

DO81DE - Ecumenism

Six week, one credit course. Josephinum Diaconate Institute

Adjunct: Michael Markham, D.R.S. (ABD) and Ed.D. (Dissertation Proposal)

MBA and MPA

Email: dcnmichaelmarkham@gmail.com.

Phone: 978.302.9941

Office Hours: Text or email to arrange a time

Description: An introduction to the history and theology of the ecumenical movement. Reference will be made to the teaching of the Magisterium, significant achievements in ecumenical dialogue, and prospects for future achievements. Exposure to the rich variety of Christian ecclesial communities and traditions will be included.

Objectives: *The student will achieve a basic knowledge of the following:*

- a. History of the modern ecumenical movement and its theological foundation in Scripture and Tradition including patristic literature.
- b. Principles, norms and methods of ecumenical theology including types of dialogue and the nature of the hierarchy of truths.
- c. Fruits of the ecumenical dialogues including studies in doctrine; and possibilities for cooperation on the pastoral level.
- d. Practices that shape contemporary ecumenical and inter-religious relations including dialogue, hospitality, cooperation, spiritual ecumenism, and prayer for Christian Unity.

At the conclusion of the course, the student will have the ability to:

- a. Distinguish that which Christians hold in common from points of disagreement; and to identify the opportunities and limitations manifest in the ecumenical movement.
- b. Analyze the theological reasoning which shapes the discussions which are at the core of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogues and practices of hospitality.
- a. Promote, when appropriate, co-operation through prayer, social justice initiatives, and to witness to the Catholic Church's commitment of ecumenism.
- b. Teach and explain the place of ecumenical and inter-religious relations in the life of faith and the Church today.

Format: Class format is a combination of video lecture, reflections and online video group discussion. Discussions will focus on the appointed article for class and individual meetings with a minister from a different faith-based tradition. Each student is to prepare for the discussion by careful reading of the article, formulating questions, comments, and to engage in the class conversation of the assigned article or meeting.

All papers must be formatted using the JDI standard which is **A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations** by [Kate L. Turabian](#) (Author), ISBN-13: 978-0226816388 ISBN-10: 0226816389 This guide is available in paperback and eBook.

DO81DE - Ecumenism

Assignment I

Choice of either option A or B

OPTION A: Write a 5-10-page (double-spaced) paper on a topic of your choice related to the topics covered in this course. Note: submit your thesis statement to the professor for approval before beginning the paper.

OPTION B: Select and read three articles or books from the course bibliography and write a 5-10-page (double-spaced) paper review for each, including the four elements of the review:

- 1) describe and summarize the author's key points and key arguments,
- 2) analyze and evaluate the author's claims and conclusions,
- 3) compare and contrast it with what someone else has written on this topic or with content from the course itself,
- 4) critique it from your own perspective – in what ways do you agree with the author? Disagree? Why?

Be sure to footnote material from the book and include a bibliography for this book and any other works that you consult in preparing the paper

Assignment II

Mandatory for all students

Interview a person who is involved in some form of ecumenical ministry (get the professors' approval of your choice before proceeding). Prepare a list of interview questions about that person's experience in ecumenism (minimum of 12 questions). A face-to-face interview is greatly preferable, but if distance is too great, a telephone interview may be substituted.

Then write a 5-10 page (double-spaced) paper about what you have learned regarding the future of ecumenism. The paper should include the following elements:

- 1) Description: describe the person's ecumenical involvements and his/her perspectives on the future of ecumenism.
- 2) Analysis: analyze what is working well and what is not in that ecumenical ministry. What are the current challenges or impediments?
- 3) Comparison and Synthesis: compare what you heard and observed to the lectures, readings, and discussions of this class: what was congruent with what you learned in this class? What was different? Be sure to engage the relevant publications from the class assignments and bibliography.
- 4) Conclusions: provide your own assessment of the future of ecumenism in this context.

Include a bibliography and your interview questions at the end of the paper (not to be included in the paper page count),

DO81DE - Ecumenism

Required Reading

Note: The reading assignments are all online from the USCCB collection on Ecumenism. Many are articles posted in other websites. There is no required text for this course.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/ecumenical/ecumenical-documents-and-news-releases.cfm>

General Ecumenical Resources

Becoming One September, 2013
Bishop Madden writes on emerging trends in ecumenism in America Magazine

Spirituality, Ministry, and Ecumenism , August 2013
Speech of Fr. John Crossin

Ecumenical and Interreligious Sensitivity in Preaching, June 2013
Fr. John Crossin speaks at the University of Notre Dame

The Current State of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, June 2013
Speech of Bishop Madden to the Tantar Ecumenical Institute

Pope Francis's Challenge: Staying Angry or Encountering Christ, August 2013
Blog posting by Fr. John Crossin

Ecumenical and Interreligious Sensitivity in Preaching
Fr. John Crossin

Building a Culture of Encounter
Fr. John Crossin

Recent Ecumenical Firsts, May 2013
Blog posting by Fr. Ronald Roberson

Dialogue and Rebuilding Trust after Tragedy April 2013
Blog posting by Dr. Anthony Cirelli

The Church Undivided
Victor Gaetan discusses Benedict XVI's ecumenical legacy in the Journal of Foreign Affairs

DO81DE - Ecumenism

Ecumenical and Interreligious

<u>Who We Are</u>	<u>Ecumenical</u>	<u>Orthodox</u>
<u>Oriental Orthodox</u>	<u>Polish National Catholic</u>	<u>Anglican</u>
<u>Lutheran</u>	<u>Reformed</u>	<u>Methodist</u>
<u>Southern Baptist</u>	<u>Evangelical</u>	<u>Faith and Order</u>
<u>Christian Churches Together</u>	<u>Week of Prayer</u>	<u>Friends of EIA</u>
<u>Interreligious</u>	<u>Islam</u>	<u>Buddhism</u>
<u>Sikhism</u>	<u>Hinduism</u>	<u>Jewish</u>
<u>Resources</u>	<u>Videos</u>	<u>Videos - On the Path Toward Christian Unity</u>
<u>Videos - Walking Together on the Road to Peace</u>		

Web Sites that will be useful for research during the course

Anglican Communion, <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/>
 Baptist World Alliance, <http://www.bwanet.org>
 Christian Churches Together, <http://www.christianchurchestogether.org/>
 Churches Uniting in Christ, <http://www.cuicinfo.org/>
 Ecumenical Patriarchate, <http://www.ec-patr.org/>
 Formula of Agreement, <http://www.pcusa.org/dear/formula.pdf>
 Global Christian Forum, <http://www.globalchristianforum.org/>
 Lutheran World Federation, <http://www.lutheranworld.org/>
 National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., <http://www.ncccusa.org/>
 Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Vatican,
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Ecumenical Relations,
<http://www.pcusa.org/dear/ecurelations.htm>

DO81DE - Ecumenism

Dates and Topics

Section I:

Introduction

Section II:

History: Unity and Division
Scriptural & Patristic Background
Horizons of Church Division
Emerging Catholic Interest

Section III:

Methods
Dialogue and Encounter
Principles & Norms
Nature & Types of Dialogue
Memory & Encounter

Section IV:

Doctrine
Convergence and Differences
Belief: God, Church and Sacraments
Authority: Petrine & Marian Doctrine
Doctrinal Identity: Distinctive & Common

Section V:

Practices
Opportunities and Limitations
Hospitality & Co-operation
Spiritual Ecumenism & Prayer for Christian Unity

Section VI:

Ecumenism in Parish Life