

Moravian College

1742

Course: **Rel192 - Development of Roman Catholic Thought**

Fall/2007

Wayne E. Killian

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Required Text: Higgins, Gregory C., Christianity 101 A Textbook of Catholic Theology, Paulist Press, Mahwah, New Jersey, 2007.

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:30AM to 12:20PM, Comenius, Room 305.

General Education Statement

The course is designed with several fundamental perspectives. It will serve as an introduction to the theoretical framework from which the Roman Catholic Church defines itself, i.e.; Historically, Dogmatically, Spiritually, Liturgically. Legally, Morally, etc. this will be attempted by exploring the oral and written traditions and how they are applicable to contemporary understanding and appreciation of said institution. A second focus is the multiple realms of application for these reference points, i.e.; several contemporary issues will be explored. The student learning outcomes:

- a. Recognize that institutions [people] are typically more complex than they appear to be and that informed decision-making requires interdisciplinary understanding;
- b. Grapple with their own misunderstandings and prejudices to formulating an appreciation for this institution as well as any other institution;
- c. Experience a heightened awareness and an appreciation for discernment, criticism and argument concerning any institution of the global community.

Assessment of Student's Learning

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| a. Participation | 15% |
| b. Readings/Re-ports | 30% |
| c. Discussions | 25% |
| d. Final Paper/ Examination | 30% |

Attendance in class is sincerely encouraged and role will be taken every period. There is no direct penalty for absence from class, with the exception of discussion days and the delivery of semester paper. However, there will be in-class writing, group sharing and general seminar discussions with guest visitors, all of which contribute to the over all evaluation of the individual student. In the event of an absence, courtesy is always the best procedure: please inform the Professor. There is a semester paper which involves the exploration of a topic that is exclusively "Roman Catholic" and the student wishes to explore to a greater awareness and understanding whether they agree or not.

There will be discussion questions that generally conclude most topic areas. These answers will be handed in at the end of the discussion.

The syllabus is subject to change. Please note that it is advisable that you spend a minimum of three (3) hours in preparation for each class. Students with disabilities and need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

FYI: I am available for any student. Arrangements can be made through my Moravian e-mail: killianw@moravian.edu or phone. I am on campus every Tuesday and Thursday. I can be reached at Lehigh University at 610-758-4148 or e-mail: wek4@lehigh.edu.

I am also available before and after classes. My office is located in the Religious Life Building, 1309 Main Street or Catholic Campus Ministry/Lehigh University, 661 Taylor Street.

N.B. The Academic Honesty Code of Moravian College will be strictly observed. It is strongly encouraged that you make yourself aware of that code which can be found in the Student Handbook.

Course Outline

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| Week 1 | August 27, 29, 31 |
| M | Introduction and prelude to the Course: What are you expecting and why you took this exploration? |
| W | Introduction con't and overview of Theology. |
| F | Historical overview. |
| Week 2 | September 5, 7 |
| M | Labor Day/No Class |
| W | Bible |
| F | Bible con't |
| Week 3 | September 10, 12, 14 |
| M | Christian Tradition |
| W | Mystery, Faith & Revelation |
| F | Discussion |
| Week 4 | September 17, 19, 21 |
| M | Concept of God in Patristic & Medieval Theology |
| W | Concept of God in Reformation & Modern Theology |
| F | Discussion |
| Week 5 | September 24, 26, 28 |
| M | Jesus & Salvation in the Scriptures & the Fathers |
| W | Jesus & Salvation in the Middle Ages, Reformation and Modernity |
| F | Discussion |
| Week 6 | October 1, 3, 5 |
| M | Nature & Mission of the Church |
| W | Nature & Mission of the Church Con't |
| F | Discussion |
| Week 7 | October 10, 12 |
| W | Sacraments of Initiation |
| F | Sacraments of Healing & Commitment |

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| Week 8 | October 15, 17, 19 |
| M | Discussion |
| W | Moral Theology |
| F | Christian Spirituality |
| Week 9 | October 22, 24, 26 |
| M | Discussion |
| W | Eschatology |
| F | Putting It all Together |
| Week 10 | October 29, 31, November 2 |
| M | Discussion |
| W | Primacy of Peter/Papal Infallibility |
| F | "Extra Ecclesia non salus est" |
| Week 11 | November 5, 7, 9 |
| M | The Role of Mary? |
| W | What did Vatican Council II teach? |
| F | Discussion |
| Week 12 | November 12, 14, 16 |
| M | The Church's defense of the "Sacredness of Life" |
| W | Discussion |
| F | Presentation of Semester Paper |
| Week 13 | November 19 [Thanksgiving Break] |
| M | Presentation of Semester Papers |
| Week 14 | November 26, 28, 30 |
| M | Presentation of Semester Paper |
| W | " |
| F | " |
| Week 15 | December 3, 5, 7 |
| M | Presentation of Semester Paper |
| W | " |
| F | " |
| Week 16 | December 10 [Last Class] |

M Presentation of Semester Paper