

Moravian College

1742

Course: **Rel121 - Development of Roman Catholic Thought**

Fall/2008

Wayne E. Killian

[610-625-7922] or [610-758-4148]

killianw@moravian.edu or wek4@lehigh.edu

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

Higgins, Gregory C., Twelve Theological Dilemmas, Paulist Press, Mahwah, New Jersey, 1991.

Rohr, Richard, Things Hidden Scripture as Spirituality, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2007.

Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 08:50AM to 10:00AM, Comenius, Room 114.

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

- a. Participation 15%
- b. Readings/Re-
ports 25%
- c. Discussions 25%
- d. Final Paper/
Examination 35%

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 from time to time 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 Center of Lehigh University, 417 Carlton Avenue.

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

Week 1	August 26, 28
Tuesday	Introduction and prelude to the Course: What are you expecting and why you took this exploration?
Thursday	Introduction con't and overview of Theology and historical overview.
Week 2	September 2, 4
Tuesday	Bible
Thursday	Dilemma of the Bible p. 15 & Tradition
Week 3	September 9, 11
Tuesday	Mystery, Faith & Revelation
Thursday	Discussion: Rohr, Introduction and Chapter I
Week 4	September 16, 18
Tuesday	Concept of God in Patristic & Medieval Theology
Thursday	Concept of God in Reformation & Modern Theology Discussion: Rohr, Chapters II & III
Week 5	September 23, 25
Tuesday	Jesus & Salvation in the Scriptures & the Fathers
Thursday	Jesus & Salvation in the Middle Ages, Reformation and Modernity. Discussion: The Dilemma of Christology, p. 5
Week 6	September 30, October 2
Tuesday	Nature & Mission of the Church
Thursday	Nature & Mission of the Church Con't. Discussion: Rohr, Chapters IV & V

Week 7	October 9
Thursday	Sacraments of Initiation
Week 8	October 14, 16
Tuesday	Sacraments of Healing & Commitment. Discussion: The Dilemma of God's Presence
Thursday	Moral Theology, Discussion: Dilemma of Christian Ethics
Week 9	October 21, 23
Tuesday	Christian Spirituality & Eschatology
Thursday	Rohr: Chapters VI & VII
Week 10	October 28, 30
Tuesday	Discussion: The Dilemma of Evil, p.46
Thursday	Dilemma of Salvation & Human Goodness
Week 11	November 4, 6
Tuesday	Primacy of the Petrine Office/Papal Infallibility & "Extra Ecclesia non salus est"
Thursday	The Role of the Mother of Jesus in the economy of salvation What did Vatican Council II teach? Discussion:
Week 12	November 11, 13
Tuesday	What did the 2 nd Vatican Ecumenical Council teach? The Church's defense of the "Sacredness of Life"
Thursday	Discussion: Rohr: Chapters VIII, IX, X
Week 13	November 18, 20
Tuesday	Presentation of Semester Papers
Thursday	" " "
Week 14	November 25
Tuesday	Presentation of Semester Paper
Week 15	December 2, 4

Tuesday Presentation of Semester Paper
Thursday " " "

Week 16 **December 9** [Last Class]

Tuesday Presentation of Semester Paper & Course Evaluation