

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

TITLE: The Church Encounters the 20th Century Culture

TERM: S **YEAR:** 2009-2010

PROFESSOR: Dr. Janine Langan

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____

UNLIMITED _____ X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

After a century of persecution and retreat into fortress Ecclesia, Leo XIII reawakened the Church to the need of Christianizing contemporary culture. Lay men and women joined the popes in their effort to tackle key problems of the new technological society, and to reclaim a central role for the church in the modern world. This course explores 4 major areas where the church felt challenged. It looks at responses from the hierarchy, but also at a few seminal individual lay experiments with solutions to these issues. Common misunderstandings about Catholic reactions to Nazism and communism will be addressed.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

The student will be able to

- appreciate the scope of the challenges facing Christianity at the beginning of the 20th Century
- describe the events at the root of these challenges
- access primary sources which throw light on the real experience of the participants
- interpret and analyze various responses to these crises. Evaluate their weaknesses and strengths.
- relate this material to the present situation of the church, and attempt to generalize from the experience of our predecessors.

By the end of the course, students should appreciate better the importance of historical understanding when dealing with present issues; It is hoped they will learned to use better critical but empathetic approaches when dealing with reconstructions of history.

It is also hoped that they will develop the skills necessary to interact more meaningfully with Church institutions, especially encyclicals.

PREREQUISITES:

None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

4 Course Manuals at Tru-Copy, Bay Street, North of St. Joseph on the East side.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Class Participation	20%
Weekly e-mails	40%
Take Home Final	40%

Class Participation

Please join in discussion of the week’s topic, and ask relevant questions about – as well as comment on – the perennial issues it raises.

Weekly e-mails

These are intended to prepare you for the **next** class discussion.

Send me at least one response (2/3 pages) to my questions on each of our four topics. No e-mail will be accepted after the in-class discussion has taken place. Your total input should add up to 10/12 pages minimum; there is no upper limit.

Take Home Final

This is intended to give you a chance to show off what you have learnt from the course.

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Excerpts from the following encyclicals:

Leo XIII *Testem Benevolentiae*

Pius X *Vehementer Nos*; *Pascendi Domini Gregis*

Pius XI *Non Habbiamo Bisogno*; *Mit Brennender Sorge*; *Divini Redemptoris*;

Mortalium Animos; *Quadragesimo Anno*

Benedict XV *Maximum Illud*

Pius XII *Humani Generis*

Excerpts from the following writings

Cardijn, *Laymen Into Action*

Teilhard de Chardin, *The Divine Milieu*; *The Phenomenon of Man*

Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

Vincent Lebbe, *Letter to Monsignor Reynaud*

Jacques Loew, *As If He Had Seen the Invisible*

Alfred Loisy, *From Credence to Faith*

Raissa Maritain, *We Were Friends Together*

Flannery O'Connor *The Habit of Being*