

CATH 1190: Introduction to Catholic Studies

Syllabus



† COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an initiation into the diversity, richness, and significance of Catholicism in all its different forms and expressions. It highlights the resources available for pursuing an interdisciplinary study of Catholicism as a field of intellectual inquiry. It aims to promote an understanding of and appreciation for the role that Catholicism has played in the intellectual and cultural history of the Western world.

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Explain the major social, political, artistic, and literary developments in the Catholic Church over its 2000-year history.
- Read and synthesize a variety of sources relating to Church history.
- Write about the Catholic Church from an interdisciplinary approach.
- Reflect on topics of personal interest.
- Analyze aspects of Church history in detail.
- Evaluate a range of historical and contemporary issues relating to the Catholic Church.

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† REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS

Books: To be purchased

- Norman, E. (2007, 2010). *The Roman Catholic Church—An illustrated history*. London: Thames & Hudson. ISBN-13: 978-0500251324 (Hardcover, 2007) or 978-0-50028-709-5 (paperback 2010)
- Stewart, C. (2008.) *The Catholic Church – A brief popular history*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-88489-967-9

Articles: Provided online

- Byron, W. (September 1999). Framing the principles of Catholic social thought. *Catholic Education: A Journal of Inquiry and Practice*. 3(1), 7-14.
- Creamer, D. (2002). The Galileo affair. *Perspective: A Semi-Annual Examination and Application of Catholic and Ignatian Thought*, 4(2), 4-15.
- Hasson, M. & Hill, H. (2011). What Catholic women think about faith, conscience, and contraception. *The Woman, Faith, and Culture Project*, Washington: DC.
- Margry, P. J. (2009). Marian interventions in the wars of ideology: The elastic politics of the Roman Catholic Church on modern apparitions. *History and Anthropology*, 20(3), 243-263.
- O'Malley, J. W. (2000) How the first Jesuits became involved in education. In V. J. Duminuco (Ed.) *The Jesuit Ratio Studiorum: 400th Anniversary Perspectives* (pp. 56-74). New York: Fordham University Press.
- O'Malley, J. W. (2012) The council's spirit: Vatican II, the time for reconciliation. *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, 42(3), 2-6.
- Phan, P. (2012) Interreligious and ecumenical dialogue at Vatican II: Some Rethinking Required. *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, 42(5), 12-16.
- Reali, L. (2005). Women in Catholic social thought: The creation of a new social reality. *Journal of Catholic Legal Studies*, 44(461), 461-478.
- Reilly, P. (March 2003) Are Catholic Colleges Leading Students Astray? *The Catholic World Report*, 38-46.
- Summers, D. (1977). Style and meaning in Renaissance art. *The Art Bulletin*, 59(3), 336-361.

REQUIRED HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

You will require the following items for your computer for this course:

- Speakers or headphones are needed to listen to audio and video clips

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

In-lesson bibliography

Each of the particular sections contains supplementary material (books, journal articles, and web links) that students can choose to consult. Although this material is optional, it is included and helpful for two reasons. First, students may choose to expand their knowledge using such additional material when they

encounter a topic of particular interest. Second, students will find all such materials helpful when doing research for their essays.

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† COURSE OVERVIEW

The historical relationships and ongoing encounters that the members of the Roman Catholic Church have had with disciplines such as history, the arts and sciences, as well as human thought comprise the framework around which the Catholic Studies program is formed. Like all courses in the Catholic Studies program at the University of Manitoba, this course will appeal to students from a wide variety of intellectual and religious backgrounds.

The Introduction to Catholic Studies course will allow students opportunity to study, explore, and engage with Catholicism in all its social, political, and religious complexities. It is the foundational course for all other Catholic Studies courses, and students who want to make Catholic Studies a minor in their academic program must take this course.

The importance of this introductory course lies in the fact that Western culture itself has been radically defined and is continually influenced by the Catholic Church. To this end, the course is a brief – but necessary – introduction into the historical and contemporary roles that the Catholic Church has played in its 2000 year history.

Units 1 to 4 will begin with the person of Jesus and the early developments of the Catholic Church before moving methodologically through its complicated – but interesting – history. Each of the sections is designed to provide students with insight into the historical events that have shaped our world both historically and in contemporary ways.

Units 5 to 8 focus on the modern Church and contemporary issues of interest. Students will be provided all the resources needed to understand critically and engage with the major issues that confront the Catholic Church as it continues to play a significant global role in the 21st century.

OVERVIEW

Units and Sections

1. The Foundations of the Catholic Church

A. *Jesus and the Earliest Church*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapters 1 and 2

B. *Defining the Church in the New Testament*

- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 1
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review one
 - **Assignment:** Complete online discussion post one
 - *The 4-page short essay topics will be assigned at the successful completion of this unit.*

2. The Church Begins to Grow

A. *The Path to Formal Recognition: Expansion, Persecution, and Acceptance*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapter 3

B. *Arian Controversy: The Council at Nicea and Christianity in the Roman Empire*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapters 4 and 5
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review two
 - **Assignment:** Complete online discussion post two

3. The Destruction and Recreation of the Church

A. *The Collapse of Rome, the Rise of Christianity, and the Era of Conversion*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapter 6

B. *The Medieval Church: Its Protectors and Contributions*

- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 2

C. *Holy War and its Consequences: Crusades and Schism*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapters 7, 8, 9
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review three
 - **Assignment:** Complete online discussion post three

4. The Church Flourishes

A. *Rise of the University, Christian Philosophy, and Science*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapter 10

B. *The Renaissance and Christian Art*

- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 3
- **Reading:** Style and meaning in Renaissance art (article)
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review four
 - **Assignment:** Hand in 4-page short essay

5. The Church Faces New Challenges

A. *Problems in the Church, Martin Luther, and the Reformation*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapter 11
- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 4

B. *Scientific Discovery and Galileo*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapter 12
- **Reading:** The Galileo Affair (article)

C. *The Council of Trent, the Church after Trent, and the French Revolution*

- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 5
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review five
 - **Assignment:** Complete online discussion post four
 - *The 7-page long essay topics will be assigned at the successful completion of this unit.*

6. The Church Enters the Modern World

A. *Pius IX, Leo XIII, and Modernism*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapter 13

B. *Faith, Reason, and Charles Darwin*

- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 6
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review six
 - **Assignment:** Complete online discussion post five

7. The Last 100 Years

A. *The Church and Social Justice*

- **Reading:** The Roman Catholic Church, an illustrated history: Chapter 7
- **Reading:** Framing the Principles of Catholic Social Thought (article)
- **Reading:** *Women in Catholic Social Thought...* (article)

B. *The Second Vatican Council*

- **Reading:** The Catholic Church, a brief popular history: Chapters 14 and 15

C. *The Church and non-Catholic Christians*

- **Reading:** The Council's Spirit-Vatican II, The time for reconciliation (article)

D. *The Church and non-Christian religions*

- **Reading:** Interreligious and Ecumenical Dialogue at Vatican II (article)
- **Assignment:** Complete unit review seven
 - **Assignment:** Hand in 7-page long essay

8. Ideas for Future Study

A. *The Church and the Paranormal*

- **Reading:** Marian Interventions in the Wars of Ideology (article)

B. *The Catholic Church and Human Sexuality*

- **Reading:** Are Catholic Colleges Leading Students Astray (article)
- **Reading:** What Catholic Women Think About faith, conscience, and contraception (article)

C. *The Jesuit Legacy*

- **Reading:** How the first Jesuits became involved in education (article)
 - **Assignment:** Complete unit review eight
 - **Assignment:** Complete online discussion post six

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Each of the eight units is divided into sections, and there are twenty-two sections in total. Over the term, students are expected to do all the required readings and complete the assignments.

Each unit has a short review (between six and eight multiple choice questions) that students must complete before they can move to the next unit. These are not graded.

Students will also be expected to participate in the online discussions, which will touch on issues directly related to the assigned readings.

There are two essays, and students will be provided with the essay topics at the successful completion of Units 1 and 5.

† EVALUATION AND GRADING

Distribution of Marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Unit Reviews	Pass - Fail
Online discussion posts	10%
Essay 1 (4-page short essay)	20%
Essay 2 (7-page long essay)	30%
Final examination	40%

Note on Unit Reviews: You must attain a minimum grade of 70% before you can proceed to the next unit.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Description
A+	95 – 100	Exceptional
A	86 – 94	Excellent
B+	80 – 85	Very good
B	71 – 79	Good
C+	65 – 70	Satisfactory
C	56 – 64	Adequate
D	50 – 55	Marginal
F	Less than 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

ASSIGNMENTS

Unit review: Each unit will conclude with a review, which is designed to ensure that basic learning objectives are met. Students will be required to successfully answer between 6 and 8 multiple-choice questions. These reviews do not affect your final grade, but they help to ensure that you understand the foundational unit material before moving forward.

Online discussion: In the course website, you will be provided with a discussion question while you study Units 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8.

Over the course of the term, you are expected to make a minimum of one post for each of the discussion questions. Everything that you post online should be well written, proofread, and demonstrate that you have thought about the issues and their implications. You should also demonstrate proper “netiquette,” avoiding disrespectful or abusive language and posts.

The students whose post are creative, interesting and thoughtful will receive full-marks for the online discussion.

Your online work is marked cumulatively, and the instructor will determine your grade based on an overall evaluation of all your online writing. This will be worth 10% of your final mark.

4-page short essay: After successful completion of Unit 1, you will be provided with a variety of general essay questions related to the course themes. Using a minimum of five academic sources – such as journal articles, books, or credible newspaper clippings – you will be required to pick one question and write a short essay (double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman, APA format) on the topic consisting of four full pages, not including the Title Page or the Works Cited page.

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you can write an essay, make sense of different academic materials, and come to logical conclusions about a given topic. This short paper will be worth 20% of your final mark and will be due before you move on to Unit 5.

7-page long essay: After successful completion of Unit 5, you will be provided with a variety of general essay questions related to the course themes. Using a minimum of eight academic sources – such as journal articles, books, or credible newspaper clippings – you will be required to pick one question and write a long essay (double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman, APA format) on the topic consisting of seven full pages, not including the Title Page or the Works Cited page.

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you can write a research essay with minimal direction, make sense of different academic materials, develop a thesis and defend it, and come to logical conclusions about the contemporary implications of the topic. This short paper will be worth 30% of your final mark and will be due before you move on to Unit 8.

EXAMINATION

The final exam will be comprised of 60 multiple-choice questions and two long essay questions. Most students will be able to finish the exam within 2 hours.

Material for the final exam will be obtained from the required readings, course notes, and online discussions. The questions will focus on general themes. Students that do the assigned readings, unit reviews, and participate fully in the online discussions generally obtain higher grades than those who do not.

This exam will be worth 40% of your final mark.

Note: The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare an exam location.** The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND EXAMINATION IMPERSONATION

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar*. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

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† DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (DE) STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contact Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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University of Manitoba, Distance and Online Education