

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS 644/MHT 637: Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy

May 8—June 2, 2006
9:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Gary B. McGee

Summer 2006

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 trace the historical, structural, liturgical, theological, and missiological developments of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.
2. To discuss the impact of these churches on cultures and the challenge to missionaries.
3. To analyze how military, industrial, and healthcare chaplains can effectively relate to Catholic and Orthodox clergy and minister to Catholic and Orthodox believers when necessary.
4. To explain theological lines of agreement and disagreement.
5. To analyze the significance of recent events that may have bearing on effective mission work.

TEXTBOOKS

- Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2d ed. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2000.
- Clendenin, Daniel B. *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: A Western Perspective*, 2d. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003.
- Clendenin, Daniel B., ed. *Eastern Orthodox Theology: A Contemporary Reader*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2003.
- Flannery, Austin, ed. *Vatican Council II: Vol. 1: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*. Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Co., 1996.
- Noll, Mark A., and Carolyn Nystrom. *Is the Reformation Over? An Evangelical Assessment of Contemporary Roman Catholicism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2006.

RECOMMENDED

- Colson, Charles, and Richard John Neuhaus. *Evangelicals & Catholics Together: Toward a Common Mission*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1995.
- Geisler, Norman L., and Ralph E. MacKenzie. *Roman Catholics and Evangelicals: Agreements and Differences*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.
- Ware, Kallistos. *The Orthodox Way*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1986.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

May 8-19 Eastern Orthodoxy: (Readings—Clendenin, Vols. 1-2)

Introduction to the course
Latin and Greek Christian traditions compared
Historical framework & church councils
“Canonical territories”
Orthodox history: Brief overview
“Uniate” churches and tensions
Orthodox theology
Films

May 22-26, 30, 31, June 1, 2 Roman Catholicism: (Readings—*Catechism, Documents of Vatican II, Noll and Nystrom*)

Roman Catholic history: Brief overview
Council of Trent
Vatican Council I
Roman Catholic theology
Vatican Council II
Charismatic renewal movements
Guest speakers
Films
Reading: “Evangelism, Proselytism and Common Witness” (to be distributed earlier in the week)

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, films, field trip, analytical papers

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Consistent attendance (See *Student Handbook* for attendance policy.)
2. Successful completion of all assigned readings
3. Effective contributions as a discussion leader (instructions to be given at the beginning of the course)
4. Successful completion of three written assignments (5 pages each) (instructions to be given at the beginning of the course)

GRADING

Completion of reading assignments	20%
Discussion leader	20%
1 st analytical paper	20%
2 nd analytical paper	20%
3 rd analytical paper (Noll and Nystrom)	20%

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, Canada, and elsewhere.
- 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 Orthodox Churches*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Horner, Norman A. *A Guide to Christian Churches in the Middle East*. Elkhart, IN: Mission Focus, 1989. Though dated, this survey still contains helpful information.
- Lossky, Nicholas, et al., eds. *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991. Contains a wealth of information on the ecumenical movement, as well as Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and the Oriental Orthodox Churches.
- 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., 1967. The most exhaustive reference work available on Roman Catholicism. Though dated, it remains an invaluable resource. I think the revision has now come into print.
- Parry, Ken, et al., eds. *Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1999. Excellent resource on Orthodoxy.
- 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 assigned textbooks and the recommended book by Ware. The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox Churches, as well as the Church of the East, have web sites from which you can download historical information, doctrinal statements, news articles, pronouncements, etc.

For an analysis of the charismatic dimension in the spirituality of the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox tradition: 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: 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: Stanley M. Burgess, ed.

New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2002.

For relevant essays on the contemporary missions scene: Murray W. Dempster, Byron D. Klaus, Douglas Petersen, eds., *The Globalization of Pentecostalism: A Religion Made to Travel* (Irvine, CA: Regnum Books International, 1999); Douglas Petersen, *Not by Might, Nor By Power: A Pentecostal Theology of Social Concern in Latin America* (1996)

For the Catholic/Pentecostal Dialogue: "Dialogue, Roman Catholic and Classical Pentecostal," *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* (2002); Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *Ad ultimum terrae: Evangelization, Proselytism and Common Witness in the Roman Catholic Pentecostal Dialogue (1990-1991)* (1999).

For Roman Catholic missiology: John Paul II, *On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate (Redemptoris Missio)* (1990), Karl Müller, *Mission Theology: An Introduction* (1987).

For Orthodox missiology: Ioan Sauca, ed., *Orthodoxy and Cultures* (1996); James J. Stamoolis, *Eastern Orthodox Mission Theology Today* (1986).

For evangelical perspectives on Roman Catholicism in light of evangelical missions, see David J. Hesselgrave, ed., *Theology and Mission* (1978).

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Gary B. McGee, March 28, 2006.