University of St. Thomas School of Theology

CU 2205 Church History

Spring, 2017

Sandy Adzgery MAT

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the foundations and significant events in Church History. In four sessions, we will survey the development of the Church from its foundation as a sect within Judaism through the modern day. We will explore the development of doctrinal positions; the relationship between Church and State; the Reformation and Counter Reformation, concluding with Vatican Council II.

Course Objectives:
- To provide students with an overview and basic understanding of Church History
- To examine several major themes in the history of Christianity and how they shaped the Church
- To provide a historical foundation for future study of doctrine, Patristics and moral theology

Course Text:

ISBN 9780809149049

Students will be expected to have read the chapters assigned for the class. Guideline questions should be prepared for class discussion. At the start of sessions 2, 3 and 4 an exam will be given at the start of class on the previous week’s lecture, notes and readings.

Course Evaluation:
3 exams, each counting for 1/3 of the final grade.

January 4

The First & Second Ages of the Church (AD 30-650)

Introduction, Syllabus, Apostles, Developments of the Papacy, Early Christological Controversies, Persecution, Church Fathers, Saints and Monasticism

For this class, read Vidmar Chapters 1 and 2 (pages 1-91) and prepare guideline questions for discussion

January 14

The Third and Fourth Ages of the Church (AD 650-1450)

Exam over Ages 1 and 2. Islam, Schism, Barbarians, Rise of the Papacy, Crusades, The Inquisition, Scholastic Theology, Decline of the Papacy

For this class, read Vidmar Chapters 3 and 4 (pages 92-171) and prepare guideline questions for discussion

February 4

The Fifth Age of the Church (1450-1789)

Exam over Ages 3 and 4. The Renaissance, the Reformation, The English Reformation, Trent and the Counter Reformation, The Missions

For this class, read Vidmar Chapter 5 (pages 172-266) and prepare guideline questions for discussion

February 18
The Sixth Age of the Church (AD 1789-the Present Day)

Exam over the Fifth Age. The Enlightenment, The French Revolution and Social Catholicism, American Catholicism, 20th Century Popes, 20th Century Catholicism, Vatican II, John XXIII and Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Pope Francis

For this class, read Vidmar Chapter 6 (pages 267-362) and prepare guideline questions for discussion