	
Class 33	6 December	Catholicism in a Broader Context	
		<i>Catholicism</i> , pp. 227-240	
Class 34	10 December	Distinctively Catholic	
		Richard P. McBrien, <i>Catholicism</i> (New Edition; San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1994), pp. 1187-1202: "Catholicism: A Synthesis."	
Class 35			11 December
	TBA	FINAL EXAM	The exam will cover Classes 15-35