



TRS 336: Ecclesiology

DIVINE WORD COLLEGE
Fall 2014 Syllabus – 3 Credits



DWC On-LINE

Office Hours: by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Studies the biblical, historical, and theological development of the Church in its redemptive role, structure, and ministry. Special attention is given to issues challenging the Church today – the magisterium, secularism, atheism, ecumenism, and the Church's role and relation to other religions in a religiously pluralist context. The course focuses on five basic areas of ecclesiology: 1- Beginnings of the Church; 2-Historical Ecclesiology; 3-Contemporary Catholic Teaching and Reflection; 4-Marks of the Church; 5-Role and Responsibilities in the Church.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able:

- To demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental issues of contemporary ecclesiology
- To have an understanding of official Roman Catholic teaching on the topics of the course
- To develop critical thinking skills expressed in discussion or writing about ecclesiology
- To acquire critical reflection on contemporary ecclesiology and pastoral practice
- To be conscious of the pluralist reality of the world and develop an appropriate language necessary for the task of engaging in interreligious dialogue as pastoral ministers

FORMATIONAL APPLICATION

It is a basic yet important insight to realize that God is active and present in all persons and cultures. The role of the missionary or of any minister, either ordained or lay is to honor the dignity of all human beings, their cultures, and their spirituality. It is important in personal pastoral spiritual development to be aware of the various cultural biases, which may influence our own worldview. Also this awareness addresses important issues of today such as the Pastoral minister's capacity to question the tradition and read the signs of the times and culture so that they promote social transformation and the questions that are raised about mission and ministry from the perspective of current ecclesiological issues.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Presentations, lectures, threaded class discussions, short reflection papers, writing critical questions engaging the readings, mid-term project and final project using *Criterion* and *Populi*.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- [An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives](#)
- [Ecclesiology for a Global Church: A People Called and Sent \(Theology in Global Perspective\)](#)
- [The Church Women Want: Catholic Women in Dialogue](#)
- [The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism](#)
- [Towards a Truly Catholic Church: An Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium](#)
- [Women & Catholicism: Gender, Communion, and Authority](#)

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Do your own work and present your ideas with integrity. Using another's idea is only permitted if you give credit to the original source. Cheating is prohibited. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) looking at study materials during an exam, allowing others to copy your exams, obtaining exam materials in advance, and failing to report cheating by others. **Plagiarism, even if unintentional, if only one sentence, is cheating.** It is very important to make sure that you do not copy or paste from other sources, that you attribute your ideas as needed, and that you use quotation marks when indicated. The Academic Honor Code is in the College Handbook.



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SPECIAL NEEDS

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are aware or suspect that you have a disability which may interfere with your completing various requirements for this course, you have a right for reasonable assistance and are encouraged to speak confidentially to the college counselor regarding arrangements or considerations for you to successfully complete this course.

REFLECTION PAPERS

Reflection papers (800 words) are to focus on a particular aspect, theme or issue within the assigned readings, lectures or class discussions. A successful reflection paper depends on several factors. Primary among these are the intent and purpose of your paper. What issue or questions are you exploring or analyzing? Follow the MLA format for writing papers. Unclear or rambling writing will not merit a satisfactory grade. Additionally, be mindful of the following:

1. Focus and develop your main idea, writing in complete paragraphs.
2. Review your writing: spelling, grammar, and punctuation affect your grade.

MEANS of ASSESSMENT

Reflection Papers (2 @ 10%) 20%

Mid-Term Project 25%

Engaging the Readings: Threaded Discussions, Class Presentations, Critical Questions 25%

Final Integration Project 30%

PROFESSOR COMMITMENT

I am committed to your success and obligate myself to the following:

1. Conscientiously prepared for class
2. Available outside of class for discussions about your progress and work
3. Respect, challenge, and hold each student accountable as an adult learner within a community of scholars

TENTATIVE COURSE (*Subject to change*)

- **Preparation:** Netiquette
- **Module One:** Introduction – Content and Scope of Ecclesiology
- **Module Two:** Ecclesiology in the New Testament
- **Module Three:** Ecclesiology from the Post-Biblical Period to the Mid-Nineteenth Century
- **Module Four:** Through the lens of the Ecumenical Councils to the Threshold of Vatican II
- **Module Five A:** The Ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council
- **Module Five B:** The Second Vatican Council
- **Module Five C:** Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium
- **Module Six:** Post-Vatican II Ecclesiology – The Church *ad Extra*
- **Module Seven:** Post Vatican II Ecclesiology – The Church *ad Intra*
- **Module Eight:** *The Church Women Want* (Intro, Parts 1-3)
- **Module Nine:** *The Church Women Want* (Part 4 & Summary)
- **Module Ten:** The Future of the Church and Its Ecclesiologies
- **Module Ten A:** Women & Catholicism: Gender, Communion and Authority
- **Module Ten B:** Contemporary Ecclesiologists
- **Module Ten C:** Towards a Truly Catholic Church
- **Module Eleven:** An Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium (Student Presentations)
- **Module Twelve:** Final Integration Project Discussion and Critique