

A Survey of the History of the Church

Pontifical College Josephinum † Diaconate Continuing Education † Autumn 2015

Course code: HS501DE

Credit hours: 2

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Course description

This survey course in the history of the Church investigates theological, political, and social developments from the apostolic age through the Second Vatican Council. This range of topics in the course is organized according to the ‘six ages’ of the Church as divided by the historian Christopher Dawson. “A Survey of the History of the Church” is designed to provide an overview of the life of the Church up to the modern era for those serving as permanent deacons in the Catholic dioceses of the United States. It places events and controversies of history in a context that will foster a mature understanding of the Church’s mission and legacy.

Textbooks

Required

Vidmar, John. *The Catholic Church through the Ages: A History*. New York: Paulist Press, 2005.

Suggested

Henry Bettenson, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Jacques Dupuis, ed. *The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church*. 7th ed. New York: Alba House, 2001.

Course layout for Church History
 Dr. Eric Graff, Pontifical College Josephinum

Module	Topic of Discussion Online Lecture	Student Assignments			
		Readings	Writing	Forum Discussion	Quiz
1	The Identity of the Church Theology, History, and Preparation	<i>Lumen gentium</i> , the dogmatic constitution on the Church, at http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html Vidmar 1–45	Reflection papers for groups A or B on the subject of a document from the primary documents list	Call	X
2	Trials of the Church to AD 330 Example, Culture, and Understanding	The <i>Didache</i> (PDF from the course site); The <i>Liber Pontificalis</i> , life of Sylvester (PDF from the course site) Vidmar, 46–72	A		
3	Growth of the Church to AD 650 Secular and regular vocations, papacy and episcopate	<i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i> , selections starting at http://www.ccel.org/ccel/gregory/life_rule.iv.i.html Vidmar, 72–87 + short readings posted to the	B		

		course site			
4	Definition of the Church to AD 1000 (I) Evangelizing, Western ties, Eastern relations, Islam Readings to be posted to Populi	Bede, <i>On the Reckoning of Time</i> , and <i>The Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i> , selections posted to the course site; Vidmar 88–118	A		
5	Definition of the Church to AD 1000 (II) Language, Science, Arts and history	Selections from a medieval manuscript: MS Köln, Dombibliothek 83(ii) 79v–85v at http://www.ceec.uni-koeln.de/ ; Vidmar, 119–138	B	Call	
6	The High Medieval Church to AD 1216 Schism, Gregorian Reform, Papal Supremacy	<i>Dictatus Papae</i> ; Letters of Henry IV and Gregory VII; the <i>Concordat of Worms</i> ; the speech of Urban II to the Council of Clarendon, calling for the first crusade (all in PDF from the course site); Vidmar 138–164	A		X
7	The Late Medieval Church to AD 1450 Schism, Plague, War, and Print	<i>Summa Theologica</i> by Thomas Aquinas, selections from http://dhspriority.org/thomas/summa/index.html ; Vidmar, 165–177	B		
8	The Renaissance Church to 1563 Catholic and Protestant	Martin Luther, <i>95 Theses</i> at http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/witt	A		

	Reformations	enberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html ; Leo X, <i>Exsurge Domine</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Leo10/110exdom.htm ; The Council of Trent, selections from http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html ; Vidmar, 177–204			
9	The Church in the Age of Reason to 1789 Science, Discovery, and the Old Regime Readings to be posted to Populi	Galileo’s letter to the Duchess Christina at http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/galileo-tuscany.asp ; Cardinal Bellarmine’s letter to Fr. Foscarini at http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/galileo/letterbellarmine.html ; the papal condemnation of Galileo at http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/galileo/condemnation.html ; Pope Pius VI, <i>On the Civil Oath in France</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius06/p6charit.htm ; Other readings on the French revolution at the course site; Vidmar, 204–276	B		
10	The Church in the long nineteenth century Revolution, Ideology, economy	Gregory XVI, <i>Mirari vos</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Greg16/g16mirar.htm ; Pius IX, <i>Quanta cura</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius09/p9quanta.htm ; Leo XIII, <i>Rerum novarum</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Leo13/113re	A		X

		rum.htm ; Vidmar, 276–307			
11	The Church through the World Wars to 1950 Conflict and pastoral care, new partnerships Read Vidmar 258–345	Benedict XV, <i>Ad beatissimi apostolorum</i> , at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Ben15/b15adbea.htm ; Pius XI, <i>Mit Brennender Sorge</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius11/P11BRENN.HTM ; Pius XII, <i>Mystici corporis Christi</i> at http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Pius12/P12MYSTI.HTM ; Vidmar, 307–345	B	Call	
12	The Contemporary Church Vatican II, the Cold War, the postmodern order Readings to be posted to Populi	<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> at http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html ; John Paul II, <i>Christifideles laici</i> at http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici.html			
Final Exam			AB: Final Paper Uploaded		Online Test