CG 5310N Church History 3 Credits
Spring 2017
Fr. C.J.T. Talar
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Mondays 7:00 – 9:45 pm

Course description: This course is an introduction to the field of Church history. It will survey development of the Church from its Jewish roots through the Vatican II era. The development of doctrinal positions, of church structures and the relations between Church and State will receive emphasis.


23 January: The Emergence of the Church and Conflicts with the Empire
Chapts. 1 through 6 (all following chapter references refer to vol. 1)

30 January: Conflict with the Empire (cont.)
Chapts. 7 through 12

6 February: Exam #1 on chapters 1 through 12
The Constantinian Era. Internal Conflicts within the Church
Chapters 13 through 18

13 February: Internal Conflicts within the Church (cont.)
Chapts. 19 through 26

20 February: Exam #2 on chapts. 13 through 25
Medieval Christianity
Chapts. 27 through 31

27 February: Medieval Christianity (cont.)
Chapts. 32 through 36

6 March: Exam #3 on chapts. 26 through 34
Review of volume 1

13 March: No class: Spring Break
20 March: The Reformation
   (Begin vol. 2) Chapts. 1 through 6

27 March: The Reformation (cont.)
   Chapts. 7 through 14

3 April: Exam #4 on chapts. 1 through 14
   The Development of Protestant and Catholic Orthodoxies
   Chapts. 15 through 19

10 April: Rationalism and Spiritual Movements
   Chapts. 20 through 24

17 April: Exam #5 on chapts. 14 through 24
   Nineteenth-Century Catholicism and Protestantism
   Chapts. 25 through 30

24 April: The Nineteenth Century (cont.). The Twentieth Century
   Chapts. 31 through 36

1 May: The Twentieth Century (cont.). Review of vol. 2

TBA Exam Week: Exam #6 on chapts. 25 through 36

Students will be expected to have read the chapters assigned for the class and prepared
the guideline questions for discussion in class.

Course Evaluation: Given the quantity of reading material to be mastered, evaluation will
depend more heavily upon exams than is usual for a graduate course. For MAPS students
each exam will count 15% toward final grade.

Additional assignment for MAPS students:

In addition, each student will choose one of the following essay topics:

Research essay #1: Essay on a chapter from Brad S. Gregory, The Unintended
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.” (5 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 #2:** Choose one of the popes between Pius IX and Pius XII, 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.)

10% of final grade.

For diploma students, the entire course grade will be based on the exams, each weighted equally.