



Course Syllabus

St. Mary's College

THE 212: APOLOGETICS II – DE ECCLESIA

SPRING SEMESTER 2025

3 Credit Hours

PROFESSOR: Father James Peek (jpeek@smac.edu)

CLASS TIMES: 8:35 am - 9:25 am Monday, Wednesday, Friday

LOCATION: Rm. 202

OFFICE HOURS: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Friday 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm

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.

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Salaverri, Joachim, S.J., and Michael 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.

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.

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:

- Quizzes: 3 – each 20%
- Final Exam: 40%