

**STMM 511.01: Theology of Vatican II**

**Spring 2009**

Weekends | Pigott 308

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**Course Description**

The Second Vatican Council represented a new epoch in the development of the Church, Jesuit Karl Rahner called it “the beginning of a beginning” out of which Roman Catholicism and the whole of Christianity embarked upon a renewed pilgrimage of faith, in and through the world and its future. The course examines the theological and ecclesial environment from which the Council emerged, the foundational documents that express the vision it set forth, and the current struggle to appropriate this renewal in worship, theology and scripture, ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, and social engagement with diverse culture and worldviews. The landscape of personal stories will give texture and resonance to the texts and pronouncements that document its history and theology, all of which shape ministry and life in the contemporary Church.

**Texts**

- **Austin Flannery, O.P.**, ed. *Vatican II: The Basic Sixteen Documents* (rev. trans.) (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Co., 1996, or any later edition).
- **John J. Markey, O.P.**, *Creating Communion: The Theology of the Constitutions of the Church* (New York, NY: New City Press, 2003).
- **Maureen Sullivan, O.P.**, *101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2002).
- **Michael Prendergast and Mary Ridge, eds.**, *Voices from The Council* (Portland, OR: Pastoral Press, 2004).
- **Giuseppe Albierno**, *A Brief History of Vatican II*. Trans., Matthew Sherry (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2008).
- **Richard R. Gaillardetz**, *The Church in the Making: Lumen Gentium, Christus Domini, Orientalium Ecclesiarum* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2006).
- **STM Course Pack for STMM 593-01**

**Outline of the Course**

The twentieth century theologian, Karl Rahner, once wrote that “. . . it seems appropriate and justified to regard Vatican II as the first great official event in which the Church came to be realized *as world – Church*.” Both pastoral and specifically theological in its achievement, the Second Vatican Council began a systematic ecclesial reflection on the life and mission of a Church shaped by scripture, tradition, and structured communion, engaged in the modern world with all its complexities and shifts in horizon. Our study this quarter will immerse us in the identity of the Church at the dawn of the Council, the documents and discussions of Vatican II, and the pastoral and theological implications for us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In other words we will explore living the truth in tension: Vatican II, present and future.

For each class, I ask that you do the assigned readings and be prepared for “full, active, and conscious participation” (*SC#14*) as a member of this academic/pastoral assembly. You must read and be present to participate; you do not need to be expert to enter the dialogue.

### **A Helpful Way to Prepare for Each Class**

- Read the material carefully and highlight sections you feel are important or raise significant questions for clarification, agreement, or disagreement. Outline the main points, if helpful.
- As the course progresses, see how the different areas intersect and inform one another (e.g. how does the definition of “Church” in *Lumen Gentium* reflect or contradict the reform of the worshipping Church in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*?). Be prepared for contradictions and tensions. These will surface as areas still to be received by the whole body or which certain sub-groups in the contemporary Church may wish to ignore.
- Ask the question: how does what we are reading/discussing take flesh in my own experience and practice in the Church, as a member of the People of God and as a minister and servant of the Gospel?

### **Structure of the Course**

Each class will have a variety of components that reflect both the nature of the topic and the ways different students absorb material and share expertise. This class will be an active exercise of shared learning: learning to talk to one another, to engage in dialogue to deal with difficult issues together, and even to agree to disagree together is important pastoral preparation for your work. Please, our time together is not about “out-doing” or “one-upping” one another, which is antithetical to collaborative study. Let our discussions be guided by John XXIII’s principle: “In essential things, unity; in doubtful things liberty; in all things, charity.” Students will be responsible for presenting the material each week based on a schedule developed in our first class session. The class will evaluate your team presentation and the professor will determine your individual grade for this portion.

*I will try to clarify each session’s themes and issues with an opening lecture or set of questions. Then, I expect us to engage in an active exercise of shared learning. Learning to talk to one another, to figure out difficult issues together, even to agree to disagree together is important pastoral preparation for your work. I will add: I am not interested in your “out-doing” one another, which is antithetical to collaborative study. You are free to contact me between sessions as well.*

### **Objectives**

- To demonstrate a knowledge of the basic documents of Vatican II
- Ability to interpret the Vatican II tradition for the present pastoral life of the Church
- Understanding of the interaction of religion and culture diachronically and synchronically within dogmatic and systematic reflection in the Christian tradition
- To demonstrate an understanding of the role of liturgy in the life and mission of the church
- To reflect on the pastoral implications of the themes of Vatican II theology
- To draw more readily and fruitfully upon the riches of the documents of Vatican II in order to develop and nurture your own spirituality and sense of ministry
- To develop a deeper and fuller understanding of church

### **Academic Honesty**

The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the Seattle University Student Handbook.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an “invisible disability” such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Service staff in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740.

### Evaluation

I expect that all participants will read the assigned materials each week and contribute significantly to our discussion. On the first weekend I will assign groups to take responsibility to present and lead sections of the discussion. Weekend classes are, by their nature, intense and tightly structured. A detailed syllabus is found below. I have tried to mix lecture time, group work, and discussion in what, I believe, is a workable mix. We will evaluate how we are doing at the end of the first weekend.

### Assignments

The purpose of the assignments is for each student to integrate the material read and discussed in class into their own understanding and practice of the faith. No further research beyond the required reading of the course will be necessary; rather, the assignments are exercises in the hard but rewarding work of mastering material through thoughtful and clear writing and presentation. Utilize the Vatican II principle: "An individual layperson by reason of his (her) knowledge, competence or outstanding ability which he (she) may enjoy is permitted and sometimes even obliged to express his (her) opinion on things which concern the good of the Church" (*Lumen Gentium* #37).

#### **Paper #1 – Due APRIL 6, 2009**

**How do the documents and commentaries we have read so far deal (successfully or not) with the tension between the desire to remain faithful to what we have inherited and what we need to be in the future? How does that tension still exist in the questions we are asking today?**

We will have covered the inherited legacy up to the Council; the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) and the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*).

There is a lot to write on here and it will come from your own questions and experience.

#### **Paper #2 – Due MAY 8, 2009**

Select one issue that has captured your interest and attention this quarter: Write an essay that will be the seed of a parish/school presentation on the legacy of Vatican II in the Church today. Here are some suggestions:

- Participation in the liturgy as expressive of the true nature of the Church
- Collegiality in Conference of Bishops, Diocesan Commissions, Pastoral Councils:  
Faithfulness to a new vision
- The *sensus fidei* as a movement of the Spirit
- The Petrine office as a symbol of unity and communion
- Why Catholics should/should not share Eucharist with other Christians
- The principle of subsidiarity as a lived reality
- Catholic devotional life and the role it plays in the universal Church
- The Church as local and gathered around the Bishop
- Liturgy: The privileged place of catechesis

In both papers you are to demonstrate your ability to communicate what you have learned about the theology of Vatican II and the lived reality of it through your own experience as a member of the Body of Christ. Clear and thoughtful presentation, along with the correct grammar and quoting of sources is important. You are expected to utilize the STM writing guidelines. All sources are to be footnoted.

- Papers must be typed, double-spaced, paginated, and in 10/12 pt. Times New Roman typeface
- All margins are to be 1 inch (right, left, top, and bottom) and left justified only
- Papers (six-eight pages) are received only by email.

#### **Team PowerPoint Presentation**

Employing all your creativity, craft a visual presentation for a parish presentation choosing one class session. Using the required texts as the basis for your presentation, each team will make a one hour catechetical presentation highlighting the theology and praxis of the document. All team members must have a spoken part in the presentation. Your individual grade for this presentation, determined by the professor, will be included with your overall class participation.

**CLASS SESSION 1: SATURDAY, MARCH 28 (9a-12n)**

**... Introduction: What Is This Great Event?**

*Preparation: Read Opening Address of Vatican II: John XXIII in Voices from the Council; Sullivan, 101 Questions & Answers on Vatican II*

- Syllabus, structure, and evaluation
- Shared Discussion:
  - What do you know about Vatican II?
  - How has your own faith story been shaped by the events and decrees of the Council?
  - If you lived in a “pre-Vatican II Church,” what was it like for you?

**CLASS SESSION 2: SATURDAY, MARCH 28 (1-4p)**

**... A System of Hierarchy and Truth Faces Modernity: The Church Opens the Window**

*Preparation: Read Albierno, pp. vii-61; Markey, pp. 1-52; Gaillardetz, Part I, pp. 1-40*

- Shared Discussion:
  - How did we get to Vatican II?
  - What was the Council of Trent? What were its effects?
- Opening of Vatican II

**CLASS SESSION 3: SUNDAY, MARCH 29 (9a-12n)**

**... Liturgy: The Source and Summit of the Life of the Church**

*Preparation: Read Flannery, pp. 1-56: The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium); Markey, pp. 147-169; Joseph Gelineau, S.J.: Voices... , pp. 219-233 Yves Cougar O.P., "Liturgy: Principle Instrument of the Church's Tradition," in Traditions and Traditions (N.Y.: McMillan, 1966), pp. 81-99. (CoursePack); Godfried Cardinal Daneels, "Liturgy Forty Years After the Second Vatican Council: High Point or Recession," in "Liturgy in a Postmodern World, ed. Keith Pecklers S.J. (N.Y.: Continuum, 2003), pp. 7-26 (CoursePack).*

**CLASS SESSION 4: SUNDAY, MARCH 29 (1-4p)**

**... In Praise of God's Word: Proclaiming Divine Revelation**

*Preparation: Read Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei verbum);*

*Bishop Donald Trautman: Voices from the Council, pp. 203-209;*

*James Gaffney S.J., "Scripture and Tradition in Recent Catholic Thought," in Vatican II: The Theological Dimension (orig. Volume xxvii of The Thomist) USA: The Thomist Press, 1963, pp. 141-169; Timothy Radcliffe O.P., "The Sacramentality of the Word," in liturgy in a Postmodern World, ed. Keith Pecklers S.J. (N.Y.: Continuum, 2003), pp. 133-147 (CoursePack)*

*End of First Weekend*

*First Paper Due: APRIL 6, 2009 by email*

**CLASS SESSION 5: FRIDAY, MAY 1 (6-9p)**

**... The Church: A Structured Communion**

*Preparation: Read Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium, Ch 1-4);*

*Markey, pp. 53-99; Albierno, pp. 63-91; Columba Kelly, O.S.B.: Voices . . . , pp. 273-281;*

*Francis Cardinal George, OMI, The Parish in the Mission of the Church in Chicago Studies (CoursePack)*

**CLASS SESSION 6: SATURDAY, MAY 2 (9a-12n)**

**... In the Spirit: The Call to Holiness for All Pilgrims**

*Read Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium Ch 5-8);  
Gaillardetz, pp. 41-87; Markey, pp. 100-147; Gregory Baum: Voices . . . , pp. 129-143;  
Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P.: Voices . . . , pp. 235-247;*

*Carmel McEnroy R.S.M., "Women of Vatican II: Recovering a Dangerous Memory and Mary Ellen Sheehan I.H.M., "Roman Catholic Bishops on Women's Equality: Some Post-Vatican II Developments, in The Church in the Nineties: Its Legacy, Its Future, Pierre Hegy, ed., (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1993), 149-171; Ramiro Pellitero, "Cougar's Developing Understanding of the Laity and Their Mission," The Thomist 65 (2001), pp. 327-359 (CoursePack)*

**CLASS SESSION 7: SATURDAY, MAY 2 (1-4p)**

**... Solidarity of the Church with the Whole Human Family**

*Preparation: Read Gaudium et spes, Preface and Part One;  
Dignitatis Humane & Ad Gentes Divinitus); Markey, pp. 170-184;  
Bishop Remi De Roo, Voices . . . , pp. 97-111; Sister Mary Luke Tobin, S.L., Voices . . . , pp. 307-312;  
Karl Rahner S.J., "Basic Theological Interpretation of the Second Vatican Council," in Concern for the Church Theological Investigations XX (NY: Crossroad Publishing Co.), pp. 77-89 (CoursePack)*

**CLASS SESSION 8: SUNDAY, MAY 3 (9a-12n)**

**... An Echo in the Heart: Culture, Worldview, Solidarity**

*Preparation: Read Gaudium et spes, Part Two; On Dialogue with Non-believers  
(Humanae personae dignitatem);  
Gaillardetz, pp. 88-144; Markey 187-220*

**CLASS SESSION 9: SUNDAY, MAY 3 (1-4p)**

**... That All May Be One: Ecumenism, Mission and Liberty – Living the Truth in Tension**

*Preparation: Read Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio);  
Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate);  
Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity (Ad Gentes Divinitus); Albierno, pp. 93-130;  
Cardinal Franz Konig: Voices... pp. 63-66; Gaillardetz, pp. 145-188.  
Ut Unum Sint, John Paul II's 1995 Encyclical on Ecumenism;  
Cardinal Walter Kasper, "Nature and Purpose of Ecumenical Dialogue," 13pp.*

*End of Last Weekend*

***Final Paper Due: MAY 8, 2009 by email – No Exceptions***

**Weight and Evaluation**

Individual class participation and powerpoint presentations account for 30% of the course grade. The written work will total 70% of the course grade. All work must be original and the product of the student's own reading, thought, and writing. Footnoting or parenthetically citing all directly quoted or paraphrased material is essential to academic integrity. Students must demonstrate self-appropriation of the material in class and in written work.

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***Thanks in advance for all your hard work and creative exchange this quarter in our pilgrim journey together as church. I am honored to be with you as we review this great "epoch" of our theological/ecclesial tradition.***

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