***Description, Syllabus and Expectations***

**Democracy, Dissent and Assimilation:**

**19th and 20th Century U.S. Catholics Immigrants (Fall 2017)**

**GESM 120 VKC 255 MW 8:30-9:50**

**Course Description**

Religious traditions are inescapably “enculturated,” that is, shaped by and shaping the culture in which they first take root and continue to be practiced. When Catholics began to arrive in the United States, they found themselves surrounded by Protestants, who themselves had fled from mostly Catholic oppression in Europe. These Protestants prized their religious freedom and insisted on the separation of Church and State. This course explores how Catholics, beginning in the 19th century, adapted to, interacted with, opposed and influenced this American Protestantism, and then, in the 20th century, along with Protestants, dealt with an increasingly commercialized, pluralistic and secular culture.

Two types of issues will be singled out for special study: those which may be considered **foundational** and those which are **developmental.** Among the foundational issues are What Catholics understand by revelation, scripture and tradition (e.g., fundamentalist vs. liberal understandings of the Bible), incarnation and dogma. Among the developmental issues are the intellectual life and beliefs of Catholics, the development, understanding and application of teachings having to do with social justice, the relationship between Catholicism and science, the basis for sexual moral teachings, feminism, key teachings of the Catholic Church’s Second Vatican Council (1962-1965, such as religious freedom, collegiality, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue), and the widespread current cultural assumptions about religion and especially Catholicism.

Reading materials include primary texts written by those who found themselves in the midst of these developments in the 19th and 20th centuries, official documents of the Catholic Church, a scholarly treatment of Catholicism, videos, and a popular novel.

**Required Research Papers**

The purpose of the three required papers is to acquire a clearer understanding of some aspect of Catholic tradition (e.g., a particular teaching or movement within the Church), a major issue faced by Catholics in the United States (e.g., fundamentalism, eugenics and anti-Catholic bigotry), or to explore several sides of a controversy within Catholicism (e.g., the ordination of women or legitimate dissent from Church teaching) or between Catholic teaching and modern culture (e.g., homosexuality, secular humanism, the contemporary “spiritual but not religious” movement).

At least one of your papers needs to be about some issues raised by one of the most important of the 16 documents produced by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), *Gaudium et spes*, “The Church in the Modern World.” It contains substantial individual treatments of the morality of war, the nature and purpose of marriage, economics and social justice, to name a few. I suggest that you focus on one topic in this document. However, please check with me before you plunge in.

The main purpose of the papers you will write is **exposition**. For example, in a four page (double-spaced typed) paper, I want you to explain in the first three pages what you have learned about the issue or topic you have chosen to write about; only on the last page will I expect you to write your personal opinions about the subject. Good bibliographical sources for your research may be found, for example, at the end of each of Doyle’s chapters. On a separate sheet I will provide a number of reliable sources on the internet. Note: there are quite a few internet sites that claim to represent Catholic teaching and thought, but are unreliable. Do not use them. See separate page for further information and three deadlines for the submission of your paper.

**Learning Objectives**

Several pedagogical goals that direct this course:

1. Original texts will be closely read so that students can enter into the issues and mindsets of religious and non-religious people who have lived at different times in history.
2. Important historical, religious and cultural contexts of readings and events will be presented for better understanding of major issues.
3. A study of American Catholicism in the 19th century that illuminates clearly what a dramatic change came about through Vatican Council II (1962-1965)
4. A study of the contemporary American culture and the patterns among American Catholics, both descendents from Europe and Latin America.
5. An exploration of the controversial issues of the day, including sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, the role of women, and the polarization between conservative and liberal Catholics.

**Grading**

Be *forewarned* that I will grade your papers on the basis of **both content and form**; that is, I will pay close attention not only to the clarity and understanding you show in the treatment of the topic, but also to your ability to write clearly. Grammatical mistakes and misspellings will result in a lower grade. **Plagiarizing in any form will merit an automatic F**. Therefore, if you quote directly from any source, put that quotation within quotation marks, and provide appropriate bibliographical information to identify its source. There are now websites we professors may access to track down unidentified quotations that sneaky students pass off as their own thinking; be not among such students!

There will also be three tests, short essay questions, the last of the three, a cumulative final examination.

**Appointments**

You can always email me for consultation or to make an appointment to talk. Just email my assistant, Ms. Shelia Garrison ([skgarris@usc.edu](mailto:skgarris@usc.edu)) or me, and we will make it possible for you to meet with me. I will also be arranging for a fifteen minute meeting with each of you in the first two weeks of the semester. These meetings will allow me to get to know you better and learn about your expectations for the course and for your time in college. My office hours are ordinarily each Monday and Wednesday from 10:45 AM to noon. Other times can be arranged easily by emailing with my assistant, Ms. Garrison, or by emailing me directly ([heft@usc.edu](mailto:heft@usc.edu)). My office is in GFS 304, at 3601 Watt Way.

**Required Texts**

*“Gaudium et Spes,”* a document from Vatican II*.*

*The Da Vinci Code,* by Dan Brown (Anchor Books Paperback, 2003).

**READER I:** *The Church Emerging from Vatican II: A Popular Approach to Contemporary Catholicism,* by Dennis Doyle (Twenty-Third Publications, rev’d ed., 2009). This book is now out of print. The reader contains selections Doyle's *The Church Emerging*, and from a recent and more general treatment of Christianity, *What is Christianity?*

**READER II:** A book of readings containing primary texts form the 19th and 20th centuries selected from *Creative Fidelity: American Catholic Intellectual Traditions* (Orbis Books, 2004), eds., Appleby, Byrne and Portier.

The **READERS** may be purchased at **University Graphics, 2820 S. Vermont Ave**., #12, between 28th and 29th streets. Phone number is 213-744-1511.

**Syllabi**

M Aug 21st Introduction to the Course

W Aug 23rd The Current Situation: Religion in the West; Trends among Youth

M Aug 28th Introduction to Christianity, Doyle Chapters 1 and 7 (Ecumensim)

WAug 30th Doyle, chapter 10, Bishops and Pope

M Sept 4th No Classes: Labor Day

W Sept 6th Doyle, chapter 11, Love as GC

M Sept 11th Doyle chapter 11 (con't), begin Ch 12, Commandments, Pacifism

W Sept 13th Doyle chapter 12 (con't)

M Sept 18th Doyle, chapter 21, Liberation Theology

W Sept 20th **Exam #1**

M Sept 25th Doyle chapter 27, Women and Feminism

W Sept. 27th Doyle chapters 29. atheism, 30, religious pluralism

M Oct 2nd Doyle 13, Catholic Social Teaching, Environment.

W Oct 4th Doyle 35, Peace and Politics.

M Oct 9th Creative Fidelity (CF), Church and State, pp. 137-161.

W Oct 11th CF, Spirituality and Art, pp. 191-206, 210-213.

M Oct 16th **Exam #2**

W Oct 18th CF, Theology and Science, pp. 215-238, 242-245.

M Oct 23rd Moral Theology and Social Thought (pp. 162-184

W Oct 25th Continued

M Oct 30th Catholics and the Intellectual Life, pp. 1-14.

W Nov 1st 20th Century Developments in Catholic Education, pp. 95-97, 102-105, 112-124, and 130-133.

M Nov 6th Continued

W Nov 8th Hispanic Catholics in the U.S.: a Minority to a Majority

M Nov 13th Open Session

W. Nov 15th *Da Vinci Code*, pls read the entire novel; special sections will be a focus.

M Nov 20th Continued

W Nov 22nd NO Classes: Thanksgiving Break

M Nov 27th *Da Vinci Code concluded.*

W Nov. 29th LAST CLASS

**Final Exam: Wednesday December 6th, 8:00 – 10:00AM**