

<b>Module Title:</b>	<b>Medieval and Modern Church History</b>
<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>504 TMMC</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Credit Rating:</b>	<b>20 Credits</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Student Learning Time: 200 hours</b>
<b>Teaching Hours:</b>	<b>40 Hours</b>
<b>Academic Responsibility:</b>	<b>Thomas Herbst OFM D Phil Philippe Yates OFM JCD</b>

### **Module Aims:**

This module analyses critically social, political, ecclesiological, philosophical and theological themes in the development of Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern Church history. The scope of this course is: the history of the Church from the fall of the Western Roman Empire to the present time. Throughout, the self-identity of the institutional Church, and its ability to address issues of drastic social change and the eventual dissolution (and transformation) of existing social and political structures is emphasized as well as the effects wrought by these transforming events on the interior and exterior life of the Church.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the module students should be able to demonstrate:

1. a critical understanding of the role of Church history in evaluating the challenges facing the Church today.
2. a knowledge of the subject with regard to an understanding of the topics and sources within contemporary scholarship.
3. a critical understanding of the Church and the context of its theological reflection in the period covered.
4. an understanding of how to apply historical techniques to the study of the Church.

### **Indicative Module Content:**

- Analysis of the paradigmatic shift in early medieval Christianity occasioned by the destruction of the Western Roman Empire and subsequent emergence of 'barbarian' states in Western Europe- from 'baptized' antiquity to the emergence of Christendom.
- Case examples of the pontificate of Gregory the Great and the evangelisation of Ireland and England.
- Implications for the Church of Carolingian consolidation, its short duration, and the emergence of the interventionist, reforming Ottonian Germany.
- Latin expansion and early mission endeavour in the late tenth to early eleventh centuries coupled with an Imperial/ecclesial imperative.
- The Gregorian Reform and advent of the High Medieval period inclusive of: New political/ecclesial realities; new socio-religious movements; a new philosophical/theological paradigm with the re-discovery of Aristotle etc.
- Social expansion: the Reconquista and Crusades.
- Subsequent social retraction and effects of the Black Death,
- The Avignon 'captivity' and Schism,

- Concluding with an overview of the aftermath of the calamitous fourteenth century in the rise of reform movements and conciliarism throughout the fifteenth century and effects of the early Renaissance.
- The causes and effects of both Catholic and Protestant Reformations and the Catholic counter-reformation
- The Westphalian settlement of the Thirty years war and its implication for the Christian churches of Europe
- The ideologies that underpinned the Enlightenment and their effect on the Catholic Church (Febronianism, Josephism) and in particular on religious life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Commission of the Regulars in France)
- The effects of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars
- The Liberal suppressions, the rise of a scientific understanding of the world and their effects on the churches in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- The responses of the Catholic Church to the perceived threats of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: the Syllabus of Errors and the First Vatican Council
- Christian missions outside Europe from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- The 20<sup>th</sup> century papacies, including an analysis of the Catholic social movement, the Modernist crisis and the effects of feminism
- Preparation for the Second Vatican Council and its effects on the Catholic Church and its relations with other churches and religions
- The post-Vatican Council Popes and the challenges of falling vocations to the priesthood and religious life, Liberation theology, and integralist challenges to the validity of the Council

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The basic format of presentation will be four weekly lectures systematically treating the subject matter as described in the Indicative Module Content. Students are given specific weekly reading assignments as well as directed toward extra-curricular reading proposed by the instructor. Research interests are quickly identified and tutorial sessions, depending on individual needs of the students, arranged for clarification and direction, inclusive of suggested extra-curricular reading. Within the classroom context of lectures, active participation of students in terms of questions and, especially, discussion is strongly encouraged as a primary way of developing analytical skills, critical thinking, and clarity of expression. Modern Church history will be illuminated by student debates wherein students will divide into groups to argue on either side of debates on topics such as:

*Sola scriptura* and Justification: was Luther or were his opponents right?

Pius IX was right to condemn the modern world in the *Syllabus of Errors*.

Pius X was too harsh in his treatment of the Modernists

Pius XII was too reticent in condemning the *Shoah*

Students will vote on the outcome of the debate and give feedback on the strength of argument and presentation.

### **Assessment:**

The module will be assessed by two written essays of not less than 2,500 words chosen from a selection of questions proposed by the instructors.

### Indicative Essay Titles:

1. "The Middle Ages has the greatest influenc of any age on the growth and development of the Christian church." (B. Nilson) Discuss this with reference to the question of either a) pastoral care, b) ecclesiastical hierarchy or c) religious life.
2. Choose either a) the Inquisition, b) the Crusades or c) the Black Death. How does the reaction of medieval people to the topic illustrate the historical, ethical, cultural and spiritual aspects of the Christian middle ages.
3. The "Ancien régime" Church in France was corrupt and rightly condemned by the revolution. Give reasons for and against any such an evaluation of the events of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century in France.
4. The 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed the transformation of Christianity from a European to a global religion. Discuss.

### Illustrative Bibliography

Bockenkotter, T. (2004)	<i>A Concise History of the Catholic Church.</i>	Doubleday.
Burleigh M. (2006)	<i>Earthly Powers: The Clash of Religion and Politics in Europe, from the French Revolution to the Great War.</i>	Harper Collins.
Clarke, J.D.C. et all (ed) (1993)	<i>Studies in Modern History-Patronage &amp; Piety 1850-1900.</i>	Macmillan.
Constable, G. (1985)	<i>The Reformation of the Twelfth Century.</i> (from the Trevelyan Lectures given at the University of Cambridge)	Cambridge University Press.
Kelly, J. (2005)	<i>The Great Mortality.</i>	Harper.
Leff, G. (1967)	<i>Heresy in the Later Middle Ages: The Relation of Heterodoxy to Dissent c. 1250-c. 1450.</i>	Manchester University Press.
Southern, R.W. (1995)	<i>Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe, Vol. 1: Foundations.</i>	Blackwell.
Wallace-Hadrill, J.M. (1985 rvsd. Ed.)	<i>The Barbarian West: 400-1000.</i>	Basil Blackwell.