Course description: This course surveys the course of church history from the Late Middle Ages to the present.

Course objectives:

1) To acquaint the student with the major figures and events that define the church during this part of its history.
2) To acquaint the student with how factors such as climate change, urbanization, demographic changes, economic circumstances, changes in the alignment of political power shaped doctrine and devotion in the church.
3) To acquaint the student with the historiography of some of the major movements over the period.

Topical course outline:

The Late Middle Ages: READ MacCulloch, Ch. 1

Contextual factors: climate change, demographic changes, Hundred Years War, peasant and urban revolts.

DVD: “The Late Middle Ages—Rebirth, Waning, Calamity?” from “The Late Middle Ages”: Philip Daileader

Avignon papacy

Great Western Schism


Research essay: The Spanish Inquisition due

The Renaissance: Renaissance humanism READ MacCulloch, Ch. 2

DVD: “The Age of the Medici”: Leon Battista Alberti

The Reformations:

The church on the eve of the Reformation
The Magisterial Protestant Reformation READ MacCulloch, Ch. 3 & 4
READ Martin Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses (Xerox: Library reserve)

Early Reformation: Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli

The Radical Reformation: Early Anabaptists

The spread of the Reformation: France, the Low Countries, England
READ MacCulloch, Ch. 5 & 6
READ William Placher, *The Domestication of Transcendence*, Ch. 4: Calvin’s Rhetoric of Faith (Library reserve)

Research essay on chapter from Brad S. Gregory, *The Unintended Reformation* due

The Counter Reformation/Catholic Reformation READ MacCulloch, Ch. 7, 8, 9, & 10

The church and the churches in the 17th century READ MacCulloch, Ch. 11 & 12

Jansenism/Gallicanism

DVD: “Monsieur Vincent”

The Enlightenment READ Ulrich Lehner, *The Catholic Enlightenment*

The “Long 19th Century” (from the French Revolution to the Great War)
READ Frank Coppa, *The Papacy in the Modern World: A Political History* (Reaktion, 2014)

The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era

The Catholic Counter Revolutionary Tradition

Video: “La Belle Epoque”

Liberal Catholicism, Roman Catholic Modernism, Integralism

READ C. J. T. Talar, “Roman Catholic Modernism” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement* (Xerox: Library reserve)

Catholicism during the Wars

The *Nouvelle théologie*

Research essay on papacy due

Course texts:


Course evaluation: 2 exams (each 25% of final grade)

2 Quizzes (10% of final grade)

Research essays (40% of final grade): MDiv students: Do topic #2 and either #1 OR #3. STB students: Do all 3 topics OR write a research paper (15 pp.) on a topic to be approved by the instructor.

Research essays:

Research essay #1: The Spanish Inquisition. The Inquisition was present in parts of Spain in the 13th century, as part of the campaign against Catharism. In the late 15th century it gained a new lease on life. Among the questions that may be addressed are: What were the reasons given for this revival/new imposition of the Inquisition in Spain? What evidence was invoked to legitimate those reasons? How do present-day historians evaluate all this? What was Rome’s relationship to the Inquisition in Spain? To what degree did Spaniards come to accept the Inquisition and why? Who were the main “targets” of the Inquisition? With what groups of people was it mainly concerned? The Inquisition has been the subject of a certain amount of mythologizing; what are some of these myths and what is the historical reality? (6 pages of text)

Recommended reading:


Research essay #2: Essay on a chapter from Brad S. Gregory, *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society* (2012). A central argument advanced by Gregory is that “ideological and institutional shifts that occurred five or more centuries ago remain substantively necessary to an explanation of why the Western world today is as it is” (7). Choose one of the following chapters: Ch. 2: Relativizing Doctrines, Ch. 4: Subjectivizing Morality, Ch. 5: Manufacturing the Goods Life. With respect to the area of human life under consideration, summarize and restate in your own words your understanding of its historical formation, highlighting “the Reformation’s transformative and unintended influence.” (8 pages of text)

Note: *The Unintended Reformation* can be accessed online from Doherty Library; multiple users are possible. There is also a hard copy on reserve at the seminary library.
Research essay #3: Choose one of the popes between Pius IX and Pius X, inclusive. Discuss one important issue this pope faced during his reign. This could constitute a doctrinal definition, facing doctrinal error, the challenge posed by democracy, war and revolution, etc. Frame the issue, explain how and why it is of significance, and provide the historical context which shaped it and in which it was addressed. (5 pages of text)

All essays are to be double spaced, 12 point type, 1” margins all around. They are to include references and a bibliography representative of graduate level work. (References and bibliography not included in max. page lengths.)

Recommended reading:

For Further Reading

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2 (2nd ed. 2010)

Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe 1450 - 1789* (2nd ed. 2013)


Norman Cantor, *In the Wake of the Plague. The Black Death and the World It Made* (2001)


Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (reprinted)

John Addington Symonds, *Renaissance in Italy*, 7 vols. [1875 - 1886] (reprinted)


Irena Backus, *The Reception of the Church Fathers in the West. From the Carolingians to the Maurists*, vol. 2, (1977)


Owen Chadwick, *The Early Reformation on the Continent* (2001)


Martin Brecht, *Martin Luther. His Road to Reformation 1483 - 1521* [1985, repr. 1993]

---, *Martin Luther. Shaping and Defining the Reformation 1521 - 1532* [1990]

---, *Martin Luther. The Preservation of the Church 1532 - 1546* [1999]


Henry Philips, *Church and Culture in seventeenth-century France* (1997)


Michael Printy, *Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism* (2009)
Alfred Monin, *The Curé of Ars* (1924)