

RL ST 90CS: GLOBAL CATHOLICISM TODAY

Spring 2011 / Girvetz 2127 / WF 8:00-9:15

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Hours: TH 2:00-4:00	Hours: W 10:00-12:00

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* and the liturgy of the Mass, papal encyclicals, and documents produced by particular Vatican congregations, such as the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

To get a sense of how the Catholics are living out their faith worldwide, we will analyze materials provided in the Course Reader as well as reports that you provide from the field. Each of you will be expected to follow a Catholic news source or blog from a part of the world or perspective that is unfamiliar to you and provide a weekly "news report" from your selected vantage point. Part of your section time will be devoted to compiling your individual news reports into a collective account of the "Catholic news of the week" and considering how the topic we are discussing in lecture is viewed in the part of the world that you are covering.

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: Section submission for WEEK IN REVIEW and GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES will be posted on Gauchospace at <http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>. Additional readings of interest may be posted online as well.
- **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.
- Catholic News and Opinion Exercise: Each of you will be expected to select a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or blog from a part of the world or perspective that is unfamiliar to you (see handout for details), which you will monitor for the ten weeks of the course. Your job is to report on what they are reporting (CATHOLIC WEEK IN REVIEW) and to investigate their perspectives on the topics we will be discussing in class (GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON TOPIC OF THE WEEK). You provide your section with a weekly report from your selected vantage point, and, at least once during the quarter, serve as your section “editor,” compiling, editing, and posting your section’s reports to Gauchospace by Thursday at 5 p.m. **Everyone is expected to read what other sections post before class on Friday. Some of this material will be incorporated into Friday lectures and you will need it to write the short answer questions on the midterm and final.**
- 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 reports = 20%
- Midterm = 30%
- Final = 40%

Course Outline and Assignments:

WEEK 1: THE SUPER BASICS

03/30 – Introduction of the Course

03/31 – Section: Introductions, Selection of Reporting Sites

04/01 - The Roman Catholic Church. Reading: Walsh, 16-28.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 1

THURSDAY: Review the instructions for reporting on Catholic News and Opinion.

Explore sites and select several that interest you. Bring your list to your section.

FRIDAY: What is the Roman Catholic Church?

WEEK 2: BELIEFS, PRACTICES, AND TRADITIONS

04/06 – 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.

04/07 -- Sections: Compare and contrast the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

04/08 – Case Study: Creeds. Reading: Young, *The Making of the Creeds*, pp. 1-15.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

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

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

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

WEEK 3: SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

04/13 – 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.

04/14 – Section Reading: One, holy, catholic, and apostolic, CCC §866-870.

04/15 – Case Study: Apostolic succession: alternative views. Reading:

- Rosemary R. Ruether, “Women priests offer differing approaches to valid ordination,” NCR, August 10, 2010.
- Check out: Roman Catholic WomenPriests -- <http://www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org/> and Women-Church Convergence -- <http://www.women-churchconvergence.org/memberorgs.htm>

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 3

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

THURSDAY: 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.

FRIDAY: What assumptions are the Roman Catholic WomanPriests challenging? Compare the challenge they are posing with those made previously.

WEEK 4: PEOPLE AND THEIR ROLES

04/20 –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.

04/21 -- Section: Read selections from the *Majority Report* of the Birth Control Commission and the papal encyclical *Humanae vitae*.

04/22 – 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.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 4

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

THURSDAY: 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?

FRIDAY: 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

04/27 – The Holy See and the Curia

- Reading: Walsh, pp. 82-98.

Section: Review for midterm

04/29 - Midterm, chapters 1-3, 5

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 5

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

THURSDAY: Review for midterm.

FRIDAY: Midterm exam.

WEEK 6: STRUCTURES

05/04 – Structures: Parishes, Dioceses, Bishops Conferences and Synods. Reading:

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

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

05/06 – Case Study: Regional Perspectives. Readings:

- Fox, “[Asian bishops] Polite toward Rome, true to their mission,” NCR, 1998.

- Allen, “African bishops examine ‘practice of power, authority,’ NCR, Oct. 8, 2009.
- “Final Message of the Special Synod of Bishops for Africa,” *Origins*, Nov. 5, 2009.
- Allen, “Protests against ‘Roman imperialism’ at Middle East synod,” Oct. 12, 2010.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 6

WEDNESDAY: 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?

THURSDAY: Investigate the website for one of the many bishops conferences around the world. Make sure one person from each section reports on the sites listed below and any additional sites you wish. For a full list, see Wikipedia, s.v., [Episcopal Conferences](#).

[Council of European Bishops’ Conferences](#) (CCEE)

[Latin American Episcopal Conference](#) (CELAM)

[Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences](#) (FABC)

[U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (USCCB)

[Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference](#) (SACBC)

FRIDAY: What issues are of central concern in each of these major regions (North and South America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe)? What major differences do you see in terms of the issues that they are facing and in their relationship with the Vatican?

WEEK 7: THE LITURGY

05/11 - 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>

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

05/13 – 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

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

THURSDAY: 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.

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

WEEK 8: DEVOTIONAL LIFE

05/18 – Devotion to Mary: Marian apparitions, shrines, and pilgrimages. Reading:

- Walsh, pp. 122-145.
- Roman Catholic Mariology: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Mariology
- Pineda, “Shrines and Pilgrimages,” *Directory*, 151-62.

05/19 -- 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

05/20 – Case Studies: Selected Marian apparitions and shrines

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 8

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

THURSDAY: 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?

FRIDAY: Why is Marian devotion to Mary such a big deal for Catholics? How might you revise or add to Pineda's commentary on the *Directory* in light of the sites you have explored?

WEEK 9: THE CHURCH IN SOCIETY

05/26 – The social teachings of church: the church in society, the church as society, the church versus society

- Reading: Walsh, 146-161.

05/27 -- Section reading: Wikipedia, s.v. [Catholic sex abuse cases](#)

05/27 -- Required Lecture: Tricia Bruce lecture, "Responding to Abuse in the Catholic Church: The Challenge of Change from Within," at 4 pm, Flying A, UCEN

05/28 – Case Study: Clergy abuse crisis and the rise of *Voice of the Faithful*. Reading:

- Bruce, [Faithful Revolution](#), ch. 3.
- CCC, "Moral Conscience," §1776-1802.

STUDY QUESTIONS: WEEK 9

WEDNESDAY: How do the social teachings of the Church (including the idea as family 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?

THURSDAY: 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?

FRIDAY: How does one know who or what needs to change (or be reformed)?

WEEK 10: WRAP UP AND REVIEW

06/01 -- Presentation of news analysis for each section; Course evaluations

06/02 -- Section: Review

06/03 -- Review

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