1. Course Description

1.1 Catalog Description: This course offers a combination of a systematic study and an autobiographical study of the Early Fathers of the Church. The course will provide an examination of the development of the impact of the Early Fathers on the Theology, Understanding of Scripture, Liturgy, and Sacraments of the Early Church (focused on the first six centuries). Special attention will be place on the development of doctrine and dogma as developed in the Councils as defenders of Faith.

1.2 Course Objectives: Students will:
   (1) learn to appreciate the development of our Christian faith provided by our Early Fathers;
   (2) understand the impact of a new understanding of scripture developed by the Fathers;
   (3) understand the development of liturgy and sacramental theology in the Patristic era;
   (4) appreciate the important development of dogma and doctrine in this era, including Trinitarian and Christological theology;
   (5) experience the different views of Eastern and Western Fathers;
   (6) appreciate the growth of spirituality through monastic life and the desert fathers.

2. Topical Outline:
   2.1 Introduction to the Early Fathers
   2.2 Influences on the Fathers
   2.3 Defense of Faith – Heresies and Councils
   2.4 Creed & Doctrine
   2.5 Development of Scripture
   2.6 Development of Liturgy and Sacraments
   2.7 Fathers of the East and West

3. Required Reading Textbooks (+ Note: other papers for reading will be posted to Blackboard)
   Mike Aquilina, The Fathers of the Church.
   Other Texts
   Early Christian Fathers by Cyril Richardson
   The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction by Hubertus R Drobner and Siegfried Schatzmann
4. **Format of the class:** This course will be a mixture of lecture, class discussion, reflections, student presentations, and exams.

5. **Required Workload:**
   5.1 Students are expected to complete all the assigned readings
   5.2 Short 1 page reflection
   5.3 3-5 Page Paper AND 5-7 minute Presentation
   5.4 Mid-term Exam
   5.5 Final Exam

6. **Grading:**
   Final Exam, 40%
   Mid-Term Exam: 15%
   Reflection 10%
   Report and Presentation of Early Father 25%
   Attendance and participation 10%.

   Reflection: (maximum: 1 page – 500 words) - 10 points
   - Short Summary (one paragraph)
   - What passage means to you (one paragraph)
   - Call to action (1-2 sentences or short paragraph)

   Favorite Early Father Report & Presentation – 25 points
   - Request Approval for Father Selection
   - Background of the Father (life) (5 points)
   - Important writings / Accomplishments (5 points)
   - Impact on the development/defense of Faith (10 points)
   - 5-7 minute presentation in class (5 points)

7. **Academic Standards**
   7.1 **Academic Honesty:** All the work you do in this course is expected to be your own.
   Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper attribution) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee. They will also be reported to appropriate ecclesiastical authorities where applicable.

   As stated in the Norms of Conduct for the University of St. Thomas, academic misconduct includes: (a) cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; (c) attempting to engage in such acts.

   Plagiarism is using the work of another person and claiming it as your own. The most common types of plagiarism include:
   - Using a paper or portion of a paper prepared by someone else;
• Quoting someone else’s language or words without proper quotation or citation; and
• Paraphrasing someone else’s ideas, framework, or insights without giving credit to the original author in a citation.

Students are very strongly urged to consult the following websites for additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/

*Academic misconduct in any form is unacceptable and suspected violations will be pursued aggressively.*

7.2 Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every meeting. Any absences without substantive reason (in the judgment of the instructor) will adversely affect your final grade. Regardless of the reasons for absence, students are responsible for the whole content of the course.

8. Office Hours: Email is the preferred way of reaching the instructor. You may also phone my office (the office of the Diaconate) during regular business hours. If you would like to have a conversation outside of business hours, please email to arrange an appointment. My email address is given at the top of the syllabus.

9. Submission of Work

9.1 Work should be submitted electronically in an email attachment as a Microsoft Word file, to romagud@stthom.edu (please CC: dominic@SMSEminary.com)

9.2 Format: Please identify each and every assignment you send with this label:
“CU2221,2016-Lastname-Firstinitial-Assignmentname.”
This is how my first Paper should appear:
“CU2221,2016-Romaguera-D-Reflection”

9.3 Use this label format in three places:
   a. In the topic of the email;
   b. As the name of the file
   c. In the header on page one (1) of the paper, placed in the top left hand corner.

9.4 Rationale for the format: This format will organize each student’s work under his/her own name in my files, and facilitate my retrieval of each document without having to re-label it.