



## **THEO 281: Christianity through time**

### **John Felice Rome Center**

Fall term 2019

Wednesdays | 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 is a survey course in the history of Christian thought. Students who successfully complete this course will be familiar with major theological developments of Christianity. Seven onsite visits will illustrate and deepen the insights from the classroom learning.

### **2. Learning objectives**

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

- Determine the background of disputed issues in historical theology and assess its significance for today
- Evaluate the experiential learning gained at the onsites and connect it with the development of Christian thought
- Understand the impact of Christian theology and apply it to present-day global challenges

### **3. Required readings**

Alister E. McGrath. *Historical Theology. An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought.*

Loyola students can download the book free of charge: [http://loyola-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/LAW:Library\\_Collections:01LUC\\_ALMA51141492900002506](http://loyola-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/LAW:Library_Collections:01LUC_ALMA51141492900002506)

The first epistle of Clement to the Corinthians (extracts)

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/patristc/anf1-1.htm>

The Confessions of Saint Augustine (extracts)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3296/3296-h/3296-h.htm>

The Rule of Saint Benedict (extracts)

<https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/benedict-the-rule-of-st-benedict>

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

Quizzes, short presentations and participation	33,3 %
Onsite reflection papers and midterm paper/exam	33,3 %
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](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	Sep 4	1. Introduction to historical theology 2. Jewish roots of Christianity	On campus
2	Sept 11	From San Pietro in Vincoli to San Cosma: Early theological influences	Onsite 1
3	Sept 20	San Clemente and the Early Christian Church in Rome	Onsite 2
4	Sept 25	Santa Costanza and theological controversies in the Early Church	Onsite 3
5	Oct 2	Santa Maria Maggiore in the mirror of Christological discussions	Onsite 4
6	Oct 9	Papal Lateran Basilica and key insights of Medieval theology	Onsite 5 / midterm paper
7	Oct 23	Santa Sabina on Aventine Hill and Medieval reform movements	Onsite 6
8	Oct 30	Reformation and Catholic Reform	On campus

9	Nov 6	Catholic renewal today - from the modern martyrs in San Bartolomeo all'Isola to the Vatican	Onsite 7
10	Nov 13	Il Gesù and the legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola	Onsite 8
11	Nov 20	Enlightenment and its consequences for today's theological developments	On campus
12	Nov 27	Insights for theology today from recent history – from the Ghetto to Capitol Hill	Onsite 9
13	Dec 4	Review for final	On campus
14	Dec 11	Final exam	On campus / Final paper