

✧ THEO-249 ✧
**Studies in Theology and History:
THE EUROPEAN CHURCH**

Professor: Melanie Grace Mitchell, M.Div., Lic.
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Office: Social Sciences, 2nd floor, PAH
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30-12:00

MTWR 13:00-14:50, PRH 2
Semester: Summer I 2009
Core requirement: 3 Credits
Prerequisites: THEO-100

Course description:

Christendom, which lasted for over a thousand years in Western Europe, has experienced a marked decline over the last two centuries. This course will explore the rapidly evolving religious situation of Europe, including various theories as to why the sociological and philosophical currents of the last few centuries have transformed the religious and social order. It will also touch upon both the impact of the reverse evangelization taking place as immigrants from the growing churches of the southern hemisphere integrate into European society and the encounter between the churches and the other religions of Europe today. Through the individual research component, students will have the opportunity to explore a theme of particular interest and to share their findings with the class in a final presentation.

Course objectives:

- To explore the evolution of religion in modern and postmodern Europe.
 - To introduce various theories of religious transformation.
 - To reflect theologically on the European context and the future of Christianity.
 - Individual objectives: _____
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Required texts:

McLeod, Hugh, *Religion and the People of Western Europe 1789-1989*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997).

Various articles (to be distributed or available on-line)

Supplementary Resources:

- Theology section in SLU Library, including:
 - *Arts, entertainment & Christian values*, Jerry Solomon, ed.
 - Barnes, Michael Horace, *In the presence of mystery*.
 - Bokenkotter, Thomas, *A Concise History of the Catholic Church*.
 - Carroll, James, *Constantine's sword: the church and the Jews: a history*.
 - Christian, William A., *Apparitions in late Medieval and Renaissance Spain*.
 - Comby, Jean, *How to Read Church History*.
 - *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe, 1750-2000*, McLeod and Ustorf, ed.s.
 - *Enduring issues in religion: opposing viewpoints*, John Lyden, ed.
 - González, Justo, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol.s I-II.
 - Harrelson, Walter and Falk, Randall M., *Jews & Christians: a troubled family*.
 - Harvey, Van A., *A Handbook of Theological Terms*.
 - *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (far more up-to-date than the on-line version)
 - Polkinghorne, John, *Belief in God in an age of science*.
 - Ruderman, David B., *Jewish thought and scientific discovery in early modern Europe*.
 - Toibin, Colm, *The Sign of the Cross: Travels in Catholic Europe*.
 - Turner, Victor and Edith, *Image and pilgrimage in Christian culture*.
- Periodicals available in the library: *America*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *The Economist*, etc.

Required work:

- Regular, punctual class attendance and preparation for class by doing the assigned readings and participating in class discussions
- Current event presentation (CEP) (10 minutes with class discussion) Date: _____
 - a. Choose an article from the newspaper, a magazine, or the Web that is related to our subject. Turn in a copy of the article to the professor.
 - b. Present the article in your own words, explain its relevance to our class, give a bit of your own analysis, and propose question or two to generate class discussion.
- Two 1-2 page assignments: an interview (Due on Monday, May 25) and a report on a visit to a religious celebration (Due on Monday, June 1), both of which are to be typed, single-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font and calculated as part of student's class participation grade.
- Midterm examination: Thursday, June 4.
- Research paper: 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, TNR font. Due on Wednesday, June 10.
- Presentation of research: Date: _____.
- Final examination: Friday, June 19.

Policy on late-work:

- Pay close attention to the syllabus in order to not miss any deadlines.
- For every day an assignment is late, five points will be subtracted from the grade.
- If you are to present in class and are unable to do so, you are responsible for switching dates with a classmate and informing the professor of the change.
- If you are unable to attend class, you may turn in any assignments in my box in the bookstore, entrust them to a classmate, or send them to me electronically.
- Examinations can only be rescheduled in strict accordance with university policy.

Attendance policy:

Class attendance and participation are important to the learning process. It is always advisable to inform the professor when one is to be absent and essential to arrange with classmates to recover any material missed. More than three unexcused absences will affect one's grade.

Grading policy:

The final grade is intended to reflect the student's fulfillment of the course requirements, engagement with and comprehension of material studied, and ability to reflect this comprehension and engagement in the class assignments. The final grade will be determined in the following manner:

Current event presentation:	5 %	Research paper:	20 %
Class participation grade:	15 %	Presentation of research:	20 %
Midterm examination:	20%	Final examination:	20%

Academic integrity:

"The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution (...) As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates (...) not only the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students (...) Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions (...)"

--*The Undergraduate Catalog 2003-2005*, Saint Louis University, p56.

Monday, May 18: Introduction to class and participants. The origins of the Church and the establishment of Christendom. Sign up for Current Event Presentations (CEPs)

Tuesday, May 19: CEP. Christendom and its Decline.

Read: McLeod, Hugh, "Introduction," *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe*, 1-26.

Wednesday, May 20: CEP. Christendom and its Decline, cont'd... Discussion of McLeod article.

Assignment: Interview a European of your acquaintance about the Church in Europe today in light of his or her experience. Due: Monday, May 25.

Last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/or to add a class

Thursday, May 21: CEP. Christendom fractured: the Protestant Reformation.

Assignment: Attend a local religious celebration and write a report on what you witness there, in light of the themes we have discussed thus far. **Due:** Monday June 1.

Monday, May 25: CEP. Guest Lecturer Carmen Marquez Beunza. Europe and the US: a comparative sociological perspective.

Read: McLeod, 1-21.

Due: Interview

Tuesday, May 26: CEP. Christendom attacked: The French Revolution.

Last day to choose audit (AU) or pass/no pass (P/NP) options

Wednesday, May 27: CEP. The case of France, cont'd: revolution, death, and technology.

Read: McLeod, 22-35.

Thursday, May 28: CEP. Social Cleavage: class, gender and religion.

Read: McLeod, 36-53.

(Friday, May 29: Recommended day trip to El Escorial and El Valle de los Caídos. Sign up with Student Life. The \$25 fee includes transportation, guided visit and entrance fees.)

Monday, June 1: CEP. Three Kinds of Religion: sectarianism, humanism, and Ultramontane Catholicism.

Read: McLeod, 54-74. Lagrée, Michael, "The impact of technology on Catholicism in France," *The Decline of Christendom*, 163-183.

Due: Local religious celebration visit report.

Tuesday, June 2: The Countryside: rural religion. Class will meet at El Museo de los Origenes en la Casa de San Isidro (Plaza de San Andres, 2. Metro La Latina or Tirso de Molina)

Read: McLeod, 75-97; Toibin, Colm, "Blood in the Sand," *The Sign of the Cross*, 38-53.

Wednesday, June 3: CEP. Urbanization: religion and the Industrial Revolution. Midterm Review.

Thursday, June 4: MIDTERM EXAMINATION. The case of Germany. Presentation by student Anne Bräckelmann on social justice, RAF terrorists and the Church's response.

Read: McLeod, 98-117.

Monday, June 8: CEP. The Urban Middle Class: Is God "dead?"

Read: McLeod, 118-131.

Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W.

Tuesday, June 9: CEP. The Working Class: proletarian sectarianism and secularization
Read: McLeod, 132-154.

Wednesday, June 10: CEP. Fragmentation: the post-World War II era.

Read: Lambert, Yves, "New Christianity, indifference and diffused spirituality," *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe*, 63-78. Jenkins, Phillip, "The Christian Revolution," and "The Rise of New Christianity," Ibid. *The New Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, 1-14, 79-105.

Due: Research paper.

Thursday, June 11: Corpus Christi Holiday

Monday, June 15: CEP. The Evolution of Religion in Europe and the shift of Christendom.

Tuesday, June 16: Research presentations.

Wednesday, June 17: Research presentations.

Thursday, June 18: Research presentations.

Friday, June 19: FINAL EXAMINATION, 12:00-15:00.