Theo 279: Roman Catholicism
John Felice Rome Center
Fall 2022
Thursdays | 9:00-12:00 a.m.
Instructor: Rebecca Pawloski, STL
Email: rpawloski@luc.edu
Office Hours: Wed., 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description
This onsite core course provides an introduction to Roman Catholicism. Lessons will be held at key locations in Rome, each chosen for its historical importance for understanding the evolution of Roman Catholic practice and belief. Each lesson will have different components: A chronological approach will present the major developments within Roman Catholicism in a particular era—from the “Zero hour of the Church in Rome” to the “Roman Catholic Church down the road.” A systematic component will look at the progression of ideas connected with each era, resulting in a brief introduction to the different theological fields of study within Roman Catholicism, fields such as Biblical Studies, Canon Law, and Ecclesiology. Students will hear colorful stories of Catholic individuals who lived in or passed through Rome and whose biographies illustrate key historical and theological ideas of each period. History, theology, and biography will be brought into dialog with Roman Catholic identity in today’s world through the use of anecdotes. Each onsite visit will conclude with a time for location exploration and creatively committing the material to memory together with members of a small group.

Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the most important Roman Catholic beliefs, the historical evolution of Roman Catholicism, the key Roman Catholic concepts, terms, values, and religious practices, and the main lines of current Roman Catholic identity in today’s world.

Required Text / Materials
- The Holy Bible (Any edition, also available online)
- Assigned readings for each lesson posted on Sakai

Reference Texts
(Useful for an overview but not required.)

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”. The collective health of the JFRC is everyone’s responsibility. DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE ILL.
Covid 19 Pandemic Policy
The pandemic has presented a challenge for onsite classes. The places we plan to visit and each student’s ability to participate have been subject to variations beyond normal control. In order to ensure the fullest possibility for participation, we will continue to use a working group system. Each member of the class will be in a working group of three to six students. In the event of an illness that prevents your attending class, you should contact your instructor as well as your working group members. The group will support the virtual presence and participation of their absent member at the onsite lesson, ideally using the Zoom pro tool connected with Sakai and a mobile device with internet data provided by the instructor.

Assessment Components
- Biographical Presentation 20%
- Biographical Essay 20%
- Group Work Presentation 20%
- Group Work Evaluation 20%
- Final Exam 20%

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

Grading Rubric
Biographical Presentation 20 %
- Students select a person and a day from a list of choices.
- 2 pts The presentation is on time.
- 2 pts The presentation is about 10 minutes.
- 2 pts The presentation exhibits a pedagogical style: it is audible, seeks to be engaging, and seeks to teach.
- 2 pts The presentation gives basic biographical facts.
- 2 pts The presentation connects the person(s) with context of place: Rome.
- 2 pts The presentation connects the person(s) with their context within the historical evolution of Catholicism.
- 8 pts The presentation connects the person(s) with at least four key Roman Catholic concepts (see glossary).
- Extra credit: 2 extra credit points possible for those who make a biographical presentation before Spring Break.

Biographical Essay (Midterm assignment) 20%
- This assignment is due October 20th.
- 2 pts The essay is 2500 words.
- 2 pts The essay gives accurate biographical facts.
- 2 pts The essay connects the person(s) with context of place: Rome.
- 2 pts The essay connects the person(s) within a specific context within the historical evolution of Catholicism.
- 4 pts The essay correctly uses at least four key Roman Catholic concepts (see glossary).
- 1 pt The essay has a title.
• 1 pt The essay includes an accurate bibliography made using Chicago Style (Notes and Bibliography).
• 1 pt The essay includes at least 1 dictionary citation made using Chicago Style (Notes and Bibliography).
• 1 pt The essay includes at least 1 primary source (from the person or time period), with the citation made using Chicago Style (Notes and Bibliography).
• 1 pt The essay includes at least 1 secondary source, with the citation made using Chicago Style (Notes and Bibliography).
• 1 pt The essay involves critical thinking, i.e. you have your own “take” or stance on the subject.
• 1 pt The essay is without spelling errors.
• 1 pt The essay is without grammatical errors.
• Extra credit: 2 extra credit points for use of a source that is not in English.

Group work and class participation 20 %
• This evaluation is ongoing throughout the semester. Assessment criteria is available on Sakai.
• 10 pts Peer assessment (working group).
• 10 pts Instructor assessment of student’s engagement with readings on Sakai.

Group presentation 20 %
• A description of the group project will be given on the first day of the course and is available on Sakai.
• This assessment is made on December 1st.
• 10 pts Presentation includes content connected with every site visited.
• 10 pts Presentation includes at least 10 words, concepts, or persons from the course syllabus or glossary used correctly.

Final Exam 20 %
• The Final Exam is December 8th.
• It consists of 20 multiple choice questions (and one written response for extra credit).

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.

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

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.
Course Schedule
Please note that this schedule is tentative. A detailed overview will be provided on the first day of class and on Sakai.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Place (see Sakai)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>JFRC</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>This introduction and overview class is important. It will include: an orientation to the materials on Sakai, an explanation of the biographical presentation and essay assignment with instructions on the candidates for choice (see underlined names). There will be an opportunity to fill out a simple questionnaire asking which type of group you prefer: video, photo, poetry, epistolary, musical, artistic or narrative writing, or other, and while you test your knowledge using the glossary of Catholic concepts and terms with a partner, I will create the working groups. We will take a brief look at the places we will visit and finalize any decisions that may still need to be made.</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>Tiber Island</td>
<td>The Zero Hour of the Church in Rome</td>
<td>This lesson takes us to Trastevere to visit the excavations of a first-century Roman house. We’ll meet a power couple of the Roman Church, Priscilla and Aquila, and talk about a central question surrounding the arrival of Christianity in the city. A study of the composition of first-century Rome will help us discuss possible solutions to an open theological question: how did Christianity arrive in Rome? We’ll talk about how theological studies are organized and the various topics of dogmatic or Systematic Theology. A close reading of Romans Chapter 16 will yield a word giving rise to much theological debate today.</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Scavi</td>
<td>The Witness of a Fisherman</td>
<td>We look again at the origins of the Church in Rome, continuing our focus on the Apostolic Age. We’ll meet the martyr Peter and examine the choices which brought him to Rome. It will lead to a discussion of Eschatology and an acknowledgement of places where the Church still suffers persecution today. This lesson will include the tour of an ancient burial site.</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>St Paul or Tre Fontane</td>
<td>The ($)words of a Pharisee</td>
<td>It is not possible to talk about the origins of Catholicism without speaking of Paul. Why is he holding a sword? After his martyrdom at Tre Fontane (come vuole la tradizione), he was buried in the place where we find the Basilica of St. Paul. The Pauline corpus of New Testament writings sets the stage to talk about Biblical Studies. It also gives us an opportunity to discuss the place of the Bible in Catholic practice today.</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
<td>Lateran or Ara Coeli</td>
<td>The State Church of the Roman Empire: A Gift or Shift from the Way?</td>
<td>Here we will not be far from the Roman forum, but the power has shifted from the buildings along the ancient via Sacra to a new Basilica, which we will visit. Helena and her son Constantine usher in a new era of Christian practice. It is the dawning of the age of great synods and councils discussing Catholic belief, especially matters pertaining to Christology and Trinitarian Theology. The first council, that of Nicaea (325),</td>
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gives some basic definitions. Yet, what is the difference between a council and synod? The Church of today is discussing just such a question...

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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. –</td>
<td>Mary Major or Santa Pudenziana</td>
<td>Christ from Mary: Feminine Foundations of the Roman Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>It wasn’t long before the councils met on a feminine matter, the identity of Mary as Theotokos. The Council of Ephesus in 432 was held around the same time that St. Mary Major was built following a miraculous apparition, in the midst of other titular churches dedicated to women. In this age, a transition from preparing for the immediate coming of Jesus to realizing there may be some delay, led to the celebration of other memorials in the Church. Feast days were celebrated, especially for those saints mentioned in the Roman Canon. Mariology and Hagiography developed in this period, and the process of becoming a saint still is connected to it today. It is an era in which Monica and her son Augustine and Jerome and his student Paula spent time in Rome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. –</td>
<td>San Gregorio al Celio and/or Santi Quattro</td>
<td>Roman Monasticism</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Around the year 500, Benedict came to Rome for studies and lived in Trastevere. As one of the great founders of organized celibate Catholic community, he heavily influenced Pope Gregory the Great in his governance of the clergy of Rome. Here we are in the presence of the oldest monastic foundations in the city. Religious life made keeping patterns of time and tradition ever more possible, and safeguarded the practice of Catholic ritual, Liturgy and Sacraments, for the entire community. The monastic tradition remains alive in Rome today, and we will meet one of its heirs during our visit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. –</td>
<td>Via Francigena</td>
<td>All Roads Lead to Rome: Pilgrimages and Crusades</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>From the beginning, Christianity was on the move and the roads of the Roman Empire were used to further the proclamation of the Gospel. Yet how did Rome become the ultimate pilgrimage destination? The answer is also related to the question of the crusades, which brings us to reflect on Moral Theology and questions of religious violence. Francis of Assisi gives a response to the crusades with consequences lasting until today. But would Francis have been able to go as far as he did without the backing of a powerful woman: “brother” Lady Jacoba dei Settesoli?</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. –</td>
<td>Santa Maria Sopra Minerva</td>
<td>The Leading Ladies of the Church of Medieval Rome</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>When the papal court took leave of Rome for Avignon in 1309, some of the Roman infrastructure fell apart. However, it was just the time in which several women exercised prophetic power and became religious points of reference for the city. Roman residents Catherine of Siena, Frances of Rome, and Bridget of Sweden exercised a prophetic power as women of contemplation in action. They show that Spirituality is not only business of the mind but also a passion of the heart. We will discuss the art and science of prayer at the core of the practice of Catholicism even today.</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. –</td>
<td>From the Gesù to the</td>
<td>“Roman Catholics” –</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Up to this point in the course, we have not used the appellative “Roman Catholic” and in this lesson we will find out why. Similarly, we will look at the term “Jesuit”. We will examine the</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Campo Verano</td>
<td>The Roman Question: What Is the State of the Apostolic Church?</td>
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<td>November 24</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Redemptoris Mater Chapel in the Apostolic Palace or Centro San Lorenzo</td>
<td>Rise of Roman Catholic Self-Awareness (and Other-Understanding)</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>JFRC and possibly parish of San Fulgenzio</td>
<td>The Roman Catholic Church Down the Road</td>
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<td>December 8</td>
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