

## History 234

### **The Catholic World, Medieval to Modern: A Global History**

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Cheely  
Monday 6:00-9:00 P.M.



#### **I. Course Description:**

*Rebuild my Church* – this was the divine message that Francis of Assisi believed he heard at the dawn of the thirteenth century. It became the basis of his mission to reform Catholicism and, over 800 years later, his reformation was embraced symbolically when Jorge Bergoglio assumed the name of Pope Francis I. What exactly was the species of Catholicism that they encountered and in what new directions did they lead it? Just after the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation and in the course of the present crisis of the Church, this moment is a singular opportunity to study the longer-term evolutions and reformations in the global history of Catholicism over the last millennium. This course will introduce students to the evolution of Catholic social, cultural, political, and intellectual life in different eras and different places, moving across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa between the High Middle Ages and the modern globalized world. It is not a study of the spread of Europe, but rather an exploration of evolving, connected histories across the world, from a global past to a reconfigured, global present.

No prior knowledge is required. Students will evaluate our knowledge about this subject through close examination of primary texts, material artifacts, audio-visual sources, and modern historical scholarship, posting regular discussion questions for the benefit of the seminar. The course will feature a short midterm paper of 4-5 pages and a final essay of 8-12 pages (or final exam in lieu of a final essay). Weekly readings will tend to hover around 50-60 pages, not to exceed 100 pages.

This course may be taken to fulfill the following requirements for Penn History Majors and Minors: Pre-1800, SEM, and one of the following geographic areas, depending on the topic of the student's research paper: Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, U.S.

## II. Tentative Themes & Schedule

- (1) 1/16: Contracted Catholicism: From a Global Late Antiquity through the Schism of East & West
- (2) 1/28: Disentangling Catholicism from the Secular World: Separations of Church & State from Monasticism and the Investiture Crisis to Lockean Liberalism & *Dignitatis Humanae*
- (3) 2/4: Reintegrating and Urbanizing Catholicism: New Markets and New Beggars from the Mediterranean Merchant World of Francis I to the Industrial Global Order of Mother Theresa
- (4) 2/11: Globalizing Greek Thought: Maimonides, Averroes and Aquinas to Las Casas & Anscombe
- (5) 2/18: Violent Contacts: Crusades, Inquisitions, Colonies
- (6) 2/25: Pious Connections: Convents & Schools, Cathedrals & Artists, Chants & Smokes, and Diverse Sacramental Worlds
- (7) 3/11: Reformations & the end of universalism?

### a. Short Paper Due 3/11, 5pm

- (8) 3/18: Missions, Mystics, Martyrs & new universalisms?
- (9) 3/25: Marian Conquests: Guadalupe, Lourdes, and beyond
- (10) 4/1: Asian Catholicism from Chinese & Malabar Rites Controversies to Communist Bishops
- (11) 4/8: African Catholicism between Capitalism and Global Social Service
- (12) 4/15: Natural Philosophy to Experimental Science: Albertus Magnus to Big Bang
- (13) 4/22: Catholic Literature and the Modern Self: Augustine's *Confessions* to Endo's *Silence*
- (14) 4/29: WW II - Francis II: Waning of Euro Catholicism, Reawakening of Global Catholicism

### a. If Final Paper, Proposal and bibliography Due 4/28, Final Paper Due 5/13.

### b. If Final Exam: Schedule TBD.

## III. Grading

- **Class Participation: 25%** - Includes attendance, oral participation, and weekly submission of 2 questions.
- **Presentation: 10%** - one brief presentation on artifacts to accompany weekly readings.
- **Short Midterm Paper (4-5 pages): 25%**
- **Final Exam (or 8-12 page Final Essay in lieu of exam): 40%**