

The Church and the Modern World
THEO 276 (Graduate Seminar)

Marquette University

Instructor: P. Misner (paul.misner@marquette.edu)

Course Description

CONTEXT: Modern Catholicism from roughly the Enlightenment or French Revolution to Vatican II. Its focus will not be so much on the history of Catholic academic theology and *its* controversies (for that we offer THEO 277), but the area of relations between the RC Church and a European society in the grip of secularization. The chief narrower focus will be on "social Catholicism"—confronting issues of economic justice and integration in a class society, while steering clear of the shoals of laissez-faire or “liberal” capitalism and Marxist socialism—and Catholic social teaching from *Rerum Novarum* of 1891 to *Gaudium et Spes* of the Second Vatican Council. Another way of putting it is how the Catholic tradition modernized its relations to society in the face of a strange and quite hostile new world. The course provides pertinent background for social ethics and for contemporary “religion and society.”

FORMAT: This is not a survey course, but a seminar. It presupposes at least a willingness to delve energetically into the political and social history of modern Europe. Initial common readings and the instructor's Social Catholicism will be accompanied by early discussions led by professor or launched by student reports.

ASSIGNMENTS: short reports (discussion starters for common readings and reports on special topics), followed in due course by full seminar presentations with pre-distributed papers and discussion by the students. Participation encouraged and essential.

Scope will be given for use of any European languages in which Catholics wrote. Rather extensive use of at least French or German (or Latin, Italian, Spanish or Dutch) will be expected.

TEXTS: Only Rémond 1999 is specially ordered for this course at the bookstore: René Rémond, Religion and Society in Modern Europe (Blackwell 1999).

Required common reading will include Misner, Social Catholicism in Europe (Crossroad, 1991; for the period up to World War I), plus ms chapters of a second volume written since. My material and “Modernity and the Construction of Roman Catholicism” (a virtually unpublished essay of 1991 by Joseph Komonchak) is available, the book from me and the ms material in the department office bin (for copying).

The papal encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno* are readily accessible in, e.g., Proclaiming Justice and Peace: Papal Documents from Rerum Novarum to Centesimus Annus, ed. Michael Walsh (Twenty-Third, 1991), or in Memorial Library in two copies of Claudia Carlen’s collection (BX 860 .C37 1981), one on the Reference shelves (again,

for photocopying if necessary).

Recommended: other magisterial documents of Catholic Social Teaching.

Cf. inter alia The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought, ed. Judith A. Dwyer (Liturgical Press, 1994) (REF BX 1753 .N497 1994)

For church-historical context: Roger Aubert, The Church in a Secularised Society (Paulist 1978).

José Casanova, Public Religions in the Modern World (U. of Chicago Press 1994).

Catholicism and Liberalism: Contributions to American Public Philosophy, eds. R. Bruce Douglas and David Hollenbach (Cambridge UP 1994).

Owen Chadwick, The Secularization of the European Mind in the Nineteenth Century (Cambridge UP 1975).

Michael J. Schuck, That They Be One: The Social Teaching of the Papal Encyclicals (Georgetown 1991).