

**Roman Catholic Theology Since the French Revolution**  
THEO 277/1001 (Graduate Seminar)

Marquette University

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### Course Description

Early on, the course will focus on "contrasting French and German responses to the new order resulting from the Revolution and Napoleonic rule" (as stated in the Graduate School Bulletin); thereafter on "Neo-Scholasticism and alternative theological proposals from the middle of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century."

In fact I plan to start with a quick peek at how the story turned out: Vatican II, preceded by the *Nouvelle Théologie* crisis of the 1950s. Then we'll go back to the beginning of the period with "Traditionalist" new beginnings in France and Italy and J. S. Drey and the Catholic Tübingen School in Germany.

Since the cycle course, THEO 255, gives such prominence to German Protestant theology of the nineteenth century, this is the course where modern Catholic developments in systematic theology get their due. The rise of Ultramontanism and Vatican I, systematized largely according to the structures of philosophical neo-Thomism in the neo-scholastic revival of ca. 1850-1950, dominates the scene. But approaches fed more from the retrieval of patristic and biblical sources, as well as the influence of modern philosophical streams, provide the alternatives and eventually achieve the historicization of Thomism itself. Considered are thinkers such as Rosmini, Möhler, and Newman; the Roman School with Franzelin, Kleutgen, Liberatore, and Billot; Blondel, Loisy, and Tyrrell; Rousselot, Maréchal, Chenu; with perhaps a look at nearly contemporary shapers of Vatican II like Rahner, Congar, de Lubac.

An excellent course for anyone wishing to claim competence in "Catholic theology" or modern Catholic thought.

**FORMAT:** Some lecturing, discussion of texts read in common, seminar reports and discussion.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Reports will be assigned; paper topics will be worked out early in the semester and used for one or more seminar presentations.

**TEXTS:** (some out of print and on Reserve): Joseph Fitzner, ed., Romance and the Rock: Nineteenth-Century Catholics on Faith and Reason (Fortress pb).

Gerald A. McCool, SJ, Nineteenth-Century Scholasticism: The Search for a Unitary Method (Fordham UP pb).

McCool, From Unity to Pluralism: The Internal Evolution of Thomism (ditto).

McCool, The Neo-Thomists (Marquette UP pb).

T. M. Schoof, Survey of Catholic Theology 1800-1970.

George Tyrrell (ed. by James C. Livingston), Tradition and the Critical Spirit: Catholic Modernist Writings (Fortress pb).

Recommended only:

Darrell Jodock (ed.), Catholicism Contending with Modernity: Roman Catholic Modernism and Anti-Modernism in Historical Context (Cambridge UP, 2000).

J. S. Drey, Brief Introduction to the Study of Theology (ed. Michael J. Himes; UNDP 1994).

LANGUAGE PRE-REQUISITES: Use of French and/or German is expected, appropriate to each student's stage of development. (Everybody can do some in both of these languages, at least in bibliographical retrieval.) Latin, Italian etc. can be exploited as well.