

Spring 2015

REL 3563 (01ED) AMERICAN CATHOLICISM

TIME: T 5-6, TH 6
PLACE: WEIL 270
CREDITS: 3 Semester Hours
Fulfills Humanities Gen. Ed and 6 Gordon Rule
INSTRUCTOR: David G. Hackett
Office - 122 Anderson Hall
Office Hours Wednesdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and by appointment
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DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the history of American Catholicism with particular emphasis on: colonial contact; the immigrant church; popular practices; spirituality; social justice; Vatican II; and the contemporary church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) learn about the historical experiences of Catholics in the United States from the colonial era to the present.
- 2) understand some of the diverse ways that Catholics have employed their religious tradition to make sense of the world and their place in it
- 3) learn how to reflect critically on how you arrived at your beliefs and values and bring to consciousness the degree that these might be shaped by outlooks in the various cultures and subcultures in which you participate.
- 4) improve your skills in writing and constructing persuasive arguments

There is substantial assigned reading in this course. To do well, you must complete the assigned readings.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Allan Greer, Mohawk Saint (2005)
James T. Fisher, A Communion of Immigrants (2002)
Robert A. Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem 1880-1950 2nd Edition (2002)
Thomas Merton, Seven Story Mountain: An Autobiography of Faith (1998)
Mark S. Massa, Catholics and American Culture (1999)
Christian Smith et al Young Catholic America (2014)

REQUIREMENTS, EXPECTATIONS, AND RESOURCES:

1) Attendance. Class attendance is required. *If you are absent from more than two classes without a written excuse, your final grade will be reduced one-third of a grade (e.g. B+ to B) for every absence after the first two.* If you arrive late to class or leave early, I reserve the right to mark you absent.

2) Heard on the street (10% of grade). Twice you will be responsible for presenting some contemporary Catholic issue that you have read or heard about and you believe needs some common exploration by the class. *What you are going to discuss, and why you think it is*

*important, should be **emailed to me** prior to class.* You will be assigned your day for completing this task on the first days of class and according to the alphabetical list of class members.

3) In-class presentation (15% of grade). *Three times* you will make a brief, 3 minute presentation (about 2 pages, 600 words, double-spaced) to the class introducing a specific reading or readings. Your presentation should analyze the reading's primary themes and identify any problematic elements in it, and must offer questions to guide reading discussion. *Your presentation is **due to me as an email attachment** by 11:59 p.m. the day before the class meeting in which the reading is discussed.* Late presentations will lose one-third of a grade (e.g. B+ to B). You will be assigned your days for completing this task on the first days of class and according to a reverse alphabetical list of class members.

4) Six reaction papers (75%). You will write six reaction papers in response to class readings and discussions. The second through fifth papers will demonstrate your understanding and evaluation of the current section's readings. The sixth paper will apply what you have learned to your understanding of the contemporary church. Assignment dates, due dates, recommended length, and % of final grade are as follows.

First Paper - *Your Relationship to Catholicism*

Assigned 1/8, Due 1/15 3 pages (900 words) 5% of final grade.

Second Paper - *Catholicism and Native Americans*

Assigned 1/20, Due 1/27 Three pages (900 words) 10% of grade

Third Paper - *Popular Catholicism*

Assigned 2/12, Due 2/26 5 pages (1,500 words) 15% of final grade

Fourth Paper - *Spirituality and Social Justice*

Assigned 3/12, Due 3/26, 5 pages (1,500 words) 15% of final grade

Fifth Paper - *Vatican II*

Assigned 3/26 Due 4/14, 4 pages (1,200 words), 10% of final grade

Sixth Paper – *Final Paper*

Assigned 4/21, Due 5/1 6 pages (1,800 words), 20% of final grade

Late or Make-Up Papers: You may receive an extension on an assignment only in extraordinary circumstances *and* with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down 1/3 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each school day it is late.

Papers will be graded according to the following criteria. An A essay demonstrates not only a factual command of the material but also the ability to construct a coherent and complex argument-driven thesis that is supported by evidence and presented in clear and accurate prose. A B grade will be assigned to essays that possess both an identifiable thesis and adequate factual command, but that lack sufficient detail, or clarity and/or complexity in thinking or writing. Grades in the C range reflect essays that lack a thesis, or that provide minimal detail or evidence, or that exhibit significant writing problems. D grades will be assigned to essays that are clearly inadequate in content, organization, and writing.

The Writing Requirement (Gordon Rule) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. Effective Summer A/C 2009, an additional grading component has been added to successfully complete and receive word credit for courses that meet the university writing requirement (Gordon Rule). Course grades now will have two components. Professors will indicate whether or not students met the writing requirement AND will assign a course grade. Therefore, to receive writing credit students must receive a grade of C or higher AND satisfactory completion of the writing component. It is possible not to meet the writing requirement and still pass the class. Students should review their degree audits after receiving their grades to verify receipt of credit for the writing component.

6) Grading Scale

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale: A 93–100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72 D 60-69; E 0-59.

7) Common Courtesy. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls during class will be asked to leave. You may take notes on a laptop computer or other device, although the instructor reserves the right to ask you to turn off the computer. The instructor also reserves the right to ask any student engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., whispering, reading a newspaper) to leave the class. Repeat violations of these rules will result in dismissal from the class.

8) Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html>. Any student demonstrated to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course will fail the course. In addition, violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code.

9) Accommodation for Disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

10) Counseling Resources available on campus for students:

- a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171
- c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601

11) Software Use. All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

*available within the course reserves tab on course web site

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INTRODUCTION

What do you want to get out of this class? What types of approaches are we going to take when we try to understand the history of Roman Catholicism in the United States? What do we mean when we say “American Catholicism”?

Tuesday 1/6

Orientation. No reading assignment.

Thursday 1/8

Orientation. No reading assignment.

First Paper Assigned: What is your relationship to Catholicism? If you understand yourself as a Catholic, provide an overview of your history. What are your expectations for this course? If you are not Catholic, what is your religious background (if any), and what are your expectations for this course.

Due 1/15 Three pages (900 words) 5% of final grade

I CATHOLICISM AND NATIVE AMERICANS

Tuesday 1/13

Reading: Greer, Mohawk Saint, 3-25, 50-58, 72-88

Thursday 1/15

Reading: Greer, Mohawk Saint, 102-110, 111-146

First Paper Due

Tuesday 1/20

Reading: Greer, Mohawk Saint, 147-205

Second Paper Assigned: In Mohawk Saint, what was the relationship between the Jesuit priests' understanding of Catholicism and the ways in which this Catholicism was understood by the Native Americans?

Due 1/27 Three pages (900 words) 10% of grade

II CATHOLICS IN THE COLONIAL WORLD

Thursday 1/22

Reading: Fisher, A Communion of Immigrants, 1-42

III THE IMMIGRANT CHURCH

Tuesday 1/27

Film: *Out of Ireland*

Reading: Fisher, A Communion of Immigrants, 43-92
Second Paper Due

Thursday 1/29

Reading: Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street, 1-49

Tuesday 2/3

Reading: Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street, 50-162

Thursday 2/5

Reading: Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street, 163-218

Tuesday 2/10

Reading: Orsi, The Madonna of 115th Street, 219-231

**Reading: Orsi, "Mildred is it Fun to be a Cripple?"

The Culture of Suffering in Mid-Twentieth Century American Catholicism"

Third Paper Assigned: Popular Catholicism

Due 2/24 5 pages (1,500 words), 15% of final grade

IV SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thursday 2/12

Reading: Fisher, A Communion of Saints, 92-113

Tuesday 2/17

A. Spirituality

Film: *Merton: A Film Biography*

Reading: Merton, Seven Story Mountain, 3-74

Thursday 2/19

Reading: Merton, , Seven Story Mountain, 75-184

Tuesday 2/24

Reading: Merton, Seven Story Mountain, 185-282

Thursday 2/26

Reading: Merton, Seven Story Mountain, 283-462

Reading: Massa, "Young Man Merton" in Catholics and American Culture, 38-56

Third Paper Due

Spring Break

B. Social Justice

Tuesday 3/10

Film: "Don't Call Me a Saint"

**Reading:

Robert Ellsburg, ed. "Introduction" and "Therese" in *Dorothy Day: Selected Writings*

Thursday 3/12

Reading: Massa, "The Downward Path" in Catholics and American Culture, 102-127.

**Video excerpts of Dorothy Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZOOWZTaFNA>

Fourth Paper Assigned: Spirituality and Social Justice

Due 3/31, 5 pages (1,500 words) 15% of final grade

V VATICAN II

A. Fifties Catholicism

Tuesday 3/17

Reading: Fisher, Communion of Immigrants, 114-136

Reading: Massa, "Oh the Irony of it All" in Catholics and American Culture, 1-10

Film: *Going My Way*

**Andrew Greeley, "The Catholic Imagination of Bruce Springsteen,"

http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11047

Thursday 3/19

Reading: Massa, "Life is Worth Living" in Catholics and American Culture, 82-101

Fulton Sheed Video Excerpts in Class

Reading: Massa, "A Catholic for President" in Catholics and American Culture, 128-137

**Video: John F. Kennedy, "Address to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association,"

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/johnfkennedyhoustonministerialspeech.html>

B. The Second Vatican Council

1. Overview

Tuesday 3/24

Reading: Fisher, A Communion of Immigrants, 137-165

Reading: ** *Gaudium et Spes* summary

http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/resources/summary/summary_gaudium.htm

Thursday 3/26

2. The Laity

Reading: Mark Massa, "Into Uncertain Life" in Catholics and American Culture, 148-171

3. Birth Control

Reading: *Leslie Tentler, "The Church's First Duty is Charity" from Catholics and Contraception: An American History, 264-279.

Fourth Paper Due

Fifth Paper Assigned: Vatican II

Due 4/7 pages, (1,200 words), 10% of final grade

VI THE CHURCH TODAY

A. Latino Catholicism

Tuesday 3/31

Reading: **Matovina and Riebe-Estrella, eds. "Introduction" pp. 1-16 in Horizons of the Sacred

Reading: **Roberto S. Goizueto, "The Symbolic World of Mexican American Religion" pp. 119-138 in Horizons of the Sacred

Reading: **Robert Orsi, thoughts on Vatican II in "Have You Ever Prayed to St. Jude?: Reflections on Fieldwork in Catholic Chicago" 152-157.

Thursday 4/2

Reading: **Matovina, "Epilogue: Transformations in America's Largest Church" pp. 245-250 in his Latino Catholicism

Reading: **Richard Rodriguez, "Credo" pp. 77-110 from his Hunger for Memory

Reading: **Pew Forum, "The Shifting Religious Identities of Latinos in the United States" <http://www.pewforum.org/2014/05/07/the-shifting-religious-identity-of-latinos-in-the-united-states/>

B. The Sex Abuse Scandal

Tuesday 4/7

View on UTube PBS Frontline Documentary *The Silence*

Thursday 4/9

Reading: *John McGreevy, "A Consistent Ethic and Sexual Abuse," in his Catholicism and American Freedom, 282-295.

C. Young Catholics Today

Tuesday 4/14

Reading: Smith, Young Catholic America 1-88

Fifth Paper Due

Sixth Paper Assigned: Final Paper

Due 5/1, 6 pages (1,800), 20% of final grade

Thursday 4/16

Reading: Smith, Young Catholic America 89-200

Tuesday 4/21

Reading: Smith, Young Catholic America 201-274

Sixth Paper Due at noon on Friday, May 1st