Course description: This course surveys the course of Catholicism in America from the colonial period through the post-Vatican II Church.

Course objectives:

1) To acquaint the student with the major figures and events that define the American Church.
2) To acquaint the student with how Catholicism interacted with American political and economic structures, with a religiously pluralistic society, and American culture.
3) To acquaint the student with the historiography of some of the major movements over the period.

Course texts:

Morris, *American Catholic*.


Mark Massa, *The American Catholic Revolution*.

Pastoral Letter on Library reserve (XEROX); Vatican documents in the standard references obtainable in the library or online

Course outline:

Week 1: 16 and 18 Jan. Overview; The Colonial Church
READ Carey, Introduction

Week 2: 23 and 25 Jan. Enlightenment Catholicism
The Carroll Church
READ John Carroll’s Pastoral Letter of May 28, 1792

Week 3: 6 Feb. Presentation 1: John England
READ Carey, ch. 1; Morris, ch. 1
and 8 Feb.: The Immigrant Church. Presentation 2: Orestes Brownson
READ Carey, ch. 2; Morris, ch. 2 & 3

Week 4: 13 Feb.: The Immigrant Church (cont.) Presentation 3: Isaac Hecker
[video: Hecker]
READ Carey, ch. 3
and 15 Feb.: The Americanist Controversy; Presentation 4: John Ireland
READ Morris, ch. 4; Longinqua Oceani; Testem Benevolentiae

Week 5: 20 Feb.: “La Belle Epoque”/ The “Gilded Age” [video: “Belle Epoque”]
READ Carey, ch. 5
and 22 Feb.: Roman Catholic Modernism; Ghetto Catholicism
READ Morris, ch. 5

READ Carey, ch. 8
and 1 March: Images of the American priest (cont.) [video: “Nothing Sacred”]
READ Morris, ch. 7 & 8

Week 7: 6 March: Catholicism in the 1950s
READ Morris, ch. 9 & 10

and 8 March: Mid-term

Week 8: 13 and 15 March. No class: Spring Break

Week 9: 20 March: Catholicism in the 1950s (cont.); Presentation 6: Dorothy Day
READ Carey, ch. 9; Morris, ch. 6
And 22 March: Prelude to Vatican II and the First Session [video]
READ Morris, ch. 11 & 12

Week 10: 27 and 29 March. No class: Easter Break

Week 11: 3 April Vatican II: overview
READ Morris, ch. 13
and 5 April: Vatican II (cont.) and Presentation 7: John Courtney Murray
READ Carey, ch. 11

Week 12: 10 and 12 April: Thomas Merton [video] Presentation 8: Merton

Week 13: 17: Movements
READ Massa, Introduction and ch. 1 [Videos: “Eyes on the Prize”]
and 19 April: Movements (cont.) and Presentation 9: McManus and Worship
READ Massa, ch. 2

Week 14: 24 April: Presentations 10 & 11: Humanae Vitae in the US and the Curran affair
READ Massa, ch. 3 & 4; Morris, ch. 14
and 26 April: Presentations 12 & 13: IHMs and Catonsville 9
READ Massa, ch. 5 & 6

Week 15: 1 May. Historicity and pluralism: enduring legacies
Final Exam

Course evaluation: 2 exams, mid-term and final (each 1/3 of final grade)

There are 12 presentations scheduled. Each student will choose one and, using the assigned reading as a basis, go on to develop a half hour presentation of the person(s)/issues involved. For individuals (from the Patrick Carey chapters) the presentation should situate the person in their times. What was America like when they lived and flourished? What was the character of Catholicism in America at that point? What were major issues that this individual had to engage? How did they go about doing so? To what extent have they been judged to have been successful? Were there limitations in what they tried to accomplish? What lasting impact did they have on American Catholicism such that Carey judged them important enough to include in his collection of American Catholic Thinkers? The chapters from Mark Massa include references to individuals, but are oriented more toward events, and the controversies that issued from those. For each of the chapters: identify the principal actors. What were the issues that were controverted at the time? When people are in controversy it is often because they are defending values that are significant, even crucial to them. What values were at stake on each side of the controversy? How did these issues/values relate to the Second Vatican Council? An issue underlying the issues that Massa identifies is that of “modern historical consciousness”. How is that engaged in the chapter you are presenting?

To do justice to this you will have to go beyond what you read in the chapter. Your grade will be based on your presentation. However, you are required to turn in a list of sources that you used in preparing your presentation. (You may want to consult with the instructor in advance of your presentation to see whether you have accessed the most useful sources.)

MDiv. Students: this will count the final 1/3 of your grade.

STB students: you are required, in addition to your presentation, to do a 10 – 12 research paper on the topic of your presentation. Obviously, the research you do for the presentation will figure in your paper, but the paper should take one aspect of your subject and develop it further than you do in the oral presentation. It should not be simply a written transcript of you presentation. Presentation and paper together will count 1/3 of final grade.