

RL ST 25: GLOBAL CATHOLICISM TODAY

Spring 2012 / Girvetz 1115 / MW 9:30-10:45

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Hours: W 1:00-3:00	Hours: T 3:00-5:00

Course Website: <http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>

Course Description: An introduction to Roman Catholicism as a global religion with particular attention to the basic structures, beliefs, and practices of the church as they are envisioned universally in Rome and lived out locally in different parts of the world today.

To understand the church's teachings and practices as they are envisioned universally, we will turn to various Vatican approved texts, such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the liturgy of the Mass, papal encyclicals, and documents produced by particular Vatican congregations [departments].

To appreciate something of the range of viewpoints of Catholics around the world, you will each be part of a regional / national team that will research particular people with different points of view from your part of the world. Every team will have a bishop or archbishop and a mix of others. You will also be expected to monitor a Catholic news source to follow the news as it comes out of Rome and your local area.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course you will have

- Learned some of the key terms and subtle distinctions needed to understand the structure and workings of the Catholic Church as an institution.
- Understand the similarities and differences between official Catholic teaching and the teachings of other Christian traditions
- Understand the distinctive mechanisms that Catholics believe ensure that the Christian truth has been and will continue to be transmitted faithfully from one generation to the next.
- Understand something of the diversity of nationalities, cultures, and perspectives that make up the Church and the diverse ways in which Catholics around the world live out their faith.
- Analyzed and accounted for differences in points of view within the Church.

Readings:

- Textbook: Michael Walsh, *Roman Catholicism: The Basics* (Routledge, 2005) available at the UCEN bookstore.
- Course Reader available from Grafikart, 6550 Pardall Road, Isla Vista (968-3575).
- Gauchospace: You are required to read the WEEK IN REVIEW posts on Gauchospace at <http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu> by class time on Wednesday.

- **Please bring your textbook and the reader with you to class and section.**

Requirements:

- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend class and section unless you have an excused absence. Written documentation is needed for excused absences, and should be turned in within one week of the absence, unless the Health Service is advising otherwise.
- **News of the Week** [see handout for details]: Each of you is responsible for monitoring a general Catholic news source and a news source or sources relevant to your region. Every week (except for week one) you will write a paragraph or two summarizing and analyzing news coverage on your sites and post it to Gauchospace for your classmates to view. (You will also be required to bring a hard copy to section for the TA to review). **Everyone is expected to read what other sections post before class on Wednesday. Some of this material will be incorporated into Wednesday lectures and you will need it to write the short answer questions on the midterm and final.**
- **People and Perspectives** [see handout for details]: Every week (except for week one) you will write a brief paragraph indicating your character's views on, understanding of, and/or relationship to the topic of the week. The paragraphs will be due in class in hardcopy form on Wednesdays. Keep a copy of your paragraphs, as they will form the basis for your final 5-6 page paper analyzing your person's understanding of and/or perspective on what it means to be Catholic.
- **Midterm and Final Exam:** The midterm and final exams will include questions on basic factual information and short essays in which you discuss differences in point of view relative to topics covered. The course will be conducted according to the Academic Standard of Honesty and Responsibility as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. You are encouraged to discuss the course material with others prior to taking exams, but you must take exams on your own. UCSB policy on Academic Integrity is available at: <http://www.judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/FacultyResources.aspx>.

Grading:

- Attendance in class and section = 10%
- Weekly news reports = 10%
- Weekly paragraphs and final paper = 25%
- Midterm = 25%
- Final = 30%

Course Outline and Assignments:

WEEK 1: THE SUPER BASICS

04/02 – Introduction of the Course

04/03 – Section: Introductions, Selection of Reporting Sites

04/04 - The Roman Catholic Church. Reading:

- Walsh, 16-28.
- Go to the *Pew Report on Global Christianity* on the web at <http://www.pewforum.org/Christian/Global-Christianity-worlds-christian-population.aspx>. Read the overview section. Then, using either the interactive maps

or the sortable data tables, find out the following (write it down and bring it to class) about Catholicism in your assigned country:

- Number of Catholics, Christians and people
- Catholics as a percent of total Christians
- Catholics as a percent of total population
- **John Allen**, “The Laws of Christian Thermodynamics,” NCR, Dec. 23, 2011.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 1

TUESDAY: Review the instructions for “News of the Week” and “People and Perspectives.” Explore sites and note those that interest you. Bring your list to your section.

WEDNESDAY: What is the Roman Catholic Church? What place does Catholicism hold in your area of the world? Why?

WEEK 2: BELIEFS, PRACTICES, AND TRADITIONS

04/09 – Catholic beliefs and practices: creeds, sacraments, growth in virtue, and prayer.

Reading:

- Walsh, pp. 1-11.
- Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], Table of Contents
- New Testament [Last Supper], Luke 22:14-23, Mark 14:17-25; [Lord’s Prayer], Matthew 6:5-14.

04/10 -- Sections: Compare and contrast the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

04/11 – Case Study: Creeds. Reading: Young, *The Making of the Creeds*, pp. 1-15.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

MONDAY: How are beliefs and practices related to traditions? What beliefs and practices do most Christians hold in common? Where do they differ?

TUESDAY: Compare the Nicene and Apostles creeds. What features remain constant? What features change?

WEDNESDAY: What is a creed? How and why did they develop?

WEEK 3: SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

04/16 – Catholic sources of authority: The one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

Reading:

- Walsh, pp. 29-49, 114-117.
- Irenaeus, *Against the Heresies*, 3:3.
- Fourth Lateran Council [1215], Canon 1.

04/17 – Section Reading: One, holy, catholic, and apostolic, CCC §866-870.

04/18 – Case Study: Apostolic succession and ordination: alternative views. Reading:

- Rosemary R. Ruether, “Women priests offer differing approaches to valid ordination,” NCR, August 10, 2010. For more information, see: Roman Catholic WomenPriests -- <http://www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org/> and Women-Church Convergence -- <http://www.women-churchconvergence.org/memberorgs.htm>
- South African Bishops Conference, Pastoral Statement on “Ancestor Veneration and Christian Faith,” 11 August 2006.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 3

MONDAY: On what basis do Christian traditions claim that their beliefs and practices faithfully transmit revealed truth?

TUESDAY: Return to CCC §866-870 and review the official Catholic understanding of “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” Discuss the assumptions upon which it rests and what would happen if various assumptions were altered.

WEDNESDAY: What assumptions are the Catholic Woman Priests and African Catholic diviner-healers challenging? Compare the challenges they pose with those made previously.

WEEK 4: PEOPLE AND THEIR ROLES

04/23 – Papal authority, the magisterium (the teaching office), and the problem of dissent.

Reading:

- Walsh, pp. 50-68.
- Avery Dulles, S.J. [later Cardinal Dulles], “*Humanae Vitae* and *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*: Problems of Reception,” in *Church Authority in American Culture* (1999), pp. 14-28, 118- 21, 128-29.

04/24 -- Section: Read selections from the *Majority Report* of the Birth Control Commission and the papal encyclical *Humanae vitae*.

04/25 – Case Study: *Humanae vitae*. Reading:

- Tentler, “*Humanae vitae* and its aftermath,” in *Catholics and Contraception*, 264-79.
- Lombardi, S.J., “Vatican Spokesman’s Statement on Pope’s Remarks about Condoms,” *Origins*, December 2, 2010.
- McClory, “New theology document an eye-opener,” NCR, March 19, 2012.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 4

MONDAY: Who is authorized to decide whether a teaching is in accord with the sources of authority recognized by the tradition?

TUESDAY: Compare the selections from the *Majority Report* of the Birth Control Commission and the papal encyclical *Humanae vitae* focusing on the boxed portions in each of the texts. Who does each document view as the decision maker?

WEDNESDAY: Based on what you have read and what you can find out from your reporting site, consider how *Humanae vitae* is being “received” on the ground in relation to reproduction and the AIDs epidemic. Did the encyclical precipitate a shift in authority within the church, where and to what extent?

WEEK 5: THE VATICAN

04/30 – The Holy See and the Curia

- Reading: Walsh, pp. 82-98.

05/01 - Section: Review for midterm

05/02 - Midterm, chapters 1-3, 5

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 5

MONDAY: How does “the Vatican” decide whether a teaching is in accord with the sources of authority recognized by the tradition?

WEEK 6: STRUCTURES

05/07 – Structures: Parishes, Dioceses, Bishops Conferences and Synods. Reading:

- Walsh, pp. 69-81.
- Komonchak, “Authority and its exercise,” 33-35.

05/08 -- Sections: Compare websites of bishops’ conferences in Latin America, US, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

05/09 – Case Study: Regional Perspectives at [our own] Synod of Bishops

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 6

MONDAY: How are differences in priorities, emphasis, and interpretation negotiated between the Vatican and various regions of the world where Catholicism is practiced? What authority do episcopal conferences and synods have?

TUESDAY: Investigate the website for your national (e.g. Brazilian) and regional (e.g. Latin American) bishops conferences. For a full list, see Wikipedia, s.v., [Episcopal Conferences](#).

WEDNESDAY: What issues are of central concern in for the bishops of your country and for the bishops of your region?

WEEK 7: THE LITURGY

05/14 - The structure of the mass. Reading:

- Walsh, 99-121.
- The Order of Mass - <http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/Mass.htm>
- Eucharistic prayers - <http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/EP.htm>

05/15 - Section: Compare the Eucharistic Prayers (above) and the Eucharistic Prayer from the “Rite Zairois” (in Egbulem, pp. 690-693 [below]).

05/16 – Focus: Inculturation of the Mass in Africa and elsewhere. Reading:

- Nwaka Chris Egbulem, O.P., “Mission and Inculturation: Africa,” in Wainwright and Tucker, *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 7

MONDAY: How is the Mass structured? What portions are fixed and what portions can be changed?

TUESDAY: Compare the standard Eucharistic Prayers from the Roman Rite with that of the Rite Zairois. How do they differ? Look for any evidence of inculturation of the Mass at your reporting sites.

WEDNESDAY: How is the Mass being inculturated in different cultural contexts, e.g. Africa, Asia, Latin America, etc.?

WEEK 8: DEVOTIONAL LIFE

05/21 – Devotion to Mary: Marian apparitions, shrines, and pilgrimages. Reading:

- Walsh, pp. 122-145.
- Roman Catholic Mariology: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Mariology

05/22 -- Section: Marian devotion around the world. Reading:

- Roman Catholic Marian churches:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Marian_churches
 - Marian apparitions: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marian_apparition
- 05/23 – Case Studies: Marian apparitions
- “Judging Alleged Apparitions and Revelations,” *Normae Congregationis* (1978).

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 8

MONDAY: What is the theology behind Catholic devotion to Mary? What guidelines does the Vatican offer regarding Marian devotion?

TUESDAY: Use the Wikipedia articles on Marian churches and apparitions as a gateway into the world of Marian devotion. Where are the world’s most popular pilgrimage sites? What led to the emergence of these sites?

WEDNESDAY: How do church authorities decide if an apparition is authentic or not?

WEEK 9: THE CHURCH IN SOCIETY

05/28 – Memorial Day – No class

05/27 -- Section reading: Wikipedia, s.v. [Catholic sex abuse cases](#) and Roman Catholic sex abuse cases by country. For documentation of US cases, see <http://www.bishop-accountability.org/>

05/28 – Church, Society, and the Sexual Abuse Crisis. Reading:

- Walsh, 146-161.
- Inzunza and Green, “Silence hid evil secret,” *Santa Barbara News Press*, Dec. 1993
- Allen, “Make or break moment on sex abuse,” *NCR*, February 6, 2012

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 9

MONDAY: No class.

TUESDAY: Use the Wikipedia article on the Catholic sex abuse cases as a gateway into the issue. How widespread is the issue of clergy abuse? Has the issue arisen at your site? If so, what form has it taken?

WEDNESDAY: How do the social teachings of the Church (including the idea of the family as microcosm of church in society) challenge societies around the world? How are societal expectations regarding human rights, sexual abuse, transparency, and accountability affecting the Church?

WEEK 10: WRAP UP AND REVIEW

06/04 – Church and Society, con’t; Course evaluations

06/05 -- Section: Review

06/06 – **Final papers due.** Review for final exam.

WEEK 11: FINAL EXAM [covering the whole course with an emphasis on terms and concepts in chapters 4, 6-8]