THEO 279: Roman Catholicism

John Felice Rome Center

Summer term 2020 - Session B online
Tuesdays + Thursdays | 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Rudolf Kutschera
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Office hours: By appointment via zoom

1. Course Description

This online 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. Due to the current coronavirus crisis all sessions will take place online, most of them in form asynchronous lectures. 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 by online resources 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

A collection of readings will be made available on SAKAI.
Further readings


4. Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy. Preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student. All assignments have to be posted until the due date. Unexcused delays in submissions will impact the final course grade in accordance with the JFRC’s Attendance policy. Absence from zoom meetings due to sickness or injury needs to be corroborated by a doctor’s note.

5. Assessment components

Quizzes and participation 33.3 %

Reflection papers 33.3 %

Midterm paper/exam, 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. Sakai

This course requires that each student activates and maintains access to the Sakai online learning platform. All course materials will be made available, assignments will be submitted and tests will be taken via this tool. Most of the lectures will take place in the asynchronous mode, but there will be three synchronous zoom meetings, as well.
## 11. Course schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 June 30</td>
<td>Introduction and overview</td>
<td>Synchronous zoom meeting and individual assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 July 2</td>
<td>San Clemente and the origins of Christianity in Rome</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and reflection paper 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 July 7</td>
<td>From San Pietro in Vincoli to San Cosma e Damiano: Theological developments in Roman Catholicism</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 July 9</td>
<td>Santa Prassede and the Biblical references in Christian art</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and reflection paper 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 July 14</td>
<td>Santa Maria Maggiore and the significance of Mary in Catholicism</td>
<td>Midterm paper and a short summary paper</td>
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<td>6 July 16</td>
<td>Basilica Santa Sabina and shared Christian life in monasticism</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and reflection paper 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 July 21</td>
<td>Basilica Saint John Lateran and the theological foundations of the Church</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and quiz 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 July 23</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Basilica and the Papacy</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and reflection paper 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 July 28</td>
<td>Il Gesù and the legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and quiz 3</td>
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<td>10 July 30</td>
<td>The witnesses of Tiber Island</td>
<td>Video clips, readings and reflection paper 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 August 4</td>
<td>Current topics of Catholicism</td>
<td>Zoom classroom meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 August 6</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Individual zoom meetings</td>
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