CU 2207 CC  Introduction to Church  Fall 2015
Fr. C.J.T. Talar  2 Credits
talarc@stthom.edu

Course meets Saturdays, 9:00 – 4:00 on 22 August, 5 and 19 September, 3 October

Course Description

This course seeks to examine the nature of the church as the mystery of God's communion with us and our communion with each other in him. We examine various approaches to ecclesiology, in particular the approach of *communio*. Attention to the four marks of the church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic provides a framework for consideration of particular issues facing the church. Ecumenical issues are examined throughout the study and pastoral application for ministry are discussed when appropriate.

Course Context

Ecclesiology is to be seen in the context of the Trinitarian nature of Christian faith, and more specifically in light of Christology and Pneumatology. Ecclesiology has close links to Soteriology, and in turn provides a context for understanding priesthood and Mariology.

Course Objectives

1. To instill in students an understanding of the church as a mystery of faith and communion, and not simply a socio-religious institution

2. To help students understand the contribution of Vatican II through a close study of *Lumen Gentium*

3. To expose students to the various nuances and rich meaning of the four marks of the church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic

4. To foster in students an ecumenical sensitivity and appreciation of the ecumenical movement

5. To develop a balanced understanding of papal authority and its function, of its various historical models and present discussion of its role

6. To assist students in seeing the pastoral importance of ecclesiology for future ministry through consideration of such issues as local/universal church, incluturation/diversity in unity, theology of the episcopacy, mission of the laity, ecumenism/church unity.
Course Methodology

Lecture and class discussion.

Course Texts

*Lumen Gentium*, in The Documents of Vatican II (either Flannery or Abbot-Gallagher editions acceptable)

Course Outline

Week 1, 22 August:
Introduction: (a) Vatican II as watershed for ecclesiological reflection
  (b) Video: Vatican II
  **READ** Gaillardetz, Part I
Doing ecclesiology in light of Vatican II
  **READ**: Sanks, ch. 1 & 2 (Prepare guideline questions on Sanks for discussion in class)

Week 2, 5 September:
Historical Perspectives on Church (Prepare guideline questions on Sanks)
  **READ**: Sanks, ch. 3
  **READ** Sanks, ch. 4, 5

The Church as Object of Theological Reflection
  (a) Vatican II
  **READ** LG # 1-17
  Sanks, ch. 6

Week 3: 19 September:
The Church as Object of Theological Reflection
  (b) Models of the Church:
  **READ** Gaillardetz, Parts II & III

  Structures of the Church
  (a) Laity
  **READ**: LG 30-38
  (b) Bishops, Priests and Deacons
  **READ**: LG 18-29
  (c) The Papacy

Week 4: 3 October:
Exam #1 on Sanks ch. 1 through 6, LG 1-8, class notes
The Marks of the Church
(a) One
(b) Holy: READ: LG 39-47
(c) Catholic
(d) Apostolic

The Post-conciliar Church
READ Gaillardetz, Part IV

Mission and Future of the Church
READ: LG 48-51
Sanks, ch. 7, 9, 10 & 11

Mary and the Church
READ LG 52-68

Exam #2 will be a take home exam.

Course Evaluation
Two exams, each 1/2 of final grade

Additional Bibliography

Herbert Vorgrimler, ed., *Commentary on the Documents of Vatican II* (5 vols.)


Hans Küng, *The Church* (1967)


Joseph Ratzinger, *Church, Ecumenism & Politics* (1988)


Patrick Granfield, *The Limits of the Papacy* (1990)