

Description:

A survey of the history of the Church from the early modern era to the present. Although the global history of the Church, including Asia, Africa, and the Americas, will be considered, the course will focus on the experience of the Church in Europe, and in particular on Roman Catholicism. In addition to examining the broader events, contexts, and movements which frame the history of the Church, students will study primary sources (in original and in translation, as necessary) of critical moments and monuments of historical theology.

Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with the major persons, events, and movements in the modern history of the Church, with special emphasis on Roman Catholicism
2. To situate the history of the Church within its broader social, cultural, and intellectual contexts
3. To examine critical elements of the theological tradition from the modern era
4. To introduce the student to basic elements of historiography relevant to theological research

Procedures:

Class will consist of lectures by the professor and discussion by the class, assisted by the professor, of primary texts

Evaluation:

Student progress will be evaluated on the basis of a book review, a select, annotated bibliography; a research paper; and a final examination.

Required texts:

Bireley, Robert. *The Refashioning of Catholicism, 1450 – 1700: A Reassessment of the Counter Reformation*. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1999.

[Other material on reserve or in photocopies.]