

Course Syllabus

St. Mary's College

THE 212: APOLOGETICS II – DE ECCLESIA

SPRING SEMESTER, 2023-2024

3 Credit Hours

PROFESSOR: Father Paul Franks (*pfranks@smac.edu*)

CLASS TIMES: 8.35-9:25 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

LOCATION: Rm. 202

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 4:10-5:20pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course studies the Theology of the Church. It is divided into two main sections: The Church Viewed from Outside (Apologetics) and The Church Viewed from Inside (Dogma). Section I provides an apologetic defense of the Catholic Church: its founding, nature, properties, marks, perpetuity, and its role as the rule of Faith. Section II enters into a dogmatic understanding of the Church. It covers the following topics: the nature of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, membership of the Church, the necessity of belonging to the Church, the role of the Roman Pontiff, the role of Bishops, the relationship between Church and State.

PURPOSE:

This course is designed to give the students:

- the ability to defend their Faith in the divine institution of the visible Catholic Church;
- a knowledge of the Church's classic ecclesiology, seen in its sources, its theological principles, its Magisterial expression, and its practical implications;
- an initial exposure to the new ecclesiology that was promoted at and after the Second Vatican Council;
- a secure foundation for forming their own critique of the changing paradigms in Catholic Ecclesiology, especially as regards the relationship between Church and State.

COURSE REQUIRED READING:

- Van Noort, G., Monsignor. *Christ's Church. Vol. II of Dogmatic Theology*. Translated and Revised by John J. Castelot and William R. Murphy. 6th ed. Westminster, MD: The Newman Press, 1957.
- Berry, E. Sylvester. *The Church of Christ: An Apologetic and Dogmatic Treatise*. Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, 1955.
- Ybarra, Erick. *The Papacy: Revisiting the Debate Between Catholics and Orthodox*. Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2022. ISBNs: 978-1-64585-221-6 (hardcover), 978-1-64585-222-3 (paperback), 978-1-64585-223-0 (ebook).
- Staples, Tim. *Nuts & Bolts: A Practical Guide for Explaining and Defending the Catholic Faith*. San Diego: Basilica Press, 1999. ISBN 0-9642610-2-2.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Salaverri, Joachim, S.J., and Michaele Nicolau, S.J. *On the Church of Christ. On Holy Scripture*. Translated by Kenneth Baker, S.J. Vol. IB of Sacrae Theologiae Summa. Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos. Keep the Faith, Inc., 2015. ISBN 978-0-9912268-7-0.
- Bellarmine, Robert, Saint, S.J. *On the Church Militant Diffused Throughout the World*. Translated by Ryan Grant. First edition. Mediatrix Press, 2016. Originally published in Latin as *De Controversiis Fidei Christiani, Contra Haereticos Nostri Temporis, Tomus Primus, De Ecclesia Lib. 3*. Ingolstadt, 1588.
- Bellarmine, Robert, Saint, S.J. *On the Roman Pontiff. Vol. 1, Books 1-2*. Translated by Ryan Grant. Second edition. Post Falls, ID: Mediatrix Press, 2017. Originally published in Latin as *De Controversiis Fidei Christiani, Contra Haereticos Nostri Temporis. De Romano Pontifice*. Ingolstadt, 1588. Revised according to the 1614 Paris edition, Tri-Adelphorum.
- Bellarmine, Robert, Saint, S.J. *On Councils: Their Nature and Authority*. Translated by Ryan Grant. Post Falls, ID: Mediatrix Press, 2017. ISBN 978-1545111673.
- Sungenis, Robert A. *Not by Scripture Alone: A Catholic Critique of the Protestant Doctrine of Sola Scriptura*. Foreword by Peter Kreeft. Santa Barbara, CA: Queenship Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1-57918-055-8.
- Billot, Ludovicus, S.J. *Tractatus de Ecclesia Christi: Sive Continuatio Theologiae de Verbo Incarnato. Vol. 1, De Credibilitate Ecclesiae, et De Intima Ejus Constitutione*. Editio Tertia. Prati: Ex Officina Libraria Giachetti, Filii et Soc., 1909.
- Billot, Ludovicus, S.J. *Tractatus de Ecclesia Christi: Sive Continuatio Theologiae de Verbo Incarnato. Vol. 2, De Habitudine Ecclesiae ad Civilem Societatem*. Prati: Ex Officina Libraria Giachetti, Filii et Soc., 1910.

QUIZZES, TESTS, AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Quizzes may throughout the course. They will be announced. Any quiz missed without a legitimate excuse may not be made up. Quizzes missed with a legitimate excuse must be made up within one week. **It is the responsibility of the student** to inform the instructor that a quiz was missed, explain the reason, and schedule a make-up quiz if possible. At the end of the semester, each student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

There will be either one or two tests in addition to the semester final. The policy for making-up a missed test is the same for missed quizzes except that **only for a very serious reason** will the instructor permit a make-up test. Normally, a formally-excused absence or a doctor's note will be necessary.

Written assignments to be completed outside of class as homework will be assigned throughout the semester. This includes at least one major essay during the course of the semester. The purpose of this work is to check the students' deeper understanding of the material, and to monitor his/her comprehension of their readings.

If it is obvious to the teacher that a student has used voice-recognition technology rather than writing his / her coursework submission, he reserves the right to give a **failing grade**, irrespective of the understanding that may be demonstrated.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at each lecture is considered mandatory. **A student with five or more absences without previously-granted permission will risk a grade-reduction or loss of credit for the course at the discretion of the instructor. After ten unexcused absences may stand to fail the course.**

INCOMPLETE WORK:

Assigned work that is not handed in will be given a "0". **Assigned work that is tardy may suffer a 10% grade reduction for each day that the assignment is late.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Successful learning occurs only when the student is actively focused on the class lectures and discussions. It is the student's responsibility to assimilate new material, to synthesize it with previous material, and to see to it that any gaps in his/her understanding be recognized and resolved. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions pertinent to the topic presented and to participate in class discussions.

If students find special difficulties with the material or any portion of it, they should not hesitate to email or arrange a meeting with the teacher, who – since he wants nothing more than that they truly understand and profit by the class – will strive to help them in assimilating the matter to the extent possible. Ideally this should be done more than a week before the test or final exam.

FINAL GRADE WEIGHTING:

- Tests: 25%
- Quizzes: 10% (drop lowest)
- Written Assignments: 35%
- Final Exam: 30%

• Week 1 (Jan 15 - Jan 19)	Apologetic Part: Did Christ found a Church?
• Monday, January 15	
• Wednesday, January 17	
• Friday, January 19	
• Week 2 (Jan 22 - Jan 26)	The Founding of the Church
• Monday, January 22	
• Wednesday, January 24	Major Assignment 1 set
• Friday, January 26	
• Week 3 (Jan 29 - Feb 2)	The Founding of the Church
• Monday, January 29	
• Wednesday, January 31	
• Friday, February 2	
• Week 4 (Feb 5 - Feb 9)	The Church's Nature
• Monday, February 5	
• Wednesday, February 7	
• Friday, February 9	
• Week 5 (Feb 12 - Feb 16)	The Properties of the Church

- Monday, February 12
- Wednesday, February 14 (Ash Wednesday)
- Friday, February 16

College retreat Feb 19-24

• **Week 6 (Feb 26 - Mar 1)** **The Marks of the Church**

- Monday, February 26
- Wednesday, February 28
- Friday, March 1

Sunday, March 3 **Major Assignment 1 due**

• **Week 7 (Mar 4 - Mar 8)** **Dogmatic Part: The Members of the Church**

- Monday, March 4
- Wednesday, March 6
- Friday, March 8

• **Week 8 (Mar 11 - Mar 15)** **Members, Necessity of Membership**

- Monday, March 11
- Wednesday, March 13
- Friday, March 15

Midterm Exam

• **Week 9 (Mar 18 - Mar 20)** **The Magisterium**

- Monday, March 18
- Wednesday, March 20

Major Assignment 2 set

= Last class before Easter break

Easter Break (Mar 22 - Apr 8) – No classes from March 22 to April 8

• **Week 10 (Apr 10 - Apr 12) [Classes resume on April 8]** **The Roman Pontiff**

- Wednesday, April 10
- Friday, April 12

• **Week 11 (Apr 15 - Apr 19)** **The Roman Pontiff**

- Monday, April 15
- Wednesday, April 17
- Friday, April 19

• **Week 12 (Apr 22 - Apr 26)** **Bishops**

- Monday, April 22
- Wednesday, April 24
- Friday, April 26

Major Assignment 2 due

• **Week 13 (Apr 29 - May 3)** **Councils**

- Monday, April 29
- Wednesday, May 1
- Friday, May 3

• **Week 14 (May 6 - May 10)** **Church and State**

- Monday, May 6
- Wednesday, May 8
- Friday, May 10

• **Week 15 (May 13 - May 15)** **Review and Recap**

- Monday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 15

The Final Exam will non-cumulative

There will be a written and an Oral exam.