

✘ THEO-349-M01 ✘
**Advanced Theology and History:
THE EUROPEAN CHURCH**

The faith is Europe and Europe is the faith.
(Hilaire Belloc 1870-1953).

*As I travel, I have observed a pattern, a strange historical phenomenon of God "moving"
geographically from the Middle East, to Europe to North America to the developing world.
My theory is this: God goes where he's wanted.*
(Philip Yancey 1949-)

*The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age,
especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes,
the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise
an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community composed of men and women. United in Christ,
they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of their Father and they have
welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every human being. That is why this
community realizes that it is truly linked with humankind and its history by the deepest of bonds.*
(Pope Paul VI, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes* 1)

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Office: PAH 2nd floor, Humanities Division
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:45-11:45

MTWR 12:00-13:50, PRH 2
Semester: Summer I 2011
Core requirement: 3 Credits
Prerequisites: THEO-100, one 200 level course

Course description:

Christendom, which lasted for over a thousand years in Western Europe, has experienced a marked decline over the last two centuries. Should we mourn or should we celebrate? 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 in a final presentation.

Learning objectives: This course is designed to attend to the Five Dimensions of Saint Louis University's Mission:

1. Scholarship and Knowledge: Upon completion of this course, students...
 - a. ...will have a basic understanding of the evolution of religion in modern and postmodern Europe.
 - b. ...will be familiar with various theories of religious transformation.
2. Intellectual Inquiry and Communication: Upon completion of this course, students...
 - a. ...will be able to reflect theologically on a specific historic context.

- b. ...will be able to apply the knowledge and tools they have acquired to understanding the past, present and future of religion in other contexts.
3. Community Building: Upon completion of this course, students...
 - a. ...will have acquired tools for seeing and thinking about the world in theological terms.
 - b. ...will be well-practiced in the ability to express their convictions and the capacity to listen to others.
4. Leadership and Service: In their current and future leadership roles, students...
 - a. ...will benefit from the knowledge of religion they will acquire in this course, as faith is a vital dimension of the lives of the majority of the world's population.
 - b. ...will know more about how to live, interact and lead peacefully and constructively within increasingly multicultural societies.
5. Spirituality and Values: Over the course of the semester, students...
 - a. ... will develop an appreciation for the myriad ways in which people live out their spiritualities.
 - b. ... will explore the ideals which Christianity has contributed to European society and the ways in which nations are today seeking to universalize these and other values to unite increasingly diverse populations.

Students are also encouraged to formulate their own objectives for this course:

Required texts:

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

Various articles and Catholic encyclicals (On reserve in the library 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*.
 - *Christian Belief in a Postmodern World: The Full Wealth of Conviction*, Diogenes Allen, Ed.
 - 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*.
 - Jenkins, Philip, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*.
 - Kepel, Gilles, *The Revenge of God: the resurgence of Islam, Christianity and Judaism in the modern world*.
 - 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*.

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) My 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.
- Three two-page assignments: an interview (Due on Monday, May 23) and two reports on a visits to religious celebrations (Due on Monday, May 30 and Monday, June 6), 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.
- Research paper: 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced, TNR font: Due on Thursday, June 9.
- Research paper presentation on June 15 or 16. My date: _____
- Weekly Quizzes (not to be made-up under any circumstances)
- Optional final cumulative examination (for students who have missed any quizzes or need to raise their grade): Friday, June 17, 12-15:00

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:	10 %	Research paper:	30 %
Class participation grade:	15 %	Research paper presentation:	20 %
Quizzes:	25 %	(Final examination—optional:	25 %)

Grade scale:

A	94-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72		
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-69		

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 informing your professor and switching dates before the class time.
- If you are unable to attend class, you may send assignments to the professor by e-mail, entrust them to a classmate, or leave them in your professor's box in the mailroom (PRH basement).
- Examinations can only be rescheduled in strict accordance with university policy.

Academic integrity:

Please note that as a student in this course, you are required to adhere to the university's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating, falsification, and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Plagiarism is the intentional representation of someone else's thoughts or words as if they were one's own. Any violation of this policy will result in an 'F' for the pertinent academic exercise. A detailed statement of the policy may be found at:
[http://spain.slu.edu/academics/policies & procedures/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf](http://spain.slu.edu/academics/policies_and_procedures/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf).

Accommodations: Any student who qualifies for special accommodations due to a learning disability or physical handicap should contact Counseling/Disability Services. Please phone the office at 91-554- 5858 (ext. 230), or send an e-mail to vandrew1@slu.edu. Students may also stop by the Counseling/ Disability Services office in the Manresa building. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.



Monday, May 16: Introduction to class and participants. The origins of the Church and the establishment of Christendom.

Tuesday, May 17: Christendom and its Decline. Sign up for Current Event Presentations (CEP).
Read: McLeod, Hugh, "Introduction," *The Decline of Christendom in Western Europe*, 1-26.

Wednesday, May 18: Christendom and its Decline, cont'd... CEP
Assignment: Interview a European of your acquaintance about the Church in Europe today, in light of his or her experience. Due on Monday, May 23.
Last day to drop a class without a grade of W and/or to add a class

Thursday, May 19: Christendom fractured: the Protestant Reformation. **Quiz.**
Assignment: Research paper topic worksheet, due Thursday, May 26.

Monday, May 23: The Protestant Reformation, cont'd... (Film)
Read: McLeod, 1-21.
Due: Interview

Tuesday, May 24: Christendom attacked: The French Revolution. CEP
Read: Lagrée, Michael, "The impact of technology on Catholicism in France," *The Decline of Christendom*, 163-183.
Last day to choose audit (AU) or pass/no pass (P/NP) options

Wednesday, May 25: The case of France, cont'd: revolution, death, and technology. CEP
Read: McLeod, 22-35.

Thursday, May 26: Social Cleavage: class, gender and religion. **Quiz.**
Assignment: Attend a local place of worship or religious celebration and write a report on what you witness there, in light of the themes we have discussed thus far. Due on Monday, June 6.
Due: Research paper topic worksheet

Monday, May 30: Social Cleavage, continued... CEP

Read: McLeod, 36-53. Pope Pius IX, *The Syllabus of Errors* (1864)
<http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius09/p9syll.htm>

Due: Report on visit to place of worship.

Tuesday, May 31: Three Kinds of Religion: sectarianism, humanism, and Ultramontane Catholicism. CEP

Read Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (1891)

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/leo_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum_en.html

Wednesday, June 1: Three Kinds of Religion, continued... CEP

Read: McLeod, 54-74.

Thursday, June 2: The Countryside: rural religion. **Quiz.**

Remember: Worship visit report due on Monday, June 6.

Monday, June 6: The Church in Spain. CEP

Read: McLeod, 75-97.

Due: Report on visit to place of worship.

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

Tuesday, June 7: Urbanization: religion and the Industrial Revolution. CEP

Read: McLeod, 98-117.

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

Read: McLeod, 118-131.

Thursday, June 9: The Working Class: proletarian sectarianism and secularization. **Quiz**

Read: McLeod, 132-154.

Due: Research papers

Monday, June 13: Fragmentation: the post-World War II era. CEP

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," *The Next Christendom: The Coming of*

Global Christianity, 1-14, 79-105 (on reserve).

Tuesday, June 14: The Evolution of Religion in Europe and the shift of Christendom. CEP

Wednesday, June 15: Research paper presentations

Thursday, June 16: Research paper presentations.

Friday, June 17: Quiz: 12-12:30 or Final Examination: 12:45-14:45.