



RL220 THE POPES OF ROME
Fondazione IES Abroad Italy

DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the history of the Catholic Church and the Papacy within the historical framework of Christianity and how the Church became a major religious, cultural and political force within Western society. We will also introduce the major historical and institutional steps that mark the expansion of Christianity from antiquity to modern times.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss and analyze historical developments and crucial themes, such as the creation of the Roman Papacy; the religious and temporal power of the Church; the monastic experience; the relationship between the Church of Rome and the Byzantine Church; the East-West Schism; the political conspiracies at the court of Renaissance and Baroque Popes; the political influence of the Church in Europe; the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Reforms; the Church and the Ottoman Empire; the political/religious currents of thought shaping papal action in modern times. Through coverage of primary sources, students will be able to verify directly crucial issues in the complex development of the Papacy.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Fabrizio Conti

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lectures, class discussions and field studies.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 25%
- Presentation - 15%
- Research Paper - 20%
- Final exam - 30%

Course Participation

A rubric for participation will be posted on Moodle and shared with students at the beginning of the term.

Exams

Both midterms and finals will consist of a set of short-answer and multiple-choice questions to evaluate students' command of the topics discussed in class and in the required readings.

Research Paper

From 2500-3000 words dealing with a topic chosen with the instructor. Papers can focus on the contribution to the Catholic Church of one of the popes studied in the course. Papers are due by 11.59 pm of session 21.

Presentation

Students will give a class presentation on the research paper topic. Presentations will last a maximum of 5 minutes each and will take place on sessions 18 and 22.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define the historical development of the Catholic Church and the Papacy from late antiquity to modern times.
- Illustrate the particular and unique ways in which the Catholic Church and the Papacy have been shaped by eminent figures of popes, political leaders, and intellectuals.
- Recognize, compare and analyze the contribution to the Catholic Church of a number of popes such as Gelasius I, Gregory the Great, Gregory VII, Innocent III, Sixtus IV, Alexander VI, Julius II, Pius IX, John Paul II.
- Demonstrate the ability to contextualize and critically analyze Church history with reference to major developments encompassing Rome, Western and Eastern Europe and the world as a whole.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad Rome classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than one class, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments and Readings
Session 1:	<p>Introduction to the Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the history of the Church and popes • Historical and religious methodologies • Primary and secondary sources 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustine, <i>The Confessions</i>, Book 11, Chapters 11-15 https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1101.htm. (3 pages)
Session 2:	<p>The Early Christian Community and the Roman Empire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman empire: geographical and cultural contexts • The Early Christian community and the Apostles • The early Christian writers. The “Church Fathers” 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bart Ehrman, <i>The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World</i>, Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2019, pp. 1-12. (12 pages) • Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 1-47. (47 pages)
Session 3:	<p>Emperor Constantine and Popes Miltiades and Sylvester I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and why Constantine decided to become a Christian • Constantine vs Maxentius: the way to becoming emperor • The “vision” of Constantine: between legend and history • Early Christian churches in Rome • Constantine and the “popes” 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bart Ehrman, <i>The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World</i>, Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2019, pp. 13-38. (25 pages) • Peter Brown, <i>The World of Late Antiquity AD 150-750</i>, Thames & Hudson, 1971, pp. 60-68; 82-94. (20 pages) • Eusebius, <i>The Conversion of Constantine</i>, Chapters 27-32: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/conv-const.asp. (3 pages)

Session 4:	On-site visits, San Clemente and San Giovanni Laterano	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bart Ehrman, <i>The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World</i>, Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2019, pp. 39-73. (34 pages)
Session 5:	Pope Gregory the Great and Benedict of Nursia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gregory the Great and the Early Medieval Papacy Gregory the Great: intellectual and political achievements Benedict of Nursia and the birth of Western monasticism Life in monasteries and abbeys 	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Brown, <i>Authority and the Sacred: Aspects of the Christianization of the Roman World</i>, Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. 55-78; (23 pages) Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 48-72; (24 pages) <i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i>, chapters 1, 2, 6, 8, 22, 30. (8 pages)
Session 6:	On-site visit, San Gregorio al Celio, Oratorio di Sant'Andrea Academic Daytrip: Abbey of Montecassino	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Brown, <i>The World of Late Antiquity AD 150-750</i>, Thames & Hudson, 1971, pp. 96-113. (17 pages)
Session 7:	Religion and Temporal Power: How the Papal State Was Born <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lombards, the Franks and the Papacy Pepin the Short king of the Frank and Pope Stephen II Charlemagne and the "Donation of Constantine" 	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas F. X. Noble, <i>The Republic of St. Peter: The Birth of the Papal State 680-825</i>, pp. xix-xxxiv, and 1-14. (14 pages)
Session 8:	Pope Gregory VII and the Investiture Controversy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reform of the Papacy in the 11th Century The "Investiture controversy" and the struggle for power and freedom between the Empire and the Papacy Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV Gregory VII' "Dictates of the Pope": content and meaning of an important medieval document 	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph H. Lynch and Phillip C. Adamo, <i>The Medieval Church: A Brief History</i>, Routledge, 2014, pp. 156-170. (14 pages) Uta-Renate Blumenthal, <i>The Investiture Controversy: Church and Monarchy from the Ninth to the Twelfth Century</i>, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991, pp. 87-128. (41 pages) <i>Dictatus Papae</i>: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/g7-dictpap.asp. (2 pages)

Session 9:	<p>Pope Urban II and the First Crusade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feudal Europe and the issue of war and peace • The movements for peace in Medieval France • Pope Urban II and the call of the Crusade at the Council of Clermont • The first Crusade: Christians vs Muslims and the Crusader states 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 128-138. (10 pages) • Urban II's Speech at Clermont: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/urban2-5vers.asp. (17 pages)
Session 10:	<p>On-site visits, Avenite: Sant'Anselmo, Priorato of Malta</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uta-Renate Blumenthal, <i>The Investiture Controversy: Church and Monarchy from the Ninth to the Twelfth Century</i>, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991, pp. 24-50; 51-86. (61 pages)
Session 11:	<p>Review and discussion</p> <p>Discussion of primary sources in English translation on the development of the Roman Papacy from the Early Christian times to the 11th century</p>	
Session 12:	<p>Mid-term exam</p>	
Session 13:	<p>The Byzantine Church and The East-West Schism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Byzantine churches and their traditions • Theological disputes between the East and the West • Pope Leo IX and Michael I Cerularius of Constantinople: The Schism of 1054 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Anthony McGuckin, <i>The Orthodox Church: An Introduction to its History, Doctrine, and Spiritual Culture</i>, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2010, pp. 90-119. (29 pages) • Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 73-109. (36 pages)
Session 14:	<p>On-site visit, Papal Audience</p>	

Session 15:	<p>Pope Innocent III and Western Medieval Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of the 12th and the 13th centuries • Pope Innocent III and the IV Lateran Council in 1215 • Canon 21 of the IV Lateran Council: pastoral care and Church control over society • Christian society and minorities 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 138-151. (13 pages) • John Clare Moore, <i>Pope Innocent III (1160/61-1216): To root up and to plant</i>, Brill, 2003, pp. 253-292. (39 pages) • Fourth Lateran Council, canons: 1, 21, 63, 68, 71 https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/lateran4.asp. (8 pages)
Session 16:	On-site visit, Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva	
Session 17:	The Western Schism and the Turks from the Fall of Constantinople to the Battle of Lepanto. The Turks, the Mediterranean, and Rome.	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth M McCahill, <i>Reviving the Eternal City: Rome and the Papal Court, 1420-1447</i>, Harvard University Press, 2013, pp. 20-44. (24 pages) • Elizabeth Wright, Sarah Spence, Andrew Lemons (Eds.), <i>The Battle of Lepanto</i>, pp. 168-181. (13 pages) • Joseph H. Lynch and Phillip C. Adamo, <i>The Medieval Church: A Brief History</i>, Routledge, 2014, pp. 284-328. (44 pages)
Session 18:	Student presentations 1 and 2	Presentations will last a maximum of 5 minutes each
Session 19:	Pope Sixtus IV: Conspiracies, and the Making of the Last Judgment in the Sistine Chapel	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcello Simonetta, <i>The Montefeltro Conspiracy: A Renaissance Mystery Decoded</i>, Doubleday, 2008, pp. 58-116. (58 pages) • Emily O'Brien, <i>The Commentaries of Pope Pius II (1458-1464) and the Crisis of the Fifteenth-Century Papacy</i>, University of Toronto Press, 2015, pp. 113-115. (2 pages)

Session 20:	On-site visit – Sistine Chapel and Basilica of St. Peter	
Session 21:	<p>The Church in the Reformation and Counter Reformation Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Reform: The V Lateran Council (1512-1517) • The reformers and Pope Leo X De' Medici • Martin Luther and his 95 theses • Catholic reaction: the Council of Trent and the Jesuits 	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 196-230. (34 pages) • John W. O'Malley, <i>Trent: What Happened at the Council</i>, Harvard University Press, 2013, pp. 49-76. (27 pages) • Thomas Tentler, <i>Sin and Confession on the Eve of the Reformation</i>, pp. 28-31; 39-48. (11 pages) • Council of Trent, Seventh Session: https://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html. (10 pages) <p><u>Papers due by 11.59pm</u></p>
Session 22:	Student presentations 3 and 4	Presentations will last a maximum of 5 minutes each
Session 23:	The Papacy and the Italian <i>Risorgimento</i> , the unification of Italy in 1870, the Vatican State and the Lateran Pacts of 1929 between the Italian State and the Vatican	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eamon Duffy, <i>Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes</i>, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. 286-318. (32 pages) • Frank J Coppa, <i>The Papacy in the Modern World: A Political History</i>, Reaktion Books, 2014, pp. 235-245. (10 pages)
Session 24:	<p>Contemporary Developments within and beyond the Church: Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis</p> <p>Final Review</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica Weis, <i>Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise</i>, The University Press of Kentucky, 2005, pp. 37-72. (35 pages) • <i>Saints and Sinners</i>, - pp. 354-385. (31 pages) • Pope Francis, <i>Gaudium Evangelii</i>, Chapters 1 and 4. (38 pages)

	Final exam	
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COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- San Clemente and San Giovanni Laterano: San Clemente is a medieval Christian site built on pre-existing Roman and Mithraic structures; San Giovanni in Laterano is the most important basilica in Rome and the original seat of the popes until the 14th century
- San Gregorio al Celio, Oratorio di Sant'Andrea: These are churches linked to the important figure of Pope Gregory I, with connections to the monastic tradition and culture.
- Aventine: Sant'Anselmo, Priorato of Malta: Sant'Anselmo is the seat of the Benedictines in Rome and an important pontifical university, while the Priory of Malta is the magisterial villa of the medieval order of the Knights of Malta.
- Papal Audience: A precious occasion to get to know the pope's charisma and one of the traditional moments of dialogue between the pope and the faithful.
- Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva: An important Dominican church where the remains of St. Catherine of Siena are preserved, as well as the funerary monuments of Popes Leo X and Clement VII
- Sistine Chapel and Basilica of St. Peter: This is the center of Christianity and a treasure trove of Renaissance art in Rome.
- Academic Daytrip to the Abbey of Montecassino: The most important and representative Benedictine abbey in Italy and Europe: destroyed several times and always rebuilt, it is a real religious citadel where you can still breathe the medieval spirit.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Augustine, *The Confessions, Book 11, Chapters 11-15* <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1101.htm>.
- Bart Ehrman, *The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World*, Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2019, pp. 1-12, 13-38, 39-73.
- Council of Trent, Seventh Session: <https://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html>.
- *Dictatus Papae*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/g7-dictpap.asp>.
- Eamon Duffy, *Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes*, Yale University Press, 2014, pp. pp. 1-47, 48-72, 73-109, 128-138, 139-151, 196-230, 286-318, 354-385.
- Elizabeth M McCahill, *Reviving the Eternal City: Rome and the Papal Court, 1420-1447*, Harvard University Press, 2013, pp. 20-44.
- Elizabeth Wright, Sarah Spence, Andrew Lemons (Eds.), *The Battle of Lepanto*, Harvard University Press, 2014, pp. 168-181.
- Emily O'Brien, *The Commentaries of Pope Pius II (1458-1464) and the Crisis of the Fifteenth-Century Papacy*, University of Toronto Press, 2015, pp. 113-115.
- Eusebius, *The Conversion of Constantine*, chapters 27-32 <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/conv-const.asp>
- Fourth Lateran Council, canons: 1, 21, 63, 68, 71 <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/lateran4.asp>
- Frank J Coppa, *The Papacy in the Modern World: A Political History*, Reaktion Books, 2014, pp. 235-245.
- John Anthony McGuckin, *The Orthodox Church: An Introduction to Its History, Doctrine, and Spiritual Culture*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2010, pp. 90-119.
- John Clare Moore, *Pope Innocent III (1160/61-1216): To root up and to plant*, Brill, 2003, pp. 253-292.
- John W. O'Malley, *Trent: What Happened at the Council*, Harvard University Press, 2013, pp. 49-76.
- Joseph H. Lynch and Phillip C. Adamo, *The Medieval Church: A Brief History*, Routledge, 2014, pp. 156-170, 284-328.
- Marcello Simonetta, *The Montefeltro Conspiracy: A Renaissance Mystery Decoded*, Doubleday, 2008, pp. 58-116.
- Monica Weis, *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise*, The University Press of Kentucky, 2005, pp. 37-72.
- Peter Brown, *Authority and the Sacred: Aspects of the Christianization of the Roman World*, Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. 55-78.

- Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity AD 150-750*, Thames & Hudson, 1971, pp. 60-68, 82-94, 96-113
- Pope Francis, *Gaudium Evangelii*, Chapters 1 and 4.
- *The Rule of St. Benedict*, chapters 1, 2, 6, 8, 22, 30 https://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/0480-0547,_Benedictus_Nursinus,_Regola,_EN.pdf.
- Thomas F. X. Noble, *The Republic of St. Peter : The Birth of the Papal State 680-825*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986, pp. xix-xxxiv, and 1-14.
- Thomas Tentler, *Sin and Confession on the Eve of the Reformation*, Princeton University Press, 1977, pp. 28-31; 39-48.
- Urban II's Speech at Clermont: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/urban2-5vers.asp>
- Uta-Renate Blumenthal, *The Investiture Controversy: Church and Monarchy from the Ninth to the Twelfth Century*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991, pp. 24-50, 51-86, 87-128.

OTHER RECOMMENDED INTERNET RESOURCES:

- www.vatican.va (Papal schedule and library of papal writings)
- www.newadvent.org (English translation of the Fathers)
- www.ccel.org (Christian Classics Ethereal Library)
- <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html> (Internet Medieval Sourcebook)
- <https://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html> (Hanover Historical Text Project)

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Fabrizio Conti received a dual Ph.D. in History and Medieval Studies from the Central European University, Budapest (Hungary). He is a graduate in the Humanities (History) with a focus on religious studies, from the Sapienza University of Rome, and has earned certificates from the Pontifical Institute for Christian Archaeology in Rome and the School of the Vatican Secret Archive. In 2015 Prof. Conti taught History of Medieval Christianity and Magic & Witchcraft at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH (USA). Along with Prof. Elizabeth Ann Pollard (San Diego State University) Prof. Conti is currently editing the volume 'There is No One Who Does Not Fear To Be Spellbound': *Magic in the Roman World (8th c. BCE – 5th c. CE)*, and he has published the edited volume *Civilizations of the Supernatural: Ritual, Witchcraft, and Religious Experience in Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance Traditions*, with a Foreword by Teofilo F. Ruiz (Trivent, 2020), as well as the monograph *Witchcraft, Superstition, and Observant Franciscan Preachers: Pastoral Approach and Intellectual Debate in Renaissance Milan* (Brepols, 2015). Prof. Conti has worked in the catacombs of Rome as a docent and in the Vatican Secret Archive as an archivist, besides appearing in several TV documentary series.