

- THE CHURCH -



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Office: Lechner #218

Office Hours: M-F 11:00-12:00 and 1:00-2:00

(Appointments highly recommended)

Fall 2014: MWF: 9:00-9:50 (S226)

PURPOSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The opening section of Vatican II's *Lumen Gentium* says that "the church, in Christ, is a sacrament—a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and the unity of the entire human race." This class will be spent unpacking, and clarifying exactly what this means. We will study the nature and mission of the church through a variety of avenues: biblical examination, theological exploration, historical investigation, and personal reflection. Texts from the Bible, Vatican II, Saint John Paul II, and Avery Cardinal Dulles (among others) will be read. By the end of the semester, students will be able to articulate the central points of Catholicism's theology of the church (ecclesiology). Students also will develop a variety of skills: the ability to perform sophisticated textual analysis, critical and analytical thinking, the art of public speaking, the ability to write cogently and precisely, the craft of persuasively making an argument, and the skill of speaking extemporaneously in an articulate fashion, to name only a few.

FORMAT OF THE CLASS:

- The class will begin with a review of the previous lesson: the best way to learn something is by repetition.
- Classes will consist of lectures, close reading of primary texts, discussions, and (occasionally) videos.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

- Dulles, Avery. *The Resilient Church: The Necessity and Limits of Adaptation*. Doubleday and Company: Garden City, 1977. (ISBN: 0385116101).
- Dulles, Avery. *The Reshaping of Catholicism: Current Challenges in the Theology of Church*. Harper and Row: San Francisco, 1988. (ISBN: 0062548565).
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church. Expanded Edition*. Image Books: New York, 1991. (ISBN: 03851336850).
- Harrington, Daniel. *The Church According to the New Testament: What the Wisdom and Witness of Early Christianity Teach Us Today*. Sheed and Ward: New York, 2001. (ISBN: 1580511112).
- Kinnaman, David. *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith*. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, 2011. (ISBN: 0801013143).
- A variety of other primary source material will also be used. This material will be found on the LibGuide. The password to access the LibGuide: theology

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Attendance:** Students may miss up to four classes for the semester. After that, the student will lose 50 points (9%). A student is counted present only when the student signs the attendance sheet at the beginning of the class. Athletes should determine how many classes will be missed due to travel games. The athlete needs to decide for him/herself at the beginning of the semester if the attendance grade will be able to be earned.
- **Short Reflections (SR).** At the end of each unit, students will write a 1-2 page reflection on the text addressing something that you learned, something that puzzled you, if (and why) you agree or disagree with the text, and new questions that were raised because of the text.
- **Midterm and final exams.** Make sure your travel plans do not conflict with the course. You may not take the exams at any time other than when Brescia has specified.
- **A six-to-eight page paper.** There are several paper options:

Option 1: Three of the documents from Vatican II (*Lumen Gentium*, *Unitatis Redintegratio* and *Nostra Aetate*) discuss how other Christian groups (Orthodox and Protestants), other religions (Judaism, Buddhism, etc.), and individuals who never heard of Jesus are understood by Catholicism—especially on the question of salvation. Make an argument if you think that what the Church is saying is inclusive or exclusive. Are you comfortable with these documents? If you were to rewrite these documents, what would you say differently?

Option 2: Choose one of the topics from Dulles (i.e. the issue dealing with closed or open communion) and make an argument for, or against, the issue (i.e. you believe Catholicism should or should not have open communion).

Option 3: *You Lost Me* offers many answers addressing how Christianity could appeal to young adults. Because this book was not written by a Catholic, there are no uniquely Catholic answers given. How can the Catholic Church “read the signs of the times” and speak to young adults today?

Option 4: There are many other ecclesiological issues that we have not covered this semester. Choose one from outside of our syllabus (i.e. women’s ordination) and research it. Imitating the style of Avery Dulles, what are the arguments for and against this issue? What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of both sides? Which side of the issue do you support?

Option 5: If a student has a unique skill set (i.e. knows how to make a documentary movie) and would like to employ this skill, the student may speak with the teacher by week 11 about how it may be used in this class.

Style: The student will use: Times New Roman; 12 point font; double spacing; 1 inch margins.

Paper Submission Policy: The paper will be submitted to the teacher two different ways: (1) a hard copy will be given to the professor on the last day of class; (2) students will submit an electronic copy to Turnitin.com.

- **Paper Presentation.** At the end of the semester, students will make an oral presentation of the paper project to the entire class.

Grade Distribution:

- Attendance: 50 pts
- Short Reflections: 70 pts
- Midterm: 100 pts
- Final: 100 pts
- Paper: 100 pts
- Paper Presentation: 100 pts

Grading Scale:

Grade	Meaning	Equivalent
A	Excellent	100-92
A-		91-90
B+		89-87
B	Good	86-82
B-		81-80
C+		79-77
C	Satisfactory	76-72
C-		71-70
D	Lowest Passing	69-60
F	Failing	59-0

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:

- If the student chooses to come to class, he or she must not be tardy, as arriving late is distracting to the instructor, disruptive to colleagues, and it is disrespectful. If the student is late, the student should sit in the row closest to the door so as to cause as little disturbance as possible.
- Students may submit assignments before the deadline. However, if a student turns in work after the deadline, 20% will be deducted from the grade. The sole exception to this policy is if the teacher hears from the Dean of Students due to a case of extreme emergency.
- Students must do all of the reading for the week and *bring* all of the texts that are assigned for the week to class. Students may read texts off of a computer or tablet but may not do so with a telephone.
- There is to be no texting, emailing, or instant messaging during class.
- Students may not sleep in the class.
- Students must regularly check their Brescia email account as I will be emailing important information to it.
- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a documented disability and may need accommodations to participate fully in this course, please contact Dr. Dolores Kiesler (Office 254 on the second floor of the Administration Building.) All academic accommodations must be approved through her office. Please stop by or call 270-686-4259 to make an appointment.
- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT POLICY:** There is to be absolutely no plagiarism in this class. If a student is caught, he or she will be reported to the University and will fail the course.

Plagiarism policy found on p. 44 of the Brescia *Catalog*:

An instructor who becomes aware of an act of deliberate academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, should report the student(s) involved to the Academic Dean and describe the disciplinary action proposed. (Note: Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's ideas, work, or words as one's own, without properly documenting and crediting the original source.) Purchasing or copying another's work and using it as one's own, cheating on tests, refusing to do one's share of group work for which all will receive the same grade, and not doing one's own homework are other examples of academic dishonesty.

- This class fulfills the major requirement for the Theology major and is a GER approved course.

SKILLS

- **Thinking:** Through the close reading of primary texts and writing term paper, students will demonstrate the skill of applying logic, reason from hypothesis to conclusion, identify core issues, and evaluate judgments of the arguments of the authors read in class.
- **Research:** Through the term paper required by all students, they will demonstrate their skill of observing, investigating and analyzing information from disparate sources.
- **Communication:** Through the quizzes, midterm, final, and term paper, students will demonstrate their skill of articulating their understanding and discernment of what they have read.

- Creativity: Through the choice of the paper option, students will be able to employ and demonstrate their creativity to perceive the world from different viewpoints.

VALUES

- Global Welfare: Through our readings of Church documents that discuss economics students will have an understanding of the Church's thoughts.
- Human Welfare: The students will learn how Catholicism's understanding of the Church translates into human flourishing.
- Personal Welfare: This course is designed to aid students in their continual intellectual development and spiritual growth by reading the Church's teachings on what it means to be part of the Catholic Church.

KNOWLEDGE

- Religion and Philosophy: Students will read Church documents and be immersed in Catholicism's understanding of ecclesiology.

SCHEDULE FOR THE SEMESTER

Introduction to Ecclesiology and the Ecclesiology of the New Testament:

Fri. Aug. 22: Richard McBrien. *The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism*. Part I "The Content and Scope of Ecclesiology." (Handout).

Mon. Aug. 25: Daniel Harrington. *The Church According to the New Testament: What the Wisdom and Witness of Early Christianity Teach Us Today*. Chapters 1 and 2.

Wed. Aug. 27: Harrington, chapters 4 and 5.

Fri. Aug. 29: Harrington, chapters 6 and 7.

Mon. Sep. 1: NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)

Wed. Sep. 3: Harrington, chapters 8 and 9.

Fri. Sep. 5: Harrington, chapters 10 and 11.

Mon. Sep. 8: Harrington, chapter 12.

Ecclesiology and the Eucharist:

Wed. Sep. 10: (SR Due). Saint John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, introduction and chapters 1 and 2. (LibGuide).

Fri. Sep. 12: Saint John Paul II, chapters 3, 4, and 5. (LibGuide).

Mon. Sep. 15: Saint John Paul II, chapter 6 and conclusion. (LibGuide).

Ecclesiology of Vatican II:

Wed. Sep. 17: (SR Due). *Lumen Gentium*, chapters 1, 2, and 3. (LibGuide).

Fri. Sep. 19: *Lumen Gentium*, chapters 4, 5, and 6. (LibGuide).

Mon. Sep. 22: *Lumen Gentium*, chapters 7 and 8. (LibGuide).

Wed. Sep. 24: *Unitatis Redintegratio* and *Nostra Aetate*. (LibGuide).

Models of the Church:

Fri. Sep. 26: (SR Due). Avery Cardinal Dulles. *Models of the Church. Expanded Edition*, Introduction and chapters 1 and 2. “Why Avery Dulles Matters.” Thomas Guarino (LibGuide).

Mon. Sep. 29: Dulles, *Models of the Church*, chapters 3, 4, and 5.

Wed. Oct. 1: Dulles, *Models of the Church*, chapters 6 and 7.

Fri. Oct. 3: Dulles, *Models of the Church*, chapters 8 and 9.

Mon. Oct. 6: Dulles, *Models of the Church*, chapters 10 and 11.

Wed. Oct. 8: Dulles, *Models of the Church*, chapters 12 and 13.

Midterm:

Fri. Oct. 10: **(SR Due)**. Midterm Review.

Mon. Oct. 13: **MIDTERM**

Ecclesiology and Challenges to the Church I:

Wed. Oct. 15: Dulles, “Rethinking the Mission of the Church” from *The Resilient Church* (the failure of evangelization by Catholics).

Fri. Oct. 17: NO CLASS (FALL BREAK).

Mon. Oct. 20: NO CLASS (FALL BREAK).

Wed. Oct. 22: Dulles, “Church and Reform through Creative Interaction” and “Doctrinal Renewal: A Situationist View” from *The Resilient Church* (difficulties and necessity of church reform).

Fri. Oct. 24: Dulles, “Doctrinal Authority for a Pilgrim Church” from *The Resilient Church* (authority and the individual).

Mon. Oct. 27: Dulles, “Changing Concepts of Church Membership” from *The Resilient Church* (who is Catholic?).

Wed. Oct. 29: Dulles, “Eucharistic Sharing as an Ecumenical Problem” from *The Resilient Church* (open communion vs. closed communion).

Ecclesiology and Challenges to the Church II:

Fri. Oct. 31: **(SR due)** Dulles, “The Emerging World Church and the Pluralism of Cultures” from *The Reshaping of Catholicism: Current Challenges in the Theology of Church* (different cultural articulations of the Gospel).

Mon. Nov. 3: Dulles, “Authority and Conscience: Two Needed Voices” from *The Reshaping of Catholicism: Current Challenges in the Theology of Church* (is there a conflict between authority and individual?).

Wed. Nov. 5: Dulles, “Vatican II and the Purpose of the Church” from *The Reshaping of Catholicism: Current Challenges in the Theology of Church* (what is the purpose of the Church?).

Fri. Nov. 7: Dulles, “Ecumenism and the Search for Doctrinal Agreement” from *The Reshaping of Catholicism: Current Challenges in the Theology of Church* (what are the necessity and limits on doctrinal unity between Catholics and Protestants?).

Ecclesiology and Young Adult Catholics:

Mon. Nov. 10: **(SR Due).** David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith.* chapters 1 and 2.

Wed. Nov. 12: Kinnaman, chapters 3 and 4.

Fri. Nov. 14: Kinnaman, chapters 5 and 6.

Mon. Nov. 17: Kinnaman, chapters 7 and 8.

Wed. Nov. 19: Kinnaman, chapters 9 and 10.

Fri. Nov. 21: Kinnaman, chapters 11 and 12.

Mon. Nov. 24: NO CLASS (AAR).

Wed. Nov. 26: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING).

Fri. Nov. 28: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING).

Mon. Dec. 1: **(SR Due).** No Reading. (Barron Video).

Wed. Dec. 3: **PAPER DUE. CLASS PRESENTATIONS.**

Fri. Dec. 5: Final Review.

FINAL EXAM: _____

Th. 320 The Church: Statement of Compliance

I, _____, have read the entire syllabus for Th. 320 “The Church” for the fall semester 2014. If there are any parts of the syllabus I did not originally understand, I have asked the professor for clarification.

By signing this paper and remaining enrolled in this class, I acknowledge that I have understood the syllabus—including (but not limited to) the policies and expectations, especially concerning attendance, tardiness, reading expectations, preparedness, and plagiarism. Not only do I understand the requirements of the class, but I will abide by them.

Signature: _____

Date: _____