



THEO 279: Roman Catholicism

John Felice Rome Center

Fall term 2019

Thursdays | 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Instructor: Dr. Rudolf Kutschera

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2 p.m. by appointment

1. Course Description

This course wants to enable students to demonstrate understanding of the most important Roman Catholic beliefs, the historical evolution of Roman Catholicism, its key concepts, terms, values, and religious practices. The majority of sessions will take place onsite in order to combine firsthand experience in Rome with reflection and discussion. Reflection papers will contribute to form a holistic picture out of the various impressions and pieces of information.

2. Learning objectives

By the end of this class, students should be able to:

- Determine the background and significance of Roman Catholicism
- Assess the experiential learning gained at the various onsites and connect it with the background information on Roman Catholicism
- Understand the global importance of Roman Catholicism and apply this expanded understanding to present-day global challenges

3. Required reading

Gerhard Lohfink. *Does God Need the Church?* (The Liturgical Press: Oklahoma/Minnesota, 1999).

Further readings

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. *Introduction to Christianity*. Ignatius Press, San Francisco 2004 (extracts).

Thomas E. Woods. *How the Catholic Church built Western Civilization* (Regnery History, Washington DC, 2005).

Gerhard Lohfink. *No Irrelevant Jesus* (The Liturgical Press: Oklahoma/Minnesota, 2014), extracts.

Youcat. Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church. With a foreword by Pope Benedict XVI. (Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2011).

John C. Olin. *The Catholic Reformation. Savonarola to Ignatius Loyola* (Fordham University Press, New York, 1992), extracts.

4. Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one unexcused absence will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit.”

5. Assessment components

Short presentation, quizzes and participation	33,3 %
Reflection papers after onsites	33,3 %
Midterm paper, final paper and final exam	33,3 %

6. Grading

94-100: A	90-93: A-	
87-89: B+	84-86: B	80-83: B-
77-79: C+	74-76: C	70-73: C-
67-69: D+	60-66: D	59 or lower: F

7. Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml.

You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

8. Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

9. Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

10. Course schedule

	Date	Topic	Remarks
1	Sept 5	Introduction and overview	On campus
2	Sept 12	San Clemente and the origins of Christianity in Rome	Onsite 1
3	Sept 19	From San Pietro in Vincoli to San Cosma e Damiano: Theological developments in Roman Catholicism	Onsite 2
4	Sept 26	Santa Prassede and the Biblical references in Christian art	Onsite 3
5	Oct 3	Santa Maria Maggiore and the theological and spiritual significance of Mary in Christian art	Onsite 4
6	Oct 10	Basilica Saint John Lateran and the theological foundations of the Church	Onsite 5 / midterm paper

7	Oct 24	Liturgy and sacraments in Catholic tradition	On campus
8	Friday, Oct 25	Basilica Santa Sabina and shared Christian life in monasticism	Onsite 6
9	Oct 31	Pilgrimage in Catholicism and in other world religions: along the via Francigena to San Lazzaro	Onsite 7
10	Nov 7	St. Peter's Basilica and the Papacy	Onsite 8
11	Nov 14	Il Gesù and renewal in the Catholic Church	Onsite 9
12	Nov 21	Present day theological learning – from the Ghetto to Capitoline Hill	Onsite 10
13	Dec 5	Review for final	On campus
14	Dec 12	Final exam	On campus / Final paper