

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: RELI 390: Church Meets World: Vatican II  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: Dr. Anastasia Wendlinder



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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Second Vatican Council, which was held in Rome from 1962-1965 and which was presided over by the last two influential Italian popes, John XXIII and Paul VI, marks a profound turning point in how the “Church” approaches “World.” In this course we shall explore how, in light of the Council, the Roman Catholic Church has identified itself and has responded to modern issues in the world such as social inequity and inter-faith relations. Key movements and persons that paved the way and contributed to the success of the council will be considered, as well as current and on-going challenges to its full reception. Employing theological principles developed within the context of conciliar and post-conciliar scholarship, students will reflect on the role of religion in the world and in their own lives, and specifically how Christianity -- in all its diversity -- affects and is affected by the world around it.

## **READING:**

Austin Flannery, O.P., ed. Vatican Council II: The Basic Sixteen Documents. (2007 Revised, Inclusive Language translation preferred but older edition also acceptable).

Accompanying textbook yet to be determined.

RELI 390 “Church Meets World: Vatican II” Course Packet from University Readers containing a variety of additional readings (not yet available).

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Daily reading (varied length depending on difficulty of material). It is expected that students will come to class having carefully read all assigned material and be prepared to participate in class discussions.
- Periodic short reflection papers (2-3 pp) and a longer final paper (4-5pp) will be assigned.
- Scheduled quizzes will be given.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULED TOPICS:**

- Introduction to the Course, What is a Church Council & How to read Church Documents
- History, key figures and theology leading to the Council
- Unpacking the documents – what are the issues, theological perspectives and what went on behind the scenes
- The Church in the World today -- how has the Church changed as a result of the Council? How has the world changed since the council? Emphasis will be on issues such as social justice, inculturation, inter-Christian and inter-religious relations.
- The Church in the World tomorrow – what direction is the church moving, and what might it look like in the future based on the Second Vatican Council?