Course Name: CATHOLICISM  
Course Code: 220  
Semester: Spring 2016  

Classroom number 306  
Scheduling: Tuesday, 3:35-6.30 pm  

Instructor Data:  
Name: Prof. Alessandro Andreini  
E-mail-address: a.andreini@sanleolino.org  
Office hours: by appointment. Generally, I will be available immediately before and after classes.  

Prerequisites: 100 level religious studies  

Course Description:  
The course focuses the catholic point of view about matters like the meaning of life, the task of mankind in the world, the dignity of human persons, the experience of love, the mystery of evil, the challenge of peacemaking, the relations among peoples and religions.  
Course's point of reference are at once the first 11 chapter of Genesis, in which can be found the sketch of God's project for humankind, and the most relevant documents of the second Vatican council (SVC, 1962-1965) which is the most recent and wide reflection of Catholic church about itself and its worldview. Being the really most important event of Catholic church during XX century, SVC has been the effort to represent the substance of the ancient doctrine in new words, and to understand in a new way the commitment of believers in our time. Studying some of the most relevant documents and statements of it, the course wants to get students in touch with the core themes of Catholic nowadays debate.  

Course Objectives:  
The course expects to give students a contemporary and serious sight of Catholic church in our age, understanding how Catholic worldview can be a possible interlocutor in order to give an answer to the new challenges of our time. By the end of the course, students would have to get a clearer idea of what are the core principles of Catholic faith about some of the most important dimensions of life.  

Teaching Method:  
All of us we are "pilgrims of the truth": this is the general backward of the course method, that will pass through lectures, debates, oral reports, film screening. Mostly, the course needs students involvement because it intends to be a possible answer to the questions and challenges that students will figure out in the first steps of it. For this reason, students are also responsible for the success of the teaching method, as the pedagogical value of a method has to be enacted by each participant in the process.  

Teaching Commitment:  
Education is possibly one of the most important and moving human task: to help new generations in understanding the world in which they live, hoping that they will be able to give their own contribution for the building of a better world. Culture is a matter of transmission: that's why we even have a sort of duty in doing it!  

Decorum:  
Cell-phones off; no food and beverages admitted, except for bottled water,  
No technical devices are accepted (laptops, I pads, etc)
Disrupting behavior (doing something else during the course, engaging in private conversations, playing with electronic devices) is not accepted and if repeated it will negatively affect the attendance and participation part of the final grade or may result in removal from the course.

**Attendance Policy** according to Gonzaga University’s policy regarding absences

**Assessment Criteria**
- Attendance and participation 20%
- Oral reports/class debate 20%
- Midterm 20%
- Final 20%
- Essays 20%

**Two essays are required (at a minimum of 12 pages together but preferably more)**
- **First essay**: delivery date – February 21
- **Second essay**: Delivery Date – April 11

The essay consists in the articulated and convincing treatment of a topic pertinent to the course, with a clear formulation of the issue to be investigated and an equally clear conclusion.

On the delivery date hard copies typed in standard format are to be handed in to the professor at the beginning of class and an electronic copy readable by Word-Windows or Microsoft Word is to be submitted by email.

**Standard format**: Title, **minimum 6 pages**, Times New Roman, 12, 2 line spacing, Bibliography

**Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is essential to education and represents the bond of trust between the university, the instructor and the student. Copying or plagiarizing would be useless in matters that have to do with your personal point of view about life.

**Special Accommodation for students with learning disabilities**

Documented learning disabilities or other medically certified problems that need special accommodation for any of the student's expected academic performances will be treated with the due attention.

**Required Readings**

*God’s project for humankind*: text by Dr. Don Alessandro Andreini in which you will find various references to the *Bible* and to the documents of the Second Vatican Council

**Recommended Additional Resources**

- Second Vatican Council, *All the Documents* (on line)

**On-site lessons calendar**

10.1 **Course presentation. The meaning of life.** A Church turned towards the Youth. Being “pilgrims of the truth”. Projection of a documentary on the Second Vatican Council.

17.1 **Class discussion about contemporary challenges**: *Our questions’ agenda* (see *Gaudium et Spes # 4-10*). Projection of part of 2001. *A space odyssey*. Introduction to *Genesis* and reading of chap. 1. *The question of our origins*. 

31.1 The end of world’s creation (Genesis 2,1-3). Martin Buber’s tale from The way of man. The second creation’s tale (Genesis 2,4-25). Introduction to Dignitatis Humanae.

7.2 Man and woman in God’s project: Genesis 2,16-25. Human love in Church’s teaching: discussion on Gaudium et spes nn. 47-52. The challenge of sexual behaviours. The Song of Songs.


21.2 Mid-Term

7.3 Movie.

14.3 Cain and Abel: the possibility of brotherhood: Genesis: chap. 4. The Bible as the great code of western culture: John Steinbeck, East of Eden. The problem of death penalty.

21.3 The deluge, destruction and new creation: Genesis chap. 6-9. The question of peace: discussion on Gaudium et spes nn. 77-82.

28.3 Peoples spreading all over the earth: Genesis chap. 11. Catholicism in front of other religions according to Nostra Aetate.

4.4 Councils, past and future of the Church.

11.4 Final