

## **TESP 121R: THE CHURCH AND THE FUTURE**

**Spring 2009, Section #48540**

**T/Th 9:55-11:40**

**Classroom: Sobrato 19**

Instructor: **Denise Carmody**

Office: **Kenna 319**

Office Hours: **Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 and by appointment**

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**Note:** This course is open only to Religious Studies Majors, Minors, or Honors Students who have fulfilled the earlier course requirements and completed 88 quarter units. If you have come to the class and are not eligible, kindly see Prof. Carmody after class.

### **Some questions we will explore in this course:**

- 1) What did the Church look like in the New Testament period after the death of the apostles? (We'll look at 7 different Ecclesiologies found in the New Testament.)
- 2) What were the effects of Vatican II on the Church? Are the changes wrought by Vatican II likely to lead to more changes in the future? Would this be desirable? Why or why not?
- 3) Some of the issues facing the Church today include the shortage of clergy, decline in attendance at Mass, mandatory celibacy for priests, attitudes toward homosexuality, ordination of women, premarital sex, birth control, abortion, globalization, ethics in economics, etc. How do practicing Catholics regard these issues in the light of Church teachings?
- 4) Given the faith-conviction that "the Church cannot fail" because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, what should the Church look like in 2040?
- 5) Is it possible for the Church to change and stay the same?

### **Why are these topics worth exploring?**

- 1) These topics offer an intellectual challenge: how much do we know about the Church (past and present)?
- 2) As an adult Catholic (or an adult open to understanding Catholic attitudes toward the Church), these matters offer the opportunity to deepen one's awareness of the complexity of Church tradition.
- 3) Exploring what scholars (theologians, sociologists, economists) say about these topics may trigger personal insights that advance or refute the arguments presented in the texts.

- 4) Successfully completing the course should give you some mastery of the material as well as the ability to express your reasoned opinions orally and in writing.

**What are you required to do in this course?**

- 1) Read carefully. Think about what you read. Participate fully in every class by listening and responding constructively. **(25%)**
- 2) Write two 3-5 page essays: due April 9 and May14. **(10% for each)**
- 3) Do your own research and write a 20-25 page paper on a topic that has been approved and developed during the course: due by noon on June 11. **(40%)**
- 4) Produce an abstract and bibliography for your paper. **(10%)**
- 5) Come to every class on time; stay for the full class period; and abstain from food, drink (water is the only exception), and electronic stimuli (including the use of lap-tops, cell phones, pagers, etc.) while in the room.
- 6) Attend a conference in Berkeley on “local churches around the world” on Friday, May 29. This event is mandatory and replaces our June 2 class meeting. **(5%)**

**Required texts:**

- 1) Raymond Brown, THE CHURCHES THE APOSTLES LEFT BEHIND
- 2) Jerome Baggett, SENSE OF THE FAITHFUL: HOW AMERICAN CATHOLICS LIVE THEIR FAITH
- 3) William Cavanaugh, BEING CONSUMED: ECONOMICS AND CHRISTIAN DESIRE
- 4) David Schultenover, VATICAN II: DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
- 5) Denise Carmody, AN IDEAL CHURCH: A MEDITATION

These texts (#1 – 4) will be available in the Bookstore. (#5 will be a gift from the author.)

## CALENDAR

- March 31 (T) Course Introduction
- April 2 (Th) THE CHURCHES THE APOSTLES LEFT BEHIND Chapters 1-3.
- April 7 (T) THE CHURCHES . . . BEHIND Chapter 4 through Conclusion.
- April 9 (Th) Video and lecture-discussion. **Essay due at the beginning of the class.**
- April 14 (T) Handouts from O'Malley's book and Introduction to VATICAN II: DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
- April 16 (Th) Documents of Vatican II: Dei Verbum, Dignitatis Humanae, Apostolicam Actuositatem For access to these and all documents, see [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm)
- April 21 (T) VATICAN II: DID ANYTHING HAPPEN? Chapter 1 & 2 & Handout
- April 23 (Th) VATICAN II . . . HAPPEN? Chapter 3
- Week of April 26: Sign up to discuss (and hand in) abstract and bibliography.**
- April 28 (T) VATICAN II . . . HAPPEN? Chapters 4 & Handouts (2)
- April 30 (Th) CONSUMING DESIRE Introduction and Chapter 1
- May 5 (T) CONSUMING DESIRE Chapter 2 to the end
- May 7 (Th) SENSE OF THE FAITHFUL: Preface and Part I (pp. ix through 56)
- May 12 (T) SENSE . . . FAITHFUL: pp. 59 through 88
- May 14 (Th) Conversation with **Jerome Baggett**, author of SENSE . . . FAITHFUL  
**Essay on Consuming Desire due at the beginning of the class.**
- May 19 (T) SENSE . . . FAITHFUL: pp. 89 through 168
- May 21 (Th) SENSE . . . FAITHFUL: pp. 169 to the end of the book
- May 26 (Th) AN IDEAL CHURCH: A MEDITATION pp. 1-44
- May 28 (Th) AN IDEAL CHURCH: A MEDITATION pp. 45 to the end
- May 29 (Fri) Local Ecclesiologies Conference at Berkeley

June 2 (T) No class meeting

June 3 (Th) Wrap-up Session; Paper due by noon on **June 11 in Kenna 323\***

### **Seminar Participation:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting; late-comers will likely be counted as absent, if it occurs more than once during the quarter. Your participation grade will decrease by 10% per absence. Missing all or part of four classes will result in a failing grade for the course.

The stringency of this attendance policy underscores the seriousness of participation. Seminars are participatory. I expect seminar members to read the material carefully and discuss it vigorously. The best seminars occur when members volunteer evenly, building on what has already been said or offering different viewpoints. I expect you to master each assignment so that you can move the conversation forward by both offering insights that stimulate the thoughts of the class and asking worthwhile questions related to the material being discussed. Participation counts for **25%** of the final grade.

### **Interpretation of Grading for Participation:**

Students earn from **C- to C+** when they are:

- Physically present at all meetings
- Contribute to the discussion in a range from seldom to occasionally
- Often show little to some grasp of material
- Indicate by body language interest in the discussion and its progress
- Answer questions when asked; sometimes ask questions of clarification

Students earn from **B- to B+** when they are:

- Actively engaged in the discussion during all meetings
- Making consistent contributions based on a good/solid mastery of material
- Demonstrating varying degrees of insight and engagement with texts
- Able to question and make contributions that move the discussion to deeper levels
- Willing and able to listen to and build on the ideas of others

Students earn **A- or A** when their

- Presence is important, making the discussion worthwhile for all
- Control of the material and its implications is consistently solid
- Skill in group dynamics is clear
- Ability to listen matches their verbal contributions

### **Seminar Paper:**

The paper is the result of your independent research. The resources your use must be print-based (i.e., websites are not allowed). You should consult the reference librarian

for assistance in locating relevant books and journal articles. Journals such as AMERICA, THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, THE TABLET, and COMMONWEAL are good sources of articles.

The goal is for you to become a mini-expert on your topic. While this is a **research** paper, its format may be according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* or that of a more personal essay. If you choose the latter, footnotes must be imbedded in the text and full references listed at the end of the paper.

Below is a list of possible topics. The list is not exhaustive; feel free to discuss with me any one of these or another topic that interests you. No two students may write on the same topic. Therefore it is wise to choose quickly and “register” your choice with me by email or in person.

The abstract should run between 350-500 words. It must express clearly the topic of interest, a working thesis, and the anticipated structure of the arguments. The bibliography should contain 15-20 sources, each of which is followed by a one-sentence note about the relevance of the source to the topic.

**Topics:**

The Doctrine of Infallibility: What is it and is it a viable doctrine today?

Women Priests: Arguments for and against Women’s Ordination

Contemplative Religious Life: Could it be/should it be a Value in Today’s Church?

The Marriage Tribunal: What is it and how should it be evaluated?

Conscience: What is it and how important is it in Catholic teaching?

Married Priests: Who are they and what is their significance in the Catholic Church?

The Jesus Prayer: What is it and why might it be important today?

CALL TO ACTION and VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL: an evaluation of each

Should Celibacy be retained as a requirement for ordination?

The Diaconate: its history and significance today

The Lenten Fast: its history and significance (or lack thereof) today

Children should be raised in a religious tradition: Why or Why not?

Homosexuality and Church Teaching: What is the teaching and is it adequate?

Veneration of the Saints: Why?

Icons and Labyrinths: Aids to prayer or fads?

Should the Church change its teaching about Divorce and Remarriage?

Premarital Sexual Intercourse: an evaluation in light of Church teaching

Marian Devotion: Does it have a place in the modern Catholic Church?

The Mass: Should it be an obligation?

Suffering: What is the Church's view and do you agree?

Abortion: What are the issues and can the rhetoric become reasonable?

Stem Cell Research and Catholic Teaching

What the Church teaches about Evolution: an evaluation

**Academic Integrity (Turnitin.com):**

You must submit your essays and papers to Turnitin.com electronically each time you submit a hard copy to me. To do so, set up an account with Turnitin.com. (If you already have an account, simply add this class.) Go to the website and create a new user profile, adding our class. The course ID number is **2660418** and the password is **Carmody**. After registering, before handing in a hard copy to me, either upload it or paste your paper into the appropriate place on the website and submit it for a plagiarism review. All plagiarisms will be reported to the Office of Student Life and earn an F.

**University Policies and Procedures for Academic Integrity and Disability**

**Accommodation:**

Adherence to the University Academic Integrity Policy is mandatory. See <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/> and, if applicable, see the University Policy concerning learning (and other) disabilities that is available at <http://www.scu.edu/advising/learning/disabilities/index.cfm>

