

RELST 127

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Spring Semester 2009

INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

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Class Times & Room: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:20PM Armory 431

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:30PM

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Course Purpose and Design:

This course introduces the student to the academic study of Catholicism in case students wish to pursue further the historical, philosophical and theological foundations of one of the world's largest religions. The membership of the Catholic Church today encompasses about one-sixth of the human population and spans the entire globe. No other single religion includes such a diversity of cultures, languages, and traditions as Catholicism, and yet is so united by common worship and belief.

The course consists of rigorous analysis of primary readings that form the basis of Catholic belief and practice. These readings allow the student contact with the sources themselves rather than simply being verbally informed about their contents. The course also incorporates secondary (scholarly) interpretations of Catholicism that span a wide range of viewpoints. This combination aims at understanding Catholicism from both emic (insider) and etic (outsider) viewpoints.

A student who works hard at this course can expect several benefits: 1) A clear understanding of the basics of Catholicism that will provide a foundation for further study. 2) A better grasp of how the Catholic Church relates to our own larger culture in the past and in the present. 3) Sharpened critical thinking skills with respect to questions of religious experience, authority and tradition. 4) the possibility of more developed writing skills if a student chooses the paper option (see below).

Procedures and Suggested Methods of Study

The course will proceed by a combination of readings, lectures, and discussion. It is vital that the student complete the assigned readings *before* coming to the lectures in order to gain maximum benefit from them. The readings from primary sources should be studied with the utmost care because their contents will likely appear on exams. Many of the readings from primary sources are on the website. You should print these out and bring them to class. You should have special acquaintance with those readings that are discussed in lectures because they often admit of multiple interpretations.

Textbooks:

Peter J. Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* (Ignatius Press, 2001)

Karl Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* (Crossroad Publishing: New York, 1997 ed)

Some Important Internet Resources:

Online Course Reader:

http://www.sjcnc.org/images/cm/2008949322299991451457/RELST127_Reader.pdf

www.newadvent.org for the Church Fathers

www.vatican.va

www.catholic.com

Examinations and Grading:

Level One: All students who obtain a 90% or higher with the three exams on level I can receive no higher than a B+ in the course.

Level Two: All students who complete the requirements for Level I and the added work of level II *and* who obtain a 90% or higher on the three exams will receive an A- or higher in the course.

OR a student may take the paper option i.e. complete the requirements for level one and write a 10-12 page on a selected topic specified by the instructor.

Note: students must commit to Level II or the paper option by October 6th.

- 1) Two Midterm Exams (multiple choice) (40%)
- 2) Final Exam (30%)
- 3) Final Term Paper (10-12pp ds) (20%)
- 4) Class attendance & participation (10%)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES & READINGS

January 21, 2009 (W)

Introductory Lecture: What is Catholicism? Assignment: Ask 4 people on the street: "What does it mean to be Catholic?"

After Class: Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap. 1 pp. 1-13

I. Catholicism as a Development of Judaism (Biblical Foundations)

Jan 26, 2009 (M) The Old Testament Background of Catholicism.

Level I:

- 1) Texts from Hebrew Bible on website: Genesis 12, 15,17; Exodus 12; Psalm 2,110; Isaiah 2: 1-5

Level II: no extra work

Jan 28, 2009 (W) The New Testament Background of Catholicism.

Level I:

- 1) Texts from New Testament on website: Rom 10:9,10; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 4:1-6; Matthew 16:13-20.

Level II: no extra work

II. Core Concepts of Catholicism

February 2, 2009 (M) The Development of Dogma of the Trinity from Nicea (A.D. 325) to Constantinople (A.D. 381)

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 32-96. These chapters also apply to September 13th lecture.
- 2) Athanasian Creed on the website.

Level II:

- 1) Read Leo The Great “Letter no. 28 to Flavianus” on website
- 2) Read about St. Hilary of Poitiers visit www.cin.org/saints/hilary.html and then his treatise *On the Trinity* on the website.

Feb 4, 2009 (W) The Issue of the Incarnation (A.D. 431 Council of Ephesus & 451 Chalcedon)

Level I:

- 1) Read from the website: selections from St. Athanasius *On the Incarnation*.
- 2) Article “The Council of Ephesus” by instructor KJH on website.

Level II: Read Leo The Great *Sermon on the Lord’s Passion* on website

III. Catholicism’s Story of Redemption and Salvation

Feb 9, 2009 (M) Theologies of Redemption in Early Christianity

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 132-152.
- 2) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* pp. 32-35

Level II Read St. Paul’s *Letter to the Ephesians* in the New Testament. It can also be found at http://www.stoneworks.com/bible/new_testament/49_Ephesians.html

Feb 11, 2009 (W) Issues of Salvation in the Protestant Reformation

Level I:

- 1) Website has selections on Justification from St. Paul in the Bible (Romans chapters 4-6; Galatians 2:16-5:1 and James 2:14-26)
- 2) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 117-131.

Level II:

- 1) Read from Protestant Confessions and the Council of Trent on the Website

Feb 16, 2009 (M) Issue of Salvation Continued

IV. The Church as a Sacrament

Feb 18, 2009 (W) The Marks of the Catholic Church

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 97-116
- 2) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap IX pp. 141-158

Level II

- 1) Read Cyprian's *The Unity of the Catholic Church* Visit website:
www.ccel.org/fathers2/ANF-05/anf05-111.htm#P6832_2190664

Feb 23, 2009 (M) The Episcopacy: Biblical & Historical Foundations

Level I:

- 1) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap. VI pp. 81-96.
- 2) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap. XII pp. 193-209

Level II:

- 1) Read Pius XII's Encyclical *Mystici Corporis* Visit website:
www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xii/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_29061943_mystici-corporis-christi_en.html

Feb 25 (Ashes) (W) The Papacy: Biblical & Historical Foundations
readings under previous class apply here as well.

V. Catholicism as Liturgy

March 2, 2009 (M) The Current Liturgy of the Latin Rite: The *Novus Ordo* Mass (Post-Vatican II Liturgy)

Level I:

- 1) Reading from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* website:

Level II:

- 1) selections from Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) on the website.

Mar 4, 2009 (W) The Historical Roots of Catholic Liturgies

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 281-295
- 2) Handouts: the Byzantine Rite Mass (Eastern Catholic & Orthodox Churches)
- 3) Justin Martyr's Description of the Early Catholic Liturgy in *Apology* (ch. 65) see Website

Level II:

- 1) More readings from Justin Martyr's *Apology* (ch. 66) *Dialogue with Trypho the Jew* chap 41 see website.
- 2) Read the article on the history of liturgy in the *Catholic Encyclopedia* visit:
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09306a.htm>

VI. Catholicism as a Sacramental System

March 9, 2009 Sacrament of Baptism

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 307-314
- 2) Handouts on baptism.
- 2) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap XI pp. 176-192.

Level II:

- 1) Read about baptismal regeneration in the Church Fathers visit:
www.catholic.com/library/Born_Again_in_Baptism.asp
- 2) Read about Infant Baptism visit: www.catholic.com/library/Infant_Baptism.asp
- 3) Read about the necessity of Baptism visit:
www.catholic.com/library/Necessity_of_Baptism.asp

Mar 11 (W) Sacraments of Confirmation & Anointing

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 314-317 and pp. 370-374

Level II:

- 1) Read St. Thomas Aquinas on Confirmation. Read at least the first article on this subject. You may read more if you have time. visit:
<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/407200.htm>
- 2) Read St. Thomas Aquinas on Extreme Unction (or Anointing) visit:
<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/502900.htm>

MARCH 16 (M) MIDTERM EXAM I (Covering Sections One through Five)

VII. Catholicism as a Sacramental System Continued

Mar 18 (W) Sacraments of Marriage & The Lay Vocation

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 348-361 2) website: selections on the lay vocation from *Christifideles Laici*.

Sacrament of Holy Orders

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 362-369

Level II:

- 1) Read John Paul II on admitting women to the priesthood visit:
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_22051994_ordinatio-sacerdotalis_en.html

SPRING BREAK MARCH 23 AND 25

March 30, 2009 (M) Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 336-347

Level II:

- 1) Read St. Thomas Aquinas on Confession visit:
<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/408401.htm>

VIII. Catholicism as Eucharist

April 1, 2009 (W) The Eucharist as Communion:

Level I:

- 1) Selections from the *Didache*. see Website
- 2) selections from Ignatius of Antioch. see Website

Level II: Read St. Thomas Aquinas visit <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/407901.htm>

April 6 (M)

The Eucharist as Sacrament:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 320-335
- 2) Selections from St. Thomas Aquinas visit <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/407601.htm>

Level II:

- 1) More selections from Thomas Aquinas <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/407501.htm>

April 8, 2009 (W) The Eucharist as Sacrifice

Level I:

- 1) Chapter Four of KJH's *The Eucharist: A Supper for Lovers* (Sent from Instructor KJH via email)

Level II:

- 1) Readings from the Council of Trent on Website

IX. The Spiritualities of Catholicism (Communion of the Saints)

April 13, 2009 (M) The Christocentric Character of Catholic Spiritualities

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 375-403.
- 2) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap. VII pp. 97-113.

Level II: Selections from (see *Magnificat*) *Anima Christi*

X. Mary in Catholic Thought & Life

April 15, 2009 (W) Marian Doctrines & Devotion: Themes and Development

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 404-421.
- 2) Read Adam *The Spirit of Catholicism* Chap. VIII pp. 114-140.

Level II: 1) Selections from KJH's *Meeting Mary Our Mother in Faith* (Sent from Instructor KJH via email)

APRIL 20 MIDTERM EXAM II (Covering Sections Six through Eight)

XI. Reason and Faith in Catholic Thought

April 22, 2009 (W) Historical Foundations of Reason and Faith (Augustine)

Level I:

- 1) Go to the www.newmanfoundation.org and click on *Institute* to find “The Life of the Mind and Catholicism” by Kenneth J. Howell. Read this carefully. It is very important.

Level II:

- 1) *Fides and Ratio* of John Paul II visit www.vatican.va/edocs/ENG0216/INDEX.HTM

April 27, 2009 (M)

Science and Faith: A Historical Sketch of the Galileo Affair

- 1) website: selections on the Trial of Galileo

Level II: Read Kenneth Howell’s paper on Galileo’s biblical interpretation on Website

XII. Catholicism as a Moral System

April 29, 2009 (W)

Natural and Revealed Law in Catholic Thought

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 155-180.

Level II: St. Thomas Aquinas

NOVEMBER 25 AND 27: THANKSGIVING BREAK

May 4, 2009 (M) The Question of Homosexuality in Catholic Thought

Level I:

- 1) Kreeft *Catholic Christianity* pp. 181-199 & pp. 241-257.
- 2) Joyce A. Little “The New Evangelization and the Gender: The Remystification of the Body”

Level II: no extra work

May 6, 2009 (Summary Lecture) no reading today.

DUE: Final Paper (10-12 pp. due May 8 at the final exam or you may email it to me)

FINAL EXAM: Scheduled for Friday May 8, 2009 at 1:30PM (in classroom)