

Theo 279: Roman Catholicism

John Felice Rome Center

Spring 2023

Tuesday section | 9:00-12:00 a.m.

Thursday section | 9:00-12:00 a.m.

Instructor: Rebecca Pawloski, STL

Email: rpawloski@luc.edu

Office Hours: At JFRC every other Monday from 1:00-2:00 p.m., or by appointment at JFRC or Zoom

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, Eschatology, and Ecclesiology. Students will hear colorful stories of Catholic influencers 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.)

- *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith*. Barron, Robert. 2011.
- *Rome: The Biography of a City*. London; New York: Penguin UK. Hibbert, Christopher. 1987.
- *The Families Who Made Rome: A History and a Guide*. London: Pimlico. Majanlahti, Anthony. 2006.
- *Catholicism: A Very Short Introduction*. 2nd edition. OUP Oxford. O’Collins, Gerald. 2017.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. 2nd edition. Vatican City; Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Vaticana, Libreria Editrice and USCCB. 2019.

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 at the time of Midterms.
- 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.



JOHN FELICE

**ROME
CENTER**

- 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 the week before the final exam.
- 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 %

- 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 (and a syllabus with dates and places specific to your section) will be provided on the first day of class and on Sakai.

Date	Meeting Place (see Sakai)	Topic	Description (reading materials provided on Sakai)
Tues section: January 17 Thurs section: January 19	JFRC	Introduction and Overview	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.
Tues section: January 24 Thurs section: January 26	Tiber Island and excavations under St. Cecilia's	The Zero Hour of the Church in Rome	This lesson takes us to Trastevere to visit the excavations of a first-century Roman <i>domus</i> . We'll meet a power couple of the Roman Church, <u>Priscilla and Aquila</u> , 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 <i>Systematic Theology</i> . A close reading of Romans Chapter 16 will yield a word giving rise to much theological debate today.
Tues section: January 31 Thurs section: February 2	Catacombs of St. Callixtus or Scavi of St. Peter's	The Witness of a Fisherman	We look again at the origins of the Church in Rome, continuing our focus on the Apostolic Age. We'll meet the martyr <u>Peter</u> and examine the choices which brought him to Rome. It will lead to a discussion of <i>Eschatology</i> and an acknowledgement of places where the Church still suffers persecution today. This lesson will include the tour of an ancient burial site.
Tues section: February 7 Thurs section: February 9	St Paul Outside the Walls or Tre Fontane	The (S)words of a Pharisee	It is not possible to talk about the origins of Catholicism without speaking of <u>Paul</u> . Why is he holding a sword? After his martyrdom at Tre Fontane (<i>come vuole la tradizione</i>), 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 <i>Biblical Studies</i> . It also gives us an opportunity to discuss the place of the Bible in Catholic practice today.
Tues section: February 14 Thurs section: February 16	Lateran or Ara Coeli	The State Church of the Roman Empire: A Gift or Shift from the Way?	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. <u>Helena and her son Constantine</u> 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 <i>Christology and Trinitarian Theology</i> . The first council, that of Nicaea (325),



JOHN FELICE

ROME
CENTER

			gives some basic definitions. Yet, what is the difference between a council and synod? The Church of today is discussing just such a question...
Tues section: February 21 Thurs section: February 23	Saint Mary Major and/ or Santa Pudenziana and/ or Santa Prassede	Christ from Mary: Feminine Foundations of the Roman Church	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 <u>Monica and her son Augustine</u> and <u>Jerome and his student Paula</u> spent time in Rome.
Tues section: February 28 Thurs section: March 2	San Gregorio al Celio and/ or Santi Quattro Coronati	Roman Monasticism	Around the year 500, <u>Benedict</u> came to Rome for studies and lived in Trastevere. As one of the great founders of organized celibate Catholic community, he heavily influenced <u>Pope Gregory the Great</u> 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.
Tues section: March 14 Thurs section: March 16	Via Francigena	All Roads Lead to Rome: Pilgrimages and Crusades	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. <u>Francis of Assisi</u> 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" <u>Lady Jacoba dei Settesoli</u> ?
Tues section: March 21 Thurs section: March 23	Santa Maria Sopra Minerva to Piazza Farnese to Piazza Navona	The Leading Ladies of the Church of Medieval Rome	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 <u>Catherine of Siena</u> , <u>Bridget of Sweden</u> , and <u>Frances of Rome</u> 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.
Tues section: March 28	From the Gesù to the	"Roman Catholics" –	Up to this point in the course, we have not used the appellation "Roman Catholic" and in this lesson we will find out why. Similarly, we will look at the term "Jesuit". We will examine the



JOHN FELICE

ROME
CENTER

Thurs section: March 30	Roman College and/ or Galleria Pamphilij	<i>Pejorative or Prerogative?</i>	Roman Catholic Church on the rise through the Renaissance and the subsequent Baroqueness which remains the façade of the city center today. The biography of <u>Ignatius of Loyola</u> will introduce us to the great concerns of the Church unfolding in the 16 th century, concerns such as reform and mission. Of course, the discourse would not be complete without a discussion of imperialism and anti-clericalism. The story of the “ <i>Papessa</i> ” <u>Olympia Moidalchini Pamphili</u> will help us with the discussion on power and reform. We will look at the tensions building between faith and science and how the field of <i>Fundamental Theology</i> provides grounding for a dialog between them.
Tues section: April 4 Thurs section: April 6	San Lorenzo and/ or Campo Verano	The Roman Question: What Is the State of the Apostolic Church?	<u>Pius IX</u> has been the longest reigning Pope. He made massive contributions to repair and restore the city of Rome (in part with funds acquired from... tobacco sales?). He led the first Vatican Council which defined papal infallibility. Yet he was faced with a historical problem which is now called “ <i>la Questione romana</i> ” in Italian textbooks. As we visit his tomb near the fittingly emblematic 19 th century cemetery Campo Verano, we will discuss the dilemma of the “Apostolic See” of Rome. But we will also discuss the meaning of the word “apostle” as it relates to the explosion of missionary communities in this same period. We will have a glimpse of this pattern in the story of foundress <u>Frances Xavier Cabrini</u> , patroness of immigrants, whose path briefly took her to Rome and then around the world. We will see how questions of the exercise of the papacy and the organization of the missional church remain at the heart of the study of <i>Ecclesiology</i> today.
Tues section: April 11 Thurs section: April 13	St. Peter’s or Centro San Lorenzo	Rise of Roman Catholic Self- Awareness (and Other- Understanding)	How does one describe the Roman Catholic Church of the 20 th century in a nutshell? Many new communities such as <u>Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity</u> respond to modern needs. However, we must mention the sad divisions of World War I, the political dance of World War II (the story of the master of disguise <u>Msgr. Hugh O’ Flaherty</u> will illustrate this well!), the whirl of changes which came with the Second Vatican Council, and the mediatic pontificate of <u>Pope John Paul II</u> . We will discuss how topics of <i>Theological Anthropology</i> , such as human sexuality, dominate the discussions of this period.
Group Presentations Tues section: April 18 Thurs section: April 20	JFRC and possibly parish of San Fulgenzio	The Roman Catholic Church Down the Road	What is the Church of the Third Millennium? We could go to the parish church down the road and find out. The juridical parish of the John Felice Rome Center is Saint Fulgentius, and we will see if we have time for a visit. But most importantly, this is the day in which the small groups present their projects. The projects include an invitation to reflect on <u>Pope Francis’s</u> encyclicals <i>Laudato Si</i> and <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> and the current topics of ecology, ecumenism, dignity of human life, systems of solidarity, safeguarding the vulnerable, and economic responsibility. Here we will see what you have to say!
Tues section:	JFRC	FINAL EXAM	



JOHN FELICE

ROME
CENTER

April 25

Thurs section:
April 27

April 25 Thurs section: April 27			
--	--	--	--