University of St. Thomas School of Theology
at St. Mary's Seminary

COURSE NO: CU 2205-NE
COURSE TITLE: Church History
Background and Experience of the American Church
SEMESTER: Spring 2017
INSTRUCTOR: Deacon Larry Vaclavik, MATS, MA Phil

vaclavl@stthom.edu

COURSE PROFILE

1.0 Course Description
This course is a survey of Church history focusing on ecclesiology, the
development of the papacy and ecumenical councils, the conciliar movements,
the development of theology based on specific cultural and historical
influences. The course will address how the global history of the Church
impacts and is impacted by the American Church experience. In the course,
we will consider the relationship of Church and state, the Reformation and
Catholic Counter reformation, the impact of the 18th century revolutionary and
political movements and the influences that led to the first and second Vatican
Councils. Throughout the course, we will consider the

a. The development of church structure, spirituality and social
engagement;
b. Orthodoxy and heresy, reform and renewal as themes in Church history;
c. Appreciation of the lives and achievements of key figures
d. How history impacts our beliefs and behaviors as Catholics & Christian in
the 21st Century.

2.0 Course Goal

- Familiarity with the principal historical periods, events and persons in
  Catholic Church history and how they influenced the development of the
  Catholic Church, its theology and spirituality.
- Familiarity with the history and development of the Catholic Church in
  the United States.
3.0 Required Textbooks


3.1 Other Resources


Peter Lynch, *The Church’s Story: A History of Pastoral Care and Vision*, Boston, MA, Pauline Books, 2005


### 4.0 Format of Presentation

Classes will consist of lecture with classroom discussion. Reading will be a critical element of the course. While the course will be primarily lecture in format, class discussions will be utilized to determine the appreciation and understanding of materials covered. Promptness is expected of students for all regular class sessions and for all class assignments.

### 5.0 Course Requirements & Grading

- a. Paper 50%
- b. Final exam - may be oral 50%

### 7.0 Exams Papers: The paper will be a brief five - ten page paper concerning a person of importance to Church history who lived between the years of 800 - 1900 CE and must evidence or reflect how this person’s life or teaching or actions influenced the history of twentieth century or present day Catholicism. Papers should not exceed ten pages. Late delivery will result in the automatic loss of ten points.