

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS 644/MHT 637: Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy

Gary B. McGee
gmcgee@agts.edu
268-1000 (office)

May 2004

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the historical and theological developments of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, focusing on the theological, liturgical, and missiological distinctives of these traditions and their relation to each other and to other Christians. Pentecostal perspectives on and relations with Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians will also be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, each student should be able:

1. To discuss the historical and theological developments of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.
2. To discuss the theological significance of the First and Second Vatican Councils with special emphasis on the latter.
3. To analyze the impact of recent movements within Catholicism and Orthodoxy for their contemporary influence on modern Christianity.
4. To discuss Catholic, Orthodox, evangelical, and Pentecostal relationships, particularly as they relation to common witness and missions.

TEXTBOOKS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2d ed., 2000.

Clendenin, Daniel B. *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: A Western Perspective*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003.

Clendenin, Daniel B., ed. *Eastern Orthodox Theology: A Contemporary Reader*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003.

Flannery, Austin, ed. *Vatican Council II: Vol. I: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*. Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Co., 1996.

McGonigle, Thomas D., and James F. Quigley. *A History of the Christian Tradition: From the Reformation to the Present*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1996.

RECOMMENDED

Bailey, Betty Jane and J. Martin Bailey. *Who Are the Christians in the Middle East?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2003.

Binns, John. *An Introduction to the Christian Orthodox Churches*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Colson, Charles, and Richard John Neuhaus. *Evangelicals & Catholics Together: Toward a Common Mission*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1995.

Fournier, Keith A. *Evangelical Catholics*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990.

Geisler, Normal L., and Ralph E. MacKenzie. *Roman Catholics and Evangelicals: Agreements and Differences*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.

Hesselgrave, David J., ed. *Theology and Mission: Papers Given at Trinity Consultation No. 1*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978.

Martin, Ralph, and Peter Williamson, eds. *John Paul II and the New Evangelization*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1995.

Ware, Kallistos. *The Orthodox Way*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1986.

COURSE OUTLINE

First two weeks: Eastern Orthodoxy (read two volumes by Clendenin)

1. Introduction to the course
 - A. Latin and Greek Christian traditions compared
 - B. Historical framework & church councils
 - C. Legacy of "canonical territories"
2. Orthodox history
 - A. "Uniate" churches and tensions
 - B. Orthodox theology
 - C. Orthodox spirituality

Second two weeks: Roman Catholicism (read *Catechism*, *Documents of Vatican II*, and McGonigle and Quigley)

3. Roman Catholic history
 - A. Roman Catholic theology
 - B. Catholic spirituality
 - C. Vatican Council II
4. Charismatic renewal movements
5. Current relationships between Catholic, Orthodox, evangelicals, and Pentecostals in missions

METHODOLOGY

Reading and discussion, lecture, guest speakers, films

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Consistent attendance (exceeding the number of allowed absences will result in a reduction of the final grade)
2. Successful completion of all assigned readings
3. Active participation in classroom discussions
4. Two successful classroom presentations
6. Final comprehensive examination

GRADING

Classroom participation	20%
1 st presentation	20%
2 nd presentation	20%
Final comprehensive examination	40%

CAUTIONS

1. Late work will be penalized.
2. A grade of Incomplete will be given only in the event of extreme circumstances.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF REFERENCE WORKS

Atiya, Aziz S., ed. *The Coptic Encyclopedia*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1991. The major reference work on Coptic (Egyptian) Christianity, an Oriental Orthodox (Non-Chalcedonian) sector of the Christian faith. Helpful insights into this branch of Christianity whose followers may be found in Europe and elsewhere.

McBrien, Richard P., ed. *HarperCollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1995. An excellent one-volume reference work that provides a wealth of information on the many aspects of Roman Catholicism.

New Catholic Encyclopedia. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 2002. The most exhaustive reference work available on Roman Catholicism.

Prokurat, Michael, et al. *Historical Dictionary of the Orthodox Church*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1996. An important resource for the many aspects of Eastern Orthodox theology, spirituality, and practices.

Roberson, Ronald. *The Eastern Christian Churches: A Brief Survey*, 6th ed. Rome: Edizioni Orientalia Christiana, 1999. Information on the Church of the East, the many branches of the Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Catholic Eastern (“Uniate”) Churches. Sorts out the many church groups in Europe, the CIS, and Middle East.

NOTE: More extensive resources may be found in the bibliographies of the textbooks by Clendenin and McGonigle, and the recommended book by Ware. The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox Churches have web sites from which you can download historical information, news articles, pronouncements, etc.

For an analysis of the charismatic dimension in the spirituality of the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox traditions, see Stanley M. Burgess, *The Holy Spirit: Eastern Catholic Traditions* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1989).

For the theological and spiritual implications of the Pentecostal and charismatic movements, see Peter Hocken, *The Glory and the Shame: Reflections on the 20th Century outpouring of the Holy Spirit* (Guildford, Surrey, UK: Eagle, 1994).

For current information on charismatic renewal movements in the Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox churches worldwide, see Stanley M. Burgess, ed. *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2002.

For information on the Catholic/Pentecostal dialogue, see Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *Ad ultimum terrae: Evangelization, Proselytism and Common Witness in the Roman Catholic Pentecostal Dialogue (1990-1991)* (New York: Peter Lang, 1999).

For Catholic missiology, see Karl Müller, *Mission Theology: An Introduction* (Sankt Augustin, Germany: Steyler Verlag, 1987); for Orthodox missiology, see Ioan Sauca, ed., *Orthodoxy and Cultures* (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1996); James J. Stamoolis, *Eastern Orthodox Mission Theology Today* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1986).

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Gary B. McGee, April 13, 2004.