THEO 281: Christianity through time

John Felice Rome Center

Spring term 2019
Wednesdays | 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Instructor: Dr. Rudolf Kutschera
E-mail: rkutschera@luc.edu
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 onsite and connect it with the development of Christian thought
- Understand the global impact of Christian theology and apply it to present-day global challenges

3. Required reading


An extract of this book’s relevant pages and other texts will be provided in the first lecture.

Loyola students can download the entire book free of charge:
http://loyola-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/LAW:Library_Collections:01LUC_ALMA51141492900002506
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 a lowering of your final grade.

5. Assessment components

Quizzes, short presentations and onsite reflection paper 33.3%

Papers 1-3 (paper 2 = 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. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment / Paper due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Jan 23    | 1. Introduction to historical theology  
|       |           | 2. Basics of the Bible                                               |                                                             |
| 2    | Jan 30    | 1. Jewish roots of Christianity  
|       |           | 2. The patristic period                                               | 1. Nostra aetate 4 (Quiz 1)  
|       |           |                                                                       | 2. AMG 17-20 (Quiz 1)                                       |
| 3    | Fri., Feb 8 | **Onsite 1:** San Clemente and the Early Christian Church in Rome   | Letter of St. Clement (extract)                              |
| 4    | Feb 13    | Dogmatic controversies in the Early Church                           | Paper 1 due, session on campus                               |
| 5    | Feb 20    | **Onsite 2:** Santa Maria Maggiore in the mirror of Christological discussions | “Bring a pen!” (for a paper on site), on site                 |
| 6    | Feb 27    | **Onsite 3:** The Lateran Basilica and key insights of Medieval theology | AMG 78-82 + 90-91, on site                                   |
| 7    | Mar 6     | **Onsite 4:** Santa Sabina on Aventine Hill and Medieval reform movements | AMG 84-86; Midterm paper due, on site                        |
| 8    | Mar 20    | Reformation and Catholic Reform                                       | AMG 125-136 (Quiz 2)                                       |
| 9    | Mar 27    | **Onsite 5:** Il Gesù and the legacy of Ignatius of Loyola           | Letter of St. Ignatius (extract), on site                    |
| 10   | April 3   | Enlightenment and its consequences for today’s theological developments | AMG 183-184 + 195-198 Paper 3 due; on campus                |
| 11   | April 10  | **Onsite 6:** Today’s challenges for Christianity - from San Bartolomeo all’Isola to the Vatican | Short presentations on modern martyrs; on site              |
| 12   | April 17  | **Onsite 7:** Learning from recent history – from the Ghetto to Capitol Hill | Begin: on site                                              |
| 13   | April 24  | Review for final                                                     | On campus                                                   |
| 14   | May 1     | Final exam                                                           | Final paper due (3 pages)                                   |