Theology 2301/3311: Teachings of the Catholic Church

Spring 2015                       Dirk Steffens
Monday 5:30-8:15                      Office Hughes House
steffad@stthom.edu

Course Description
Introduction to the fundamentals of Catholic dogmatic theology, the science of sacred doctrine, as revealed in Scripture and Tradition and defined by the Magisterium of the Church

As this course is part of the core curriculum, it is assumed that students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and possess different religious beliefs (or have none at all). No previous knowledge of Christianity is expected, and all points of view will be welcome and respected.

Required Texts:
All assigned readings for the course will be taken from Sacred Scripture and the following required textbooks. The Bible and Catechism are to be brought to each class meeting, the Vatican II documents are to be brought on days noted in calendar.

**Holy Bible** - New Jerusalem Bible, Catholic Study Bible, or New American Standard Bible. Must be a Catholic Bible.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church** (3 editions are acceptable) – ISBN 1-57455-110-8, or ISBN 0385479670, or ISBN 0385508190


**Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist** by Brant Pitre ISBN 978-0-385-53184-9

Additional readings

If you are interested in a specific area ask me and I will provide you with a reading list on the area.
Tests

There will be two tests during the semester. The first test is worth 20%, the comprehensive final worth 30%. The dates for the tests are:

Test #1-March 2nd
Final Exam-TBD

Examination copies are considered to be the property of the professor. After being graded, exams will be returned to the student for a period of class discussion. They will then be collected and kept by the professor. **The exams will not be returned for future study or review.**

Reading & Written Assignments

_Students will understand a Catholic doctrine (or the connections between particular Catholic doctrines) at a genuinely theological level, and express their understanding in clear and effective analytical writing._

There are daily readings from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) and Vatican II documents. These readings are listed on the syllabus with the date that it should be completed.

**All readings are required and are meant to help the student with understanding the lecture and satisfactorily passing the tests. The readings may or may not be covered in class, but questions will be on the tests from these readings.**

Paper Assignments

There are 2 type of writing assignments:

1. There are 12 “précis” papers. A précis is a concise statement or restatement of facts, essential points or statements from the assigned reading. **In your own words.**
   a. The assigned readings will be posted in Blackboard in Course Documents in the folder of the day that it is due. IE…the folder dated 1/26 is the day the paper is due.
   b. Paper Length:
      i. For 2301 level students: papers are to be at least 2 pages in length. Meaning, they can be longer than 2 pages, but not shorter
      ii. For 3311 level students: papers are to be at least 3 pages in length. Meaning, they can be longer than 3 pages, but not shorter.
   c. The papers will be graded on a scale of 1-10 and then averaged for the final grade.
   d. The two lowest grades will be dropped.
   e. Paper styling must be adhered to strictly (shown below).
   f. No late papers will be accepted.
   g. No direct quotes.
h. Important note: Taking up ¼ to ½ of the first page of the paper to put your name and title of the paper, does not constitute a full page. Only put your name and title of paper, then begin on second line.

2. Term Paper:
   a. This paper is based on the book *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* by Brant Pitre.
      i. You are to explore the Catholic understanding of the Sacrament of the Eucharist based upon this book and compare/contrast with at least 3 other Christian traditions (Lutheran, Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Protestant, etc…). In this paper you will explain, based upon the text, what the Eucharist is for Catholics and summarize some of the historical basis of this understanding according to Pitre. Then point out how other Christian traditions deviate from this understanding.
   
   b. Length:
      i. For 2301 Level students: Papers are to be at least 8 pages in length. Meaning it can be longer than 8 pages, but not shorter.
      ii. For 3311 Level students: Papers are to be at least 10 pages in length. Meaning it can be longer than 10 pages, but not shorter.
   
   c. Wikipedia and other similar sources are strictly forbidden. Only published books or articles (they can be internet articles) are allowed and must be cited.
   d. Proper bibliography required
   e. Cover page required
   f. **Turning in of papers:**
      i. The term paper must be both emailed and a hard copy must turned in on or before its due date
      ii. The papers must be emailed to steffad@stthom.edu
         Subject line of the email should be: Teachings Paper Spring 2015
      iii. They must be saved in the following format before emailing. Lastname-
           firstname-Spring2015.doc
      iv. The papers should be in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Paper Style:
   a. Font should be Times New Roman 12 point.
   b. Margins are to be 1 inch on all sides.
   c. Double Spaced
   d. Stapled on the top left of the paper
   e. Page numbers on the bottom right
   f. No excessive or block quotes from the reading material. This is to be in your own words.
      a. The précis papers should have no direct quotes.
      b. The Term paper can be quoted, but minimally. No large block quotes.
   g. All papers should adhere to Chicago Style for citation and reference.
Students with Disabilities

Any student who feels that he/she may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course—as outlined in the syllabus—due to presence of a disability, should contact the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (C&DS). The following statement was prepared by the C&DS:

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with Deborah Jones as early as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

Academic Integrity

Students should be acquainted with the University's "Policy on Academic Dishonesty" found in the Undergraduate Catalog. According to that catalog:

Every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists, and such offenses will be dealt with expeditiously according to the following criteria. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
2. Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
3. Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected;
4. Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.

The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the faculty member, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of “F” for the course.

Class Attendance and Extensions

Regular class attendance is necessary for success in the course. Class roll will be checked at each meeting. Attendance and participation is worth 10% of class grade with the following exception: Students who miss more than three lectures, without the consent of the instructor, cannot participate fully, and their grades will be adjusted accordingly. With this being a 1 night a week course, missing one or more classes is missing a significant portion of the semester.

Make-up tests (which are always longer and more difficult) will be given only in the very rare case when doing them on the designated date is absolutely impossible. (A doctor's note or something comparable is in order when a test is missed.) Prior arrangements must be made with the professor.
Grading Summary
Test 1=20%
Final =30%
Term Paper = 20%
Précis = 20%
Attendance and Participation=10%

The following grading scale is used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores/Letters</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Scores/Letters</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-95</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-90</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-80</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class Schedule (subject to change).

Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC (paragraphs)
Vatican II-Books and chapters

1/12  Introduction-Syllabus
Revelation, Scripture, Tradition
CCC 50-141

Vatican II-Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum)

1/19  Holiday

1/26  Revelation, Scripture, Tradition cont. (Truth)
CCC 50-141

Vatican II-Dei Verbum
-Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) 1-8

2/2   Revelation, Scripture, Tradition cont. (Magisterium)
CCC 50-141

Vatican II-Dei Verbum
-Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) 1-8
Magisterium, Church Structure, Mark and Mission
CCC 74-100, 748-870
Vatican II-Lumen Gentium 1-8

2/9    God the Father (Aquinas-God’s knowledge)
CCC 198-278
God the Son, Holy Spirit

2/16   God the Father (Bonaventure-Trinity)
CCC 198-278
God the Son, Holy Spirit
CCC 422-682
CCC 683-747

2/23   Trinity (Benedict-Creation)
CCC 232-267
Creation and Original Sin
CCC 279-421

3/2  Test 1

3/9  Spring Break

3/16  Christ and His mission (*Bonaventure- On the Incarnation*)
CCC 422-682

3/23  Christ and His mission (*Keretszy- Death and Resurrection*)
CCC 422-682

3/30  Mary (*Nichols- Dogma of Immaculate Conception*)
CCC 963-975
   *Vatican II- Lumen Gentium* 52-69
   Grace
   CCC 1987-2029

4/6  Sacraments (*Tertullian- Baptism*)
CCC 1210-1679
   *Vatican II- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gadium et Spes)*-47-52,
   Prayer
   CCC 1076-1112; 1135-1209; 1987-2024; 2558-2865

4/13  Sacraments (*Pastoral Letter on Marriage*)
CCC 1210-1679
   *Vatican II- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gadium et Spes)*-47-52,
   Prayer
   CCC 1076-1112; 1135-1209; 1987-2024; 2558-2865

4/20  Sacraments (*Ratzinger- Conscience*)
CCC 1210-1679
Vatican II-Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gadium et Spes)-
47-52,
Prayer
CCC 1076-1112; 1135-1209; 1987-2024; 2558-2865

4/27  **Term Paper Due**
Sacraments ((Augustine-Prayer))
CCC 1210-1679
Vatican II-Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gadium et Spes)-
47-52,
Prayer
CCC 1076-1112; 1135-1209; 1987-2024; 2558-2865

Review

Final exam-TBA
Bibliography

Aquinas, St Thomas. *Summa Theologica.*

Augustine. "On Forgiveness of Sins, and Baptism."


Tavard, George. *The Thousand Faces of the Virgin Mary*.


