

PMIN 225: CHURCH HISTORY

Winter Quarter, 2021

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COURSE SYLLABUS

Note: this syllabus for PMIN 225 (Church History) is tentative. The dates won't change, but there may be some slight alteration in the reading assignments.

Course description: This fully online GPPM course is an historical survey of Catholic Christianity from its origins to the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). As surveys go, it's meant to lend an impression that lingers—one that informs broadly but also relies on occasionally closer scrutiny of select topics. The course is studiously multi-disciplinary, approaching major developments in Catholicism from a variety of perspectives and historical sources.

Learning Objectives: This course has *four learning objectives*:

- a **generalist** understanding of historical developments in Christianity from its origins to Vatican II (GPPM Learning Objective **1A**);
- that this generalist knowledge will be enriched and occasionally deepened by a *nuanced appreciation of historical-theological sources*, textual, artistic and monumental (GPPM Learning Objective **3A**);
- Students will develop a personal and **pastoral pedagogy** for the history of the church by 'translating' historical complexities in diverse pastoral settings (GPPM Learning Objective **5A**);

- Students will distinguish between Christianity as a religious **movement** and the *institutional, theological and pastoral developments* of Christian churches with an emphasis on the West (GPPM Learning Objective **5B**).

Course Texts: the main text for the course is Norman Tanner’s *A New Short History of the Catholic Church* (Bloomsbury Continuum, 2014, ISBN: PB: 9781472909886. This text will serve as a general guide through twenty centuries of Catholic Church History. It will be supplemented by weekly readings of mainly primary sources, but with a few other secondary works. All of these sources (excluding the Tanner book) will be available on **Camino (Canvas)** at SCU.

Course Requirements: we accomplish the learning objectives above through various activities in the course. The first and most important is **student participation**. That, of course, requires presence; our meetings will take place on ten Wednesdays throughout the quarter (6 – 9 PM). There will be plenty of occasions for in-class discussion, both in large and small groups. In addition, students will participate in selecting an original source (indicated below with an asterisk) and introduce it in class for discussion.

The **writing** requirement entails **two short essays**: the first is a ‘textual analysis’ based on any one of the **original sources** discussed through the quarter. Most students tend to write this paper based on the source they introduce in class for discussion. However, students are free to choose any source to write on. The second essay is a **non-textual reflection** on some Christian work of art. The breadth of possibility is considerable and we’ll discuss ways of approaching and selecting this essay’s subject matter early in the course. There are guides to writing both papers on Camino. The due date for the textual analysis is **one week after** we’ve discussed the original source in class. The non-textual reflection is due **February 17**.

Final Project: this culminating assignment, in lieu of a final exam, gives the student an opportunity to ‘teach’ Church history, though likely not in a conventional way. This is the **pastoral application project**. Students choose some historical issue they’ve encountered (and are interested in) and match it to some pastoral setting. Guides are available for approaching this final exercise and located at our course page on Camino. **Alternatively**, students can choose to write an extended original **source study** on any relevant topic. Each of these options will be discussed in detail the first two weeks of the course.

Apportionment of credit:

Participation:	30%
Disc. Leadership:	10%
Textual Analysis:	15%
Non-textual study	15%
Final Project:	30%

Instructor feedback reaches students through written comments on papers and course projects, including presentation of a source and the final project. I’m also happy to meet students at any

time (as indicated above). In anticipation of instructor feedback, students are encouraged to read carefully the 'scoring rubric' located at the end of the syllabus.

Technology Policies: Cell phones should be turned off during on-site classes, and laptops may only be used for authorized collaborations or for viewing course readings. The Student Handbook prohibits video- or audio-recording or streaming of private, non-public conversations and/or meetings, inclusive of the classroom setting, without the knowledge and consent of all recorded parties. If you require the recording of classroom lectures, discussions, simulations, and other course-related activities for a documented disability, please make arrangements through Disabilities Resources (see below) and discuss this with the instructor. If for some reason other than disability you would like to record the class, please seek the permission of the instructor first, and then of the class.

GPPM's Zoom Policy:

"The use of video-conferencing software to record or replace in-person attendance is not allowed, except in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the instructor and Program Director."



SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

Week 1	January 6: Topics: Approaching the Church historically; biblical foundations; first teaching; examining sources for Church History Readings: <i>Didache</i>
Week 2	January 13: Topics: Early Christian growth; 'Early Church' and early churches Readings: Tanner, 1-39 <i>*The Nicene Creed (in motion)</i> <i>*Syncretica of the Desert</i>
Week 3	January 20: Topics: Migration, the collapse of empire and the emergence of 'Europe'; the monastic spirit and the preservation of culture; Christianity East and West Readings: Tanner, 41-79

**The Rule of St. Benedict (excerpts)*

**An Irish Miscellany (Patrick's Lorica and other readings)*

- Week 4 January 27:**
Topics: The 'renaissance' of the 12th century; theology and theologians; Cistercian architecture; heresy and the new religious orders; Lateran IV; popular religion
Readings: Tanner, 81-164
 **Abelard, 'Preface to Sic et Non'*
 **Two Saints' lives (from The Golden Legend, 1260)*
- Week 5 February 3:**
Topics: The late medieval world; the age of councils; the Italian Renaissance and the papacy; calls for reform
Readings: **Thomas Aquinas, 'On Prayer'*
 **Haec Sancta (a document from the Council of Constance, 1415)*
- Week 6 February 10:**
Topics: Reformers; theological positions; politics and religion; art, prayer and devotion
Readings: Tanner, 165-200
 'The Baroque' (Khan Academy Video)
 **Martin Luther, 'On the German Mass'*
 'The Book of Common Prayer' ('In Our Time' podcast)
- Week 7 February 17:** To the Ends of the Earth **Non-textual reflection due**
Readings: Stephen Neill, 'Rome, the Orthodox, and the World, 1815-1914'
 **Two Samples of Missionary Preaching*
- Week 8 February 24:** Modern Dilemmas
Readings: Tanner, 201-239
 **John Henry Newman, 'On the role of tradition'*
 **A selection of Catholic and Protestant Hymns*
 **Instruction of the Church on Sacred Art (1952)*
- Week 9 March 3:** Vatican II
Readings: John O'Malley, 'Trent and Vatican II: Two Styles of Church'
 **Gaudium et Spes (excerpts)*
- Week 10 March 10:**
Topics: The Christian Church: Retrospect and Prospect; Pastoral Application Projects