

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES 447**

**Spring 2009 The University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)**

### **MODERN CATHOLIC THOUGHT**

Kenneth J. Howell Ph.D.

Class meets 9:00-10:20AM on Mondays and Wednesdays in David Kinley Hall

Office: 604 E. Armory Ave. Champaign (255-6617)

Office Hours: 1:30-2:30PM Tuesday and Thursday

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#### **Purpose of the Course**

This course examines the place of the Catholic Church in the modern world since the Second Vatican Council that took place in the 1960s. While there are many ways to approach such a topic, our two windows on this history will be through the life and work of Karol Wojtyla, better known as John Paul II, and Joseph Ratzinger, better known as Benedict XVI.

After a short introduction to the history of issues which arose in 20<sup>th</sup> century, we will focus on the theological and social background leading up to Vatican II. Then, after understanding something of the Council's importance and the aftermath in Western countries, we will read and discuss the writings of John Paul II written during his pontificate, the longest in the twentieth century and the third longest in the two thousand year history of the Church.

Most of the class will be conducted as discussion but at crucial junctures we will step back from the contemporary situation to understand the history of the issues that led up to the present.

#### **Course Requirements:**

In this course, emphasis on laid on thinking, discussion, and writing. The student will be assessed on his/her active participation in classroom discussions. Consequently, the following three assignments will provide the basis of the instructor's evaluation of the student:

- 1) Class Participation in Discussions (30%)
- 2) Final Examination (30%)
- 3) Final Research Paper. Undergraduates will write 10-20 pages (ds). Graduate students will write 20-30 (pages ds) (40%). See the document called "Research Paper."

#### **Reading & Textbooks:**

*Internet Sources*

*Handouts* (from the Instructor)

Benedict's *Jesus*

Benedict's *Regensburg Address* with commentary by James Schall S.J.

Benedict's *The Church as Communion*

## Schedule of Lectures, Discussions and Readings

### Background on John Paul II

Wednesday (January 21, 2009) Introduction to the Class Lecture: The Great Themes of this class. During these weeks you should use Internet resources to find out as much as possible about the life of John Paul II.

#### **Week 1: The Background of Modern Catholic Thought:**

Monday (January 26, 2009) Lecture: The Background from Ancient & Medieval Catholicism

Wednesday (January 28, 2009): Problems Facing the Modern Catholic Church

#### **Week 2 The Background of Modern Catholicism**

Monday (February 2, 2009) Lecture on the Church in Post-Vatican II

Wednesday (February 4, 2009) John Paul II's Life from 1920 to 1978. Discussion led by Matthew Ramage.

#### **Week 3 The Biography of John Paul II**

Monday (Feb 9, 2009) John Paul II's 1978-2005

Wednesday (Feb 11, 2009) Summary Lecture on Post-Vatican II Church by Matthew Ramage.

### The Eucharist in the Thought of John Paul II & Benedict XVI

#### **Week 4 The Eucharist in the Thought of John Paul II**

Monday (Feb 16, 2009) Read *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* visit

<http://www.vatican.va/edocs/ENG0821/INDEX.HTM>

Wednesday (Feb 18, 2009) Read *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* visit

<http://www.vatican.va/edocs/ENG0821/INDEX.HTM>

#### **Week 5 The Eucharist in the Thought of Benedict XVI**

*Sacramentum Caritatis The Sacrament of Love.*

Visit [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_exh\\_20070222\\_sacramentum-caritatis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20070222_sacramentum-caritatis_en.html)

Monday (Feb 23, 2009) Read Parts I and II

Wednesday (Ashes) (Feb 25, 2009) Read Part III and Kenneth J. Howell "Active Participation in the Liturgy: The Need for Radical Brackets"

### The Communion of Love in the Thought of Benedict and John Paul II

#### **Week 6 : Benedict's *The Church as Communion***

Monday (March 2, 2009) Read Benedict's *Called to Communion* pp. 9-45

Wednesday (March 4, 2009) Read Benedict's *Called to Communion* pp. 47-74

### **Week 7 Benedict's *The Church as Communion***

Monday (March 9, 2009) Read Benedict's *Called to Communion* pp. 75-131

Wednesday (March 11, 2009) Read Benedict's *Called to Communion* pp. 133-165

### **Week 8 Nature and Love in John Paul II**

Monday: (March 16, 2009) Lecture on Natural Law (no reading)

Wednesday (March 18, 2009) Required Reading of *Love and Responsibility* by John Paul II. (handed out by professor). You are not required to read the following but I encourage to familiarize yourself with it: John Paul's *Veritatis Splendor* (The Splendor of Truth) (6 August 1993) visit <http://www.vatican.va/edocs/ENG0222/INDEX.HTM>

Spring Break March 23 and 25

### **Week 9 John Paul's Thinking on Human Sexuality and Family**

Monday (March 30, 2009) Continued Reading of *Love and Responsibility* by John Paul II. (handed out by professor)

Wednesday April 1, 2009 ) Read John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (22 November 1981) visit

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_exh\\_19811122\\_familiaris-consortio\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio_en.html)

### **Week 10 Love as Martyrdom: The Carmelite Martyrs of the French Revolution**

Monday (April 6, 2009) Read William Bush's *To Quell The Terror* pp. TBA

Wednesday (April 8, 2009) Read William Bush's *To Quell The Terror* pp. TBA

## **Reason and Faith in the Thought of John Paul II & Benedict XVI**

### **Week 11: Benedict XVI on Jesus Christ: Benedict as Biblical Scholar I**

Monday (April 13, 2009) Read Benedict's *Jesus* pp. 1-63

Wednesday (April 15, 2009): Read Benedict's *Jesus* pp. 64-168

### **Week 12: Benedict XVI on Jesus Christ: Benedict as Biblical Scholar II**

Monday (April 20, 2009) Read Benedict's *Jesus* pp. 169-286

Wednesday (April 22, 2009): Read Benedict's *Jesus* pp. 287-355

### **Week 13: John Paul and Benedict on Faith and Reason**

Monday (April 27, 2009) Lecture on John Paul II *Fides et Ratio* (14 September 1998). chapters I through IV Read Visit: <http://www.vatican.va/edocs/ENG0216/INDEX.HTM>

Wednesday (April 29, 2008) Discussion of Benedict's *Regensburg Address* (appendix 1 pp. 130-147) and James Schall's commentary pp. 1-68

### **Week 14: Benedict XVI in Faith and Reason**

Monday (May 4, 2009) Read James Schall's commentary on *Regensburg Address* pp. 69-129

Wednesday (May 6, 2009) Summary of Class. No Reading.

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**FINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

Your paper will treat one major Catholic thinker of the modern world who has NOT been treated in class. You are to choose from the following list (or on an agreed upon topic with the instructor).

**Modern Catholic Theologians:**

Matthias Scheeben  
Johann Adam Moehler  
Romano Guardini  
Venerable John Henry Newman  
Karl Adam  
Hans Urs van Balthasar

**Modern Thinkers on Spirituality**

St. John of the Cross  
St. Teresa of Avila  
St. Ignatius of Loyola  
St. Louis Grignon de Montfort  
St. Edith Stein  
Henri J. M. Nouwen

**Modern Catholic Philosophers (or Scientists)**

Pierre Duhem  
Dietrich von Hildebrandt  
Ernan McMullin  
Blaise Pascal  
Josef Pieper  
Yves R. Simon  
Jean-Luc Marion

**Modern Catholic Literary Figures:**

Gerard Manley Hopkins  
G. K. Chesterton  
Hillaire Belloc  
Flannery O'Conner  
Walker Percy

**Miscellaneous:**

Vatican I The Ecumenical Council of 1870  
Leo XIII, Pius XI  
Jacques Benigne Bossuet

## GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER

### DUE DATES

Date	Part Due
25 February	Decision on Topic
11 March	Bibliography Due (Primary & Secondary Literature)
18 March	Detailed Outline
2 April	Conferences with Instructor Begin (if desired)
8 May	Hard Copy or email of Final Paper due by 4:00PM (retain copy for yourself)

### OUTLINE OF PAPER

*Introduction* (to be written last)

*The Life and Work of X*

(broad description of dates, events, vocation, marriage, social, political & ecclesiastical context of your figure)

*The Intellectual Background*

The context of thought in which your figure lived, was educated, and developed. Influential thinkers in your figure's life.

*The Structure and Significance of X's Thought*

- Specific problems (intellectual or otherwise) confronting your figure
- KEY concepts (identity a few ideas that unify the other subordinate ideas in your figure)
- Conceptual methods used (standard or non-standard types of writing, thinking etc.)
- Use of the KEY Concepts (to what purpose did X put these ideas?)

*X's Contribution to Catholic & World Thought*

If possible, show what influence your figure's thought has had in intellectual life, in Catholicism, or in society at large.

*Conclusion* (to be written next to last)