Syllabus and Course Expectations

The Catholic Church is composed of 23 autonomous churches in full communion with the Pope as Bishop of Rome. In addition to the “Western” or Latin Church, there are another 22 “Eastern” Churches that possess their own rich and varied historical, liturgical, and spiritual heritages that Pope John Paul II called “The Light of the East” (Orientale Lumen, 1995). This survey course will increase awareness of and appreciation for the Byzantine, Antiochian, Chaldean, Armenian, and Alexandrian traditions so integral to our identity as the “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.”

Course Objectives

- The student will attain an understanding of the universal nature of the Church by exploring the theological patrimony of the Eastern Catholic Churches in comparison to the historical developments of the dominant Roman Catholic.
- The student will have an understanding and appreciation of traditions, spiritual life, and rituals of the Eastern Catholics.
- The student will have a heightened understanding of the core beliefs of the Catholic faith by examining the differences and similarities of the 23 autonomous churches in communion with the Pope.

Institutional Student Learning Objectives emphasized in this course will be:

- Demonstrate a systematic and coherent Catholic understanding of Bible and theological traditions as it informs mission.
- Possess the necessary 21st century skills to acquire, analyze, interpret and integrate information.

Theology and Religious Studies Learning Objectives emphasized in this course will be:

- Understand the basic doctrines, traditions, and scriptural interpretation of the Church
- Distinguish between official Church teaching and theological opinion, recognizing how these find expression in diverse cultural contexts.

Intercultural Learning Objectives emphasized in this course will be:

- Intercultural Competency
- Historical Contextualization

Course Activities and Assignments

This course is designed to be completed totally online using the school’s information management system (Populi). Since this is a two credit course, each week the presented content is expected to be the equivalent of two hours of class-time and the normally expected additional time spent on homework and
assigned readings.

There will be a total of ten (10) numbered lessons, and then 17 starred lessons (*******) covering each of the individual Eastern Catholic Churches. The ten numbered lessons are the critical overview parts of this course. The starred lessons are not required but considered to be supplementary material for the enrichment and growth of understanding. The starred lessons are optional, but highly recommended.

A new module will be made available approximately every week, so that all ten required units will be covered in the 15 weeks of the session. There is no absolute timeframe or limit on the lessons, except that all lessons need to be completed before the final exam period (May 8). There will be a scheduled final examination that will only be available during the week of May 11-14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Lessons</th>
<th>Additional Optional Modules on each Individual Eastern Catholic Church</th>
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<td>2. One in a Hundred</td>
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<td>3. Eastern Churches Overview</td>
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<td>4. Orientalium Ecclesiarum</td>
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<td>5. Living Eastern Spirituality</td>
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<td>6. Sacramental Life</td>
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<td>9. The Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>10. The Future of the Eastern Churches</td>
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Assessments (Only applies to students taking the course for credit)

Under “Assignments” you will a quiz for each of the ten numbered units. These are 20 to 25 multiple-choice, true/false, short answer questions dealing with the content. Each quiz may be taken up to three times, with only your highest score recorded. While these are assessments of your learning, I would like them viewed as additional ways to actually learn the material. I would suggest that after you have finished all of the reading and videos, you take the quiz. After you have finished the quiz, please feel free to ‘look up the answers’ and take the quiz again. The quizzes are dynamically built, so each time you take the quiz, you may be asked slightly different questions. Because I genuinely want the quizzes to be learning experiences, they will include information from all of the previous lessons. As an example the quiz for unit four will have 15 questions about Lesson Four, 5 questions from Lesson Three, 2 questions from Lesson Two, and 1 question from Lesson One. These quizzes will account of 70% of the final grade.

There will be a number of discussion forums and participation in these areas are required. Most of the discussions are open ended, and the expectation is that a digital conversation will be ongoing in all of this forums. Participation will account of 10% of the final grade.

There will be a final examination. This will also be only available from the Populi system. The examination will consist of 100 previously experienced multiple-choice, true/false, short answer questions take from the ten previous quizzes. This final examination will be available from May 9th through May 12 and will be timed, so expect to finish it in a single sitting. Unlike the quizzes, you may only take the Final Examination one time.

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. All content (readings and videos) are posted within the text of Populi.

Special Equipment

Each student needs to have reliable and ready access to the internet.

Office Hours

I am in the building five days a week from 7:30 until 4 and I would be delighted to chat with you any time you wish to stop in (subject to other activities that might drag me out of the office). If you wish to have a firm meeting time with me - please contact me by email and we can reserve a slot.

Most importantly - If I am awake - I am on email. Do not hesitate to send off a quick question, I am available most all evenings and weekends. Although this is an online course – I really, really, really would like to chat with you about any of the subjects we covering. My email is pstamm@dwci.edu and if you send me a contact on Skype at p.d.stamm – we can do that also.

Additional Policies and Practices

All other policies and practices include grading scales; will conform to the school’s standard reference documents including College Catalog.

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, I reserve the right to modify, supplement and make changes as might be needed.