This course will study the documents of the Second Vatican Council with a view to understanding their theological foundations, their historical context and development, and their pastoral implications.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

1. Introduction

2. A Hermeneutic for the Documents  
   *(Book Review Due)*

3. Revelation and Religious Freedom:  
   *Dei Verbum & Dignitatis Humanae*

4. Ecclesiology:  
   *Lumen Gentium*

5. Ecclesiology:  
   *Gaudium et Spes*

6. Liturgy:  
   *Sacrosanctum Concilium*

- **READING WEEK**-

7. Ecclesial Structure and Governance:  
   *(Analysis Paper Due)*  
   *Christus Dominus*  
   *Optatam Totius*  
   *Presbyterorum Ordinis*

8. Ecclesial Structure and Governance:  
   *Perfectae Caritatis*  
   *Apostolicam Actuositatem*

9. Education and Communications:  
   *(Topic and preliminary bibliography for Disputed Issue)*  
   *Gravissium Educationis*  
   *Inter Mirifica*

10. Mission:  
    *Ad Gentes Divinitus*

11. Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue:  
    *(Disputed Issue Paper Due)*  
    *Unitatis Redintegratio*  
    *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*  
    *Nostra Aetate*

12. Synopsis

- **EXAM WEEK** -
COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To provide an understanding of the context and teaching of the Second Vatican Council;
- To investigate the process of the Council, and how the documents evolved as formal presentations of church teaching;
- To present the historical context and development of the documents;
- To present a hermeneutic for the documents;
- To articulate contemporary reception of the documents.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of the course are threefold: 1) careful reading of assigned works; 2) attendance and consistent participation in class discussions; and 3) fulfillment of the written requirements.

1) A careful reading of assigned works:
The readings for each class have been chosen as a foundation for the written assignments and for seminar discussion.

2) Involvement in class sessions built upon careful preparation by way of study. This means establishing a disciplined method of reading reflectively, such as:
   a. Taking notes on key ideas in the reading;
   b. Fashioning some mode of personal appropriation of what has been read, such as keeping a journal, belonging to a regular study group, and/or responding in a non-discursive mode (e.g., poetry, drawing, etc.);
   c. Preparing for class sessions, especially those involving discussion and written assignments.

1) The written requirements for the course are as follows:

   b. One in-class discussion paper
   c. One 5 page analysis paper
   d. One 5-7 page disputed issue paper

   Weighting:  
   - Book report: 20%
   - In-class discussion paper: 10%
   - Analysis paper: 30%
   - Disputed issue paper: 40%


**Course Outcomes**

By the end of this course students with have

- Read and discussed the sixteen documents of the Second Vatican Council
- Be able to place the development of these documents in their historical and theological context
- Be able to articulate a hermeneutic for interpreting the documents
- Have an increased awareness of how the interpretation and context of the documents affect contemporary ecclesiology and theological discourse

**Assignment Requirements and Schedule**

**Book Review**

Length: 2-3 pages.

Read Ormond Rush’s book, *Still Interpreting Vatican II*, and write a response on the following:

“The meaning of a text is the product of the interpretation of a threefold hermeneutic of the author, text, and receiver.” Explain.

**In-class Discussion Paper**

Length: 2 pages.

The first half-page should consist of three to five bulleted items that highlight significant points from the readings. Note that this should not be a summary of the readings, but points that you deem important for discussion. The remainder of the paper should consist of a theological/pastoral reflection on one of the highlighted items. Copies to be distributed to all participants.

**Analysis Paper**

Length: 5 pages.

An analysis and commentary on one of the four constitutions of the Council (*Dei Verbum, Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Sacrosanctum Concilium*).
Disputed Issue Paper

Length: 5-7 pages

An analysis of a contemporary disputed issue in the life of the church that illustrates competing understandings of Vatican II. The paper should research the primary arguments and evaluate their cogency in light of the Second Vatican Council and its aftermath, and discuss implications of the issue in the contemporary context. When formulating your issue and when addressing it in the paper, keep in mind the hermeneutical principles offered by Ormond Rush in *Still Interpreting Vatican II*.

Your paper should evidence the following general principles:

- A clear thesis statement
- Focused argument
- Analytical development
- Critical analysis
- Summation

COURSE READINGS

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Syllabus

2. **A HERMENEUTIC FOR THE DOCUMENTS**

Readings:


3. **REVELATION: Dei Verbum: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation and RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Dignitatis Humanae**

**Dei Verbum:**

**Readings:**

a. Hahnenberg, 26-36  
b. Witherup, 87-132  
e. Schner, 81-96.  
f. O’Connell, 122-140.  
g. Wiltgen, 175-185.

**Dignitatis Humanae:**

**Readings:**

a. Hahnenberg, 147-155  
b. Bevans and Gros, 223-234.  
c. Schner, 143-153.  
e. O’Connell, 167-179.  

4. **ECCLESIOLOGY: Lumen Gentium: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church**

**Lumen Gentium:**

**Readings:**

a. Hahnenberg, 37-55  
b. Sullivan, 84-117.  
c. Schner, 11-18.
d. O’Connell, 9-38.
d. Rynne, *Letters from Vatican City*, 214-239

5. **ECCLESIOLOGY: Gaudium et Spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World**

*Gaudium et Spes:*

*Readings:*

a. Hahnenberg, 56-73.
b. O=Collins, 134-146.
d. Bulman and Parrella, 301-320
e. O’Connell, 216-236.
f. Tanner, 87-90
h. Schner, 19-36.

6. **LITURGY: Sacrosanctum Concilium: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy**

*Sacrosanctum Concilium:*

*Readings:*

b. Ferrone, 90-120.
e. O’Connell, 9-38.
g. Schner, 97-106.
7. **ECCLESIAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**: Christus Dominus: Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops; Optatam Totius: Decree on the Training of Priests; Presbyterorum Ordinis: Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests.

**Christus Dominus:**

*Readings:*

a. Hahnenberg, 77-82.
d. Rynne, *The Fourth Session*, 27-31
g. Wiltgen, 110-118.

**Optatam Totius:**

*Readings:*

a. Hahnenberg, 91-94
b. Bulman and Parrella, 117-135
c. Confoy, 146-173
d. O’Connell, 91-107
e. Rynne, *The Third Session*, 216-225
f. Schner, 55-62
f. Wiltgen, 222-225

**Presbyterorum Ordinis:**

*Readings:*

b. Confey, 68-74.
e. Wiltgen, 190-193, 262-267.

8. **ECCLESIAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE: Perfectae Caritatis: Decree on the Up-to-Date Renewal of Religious Life; Apostolicam Actuositatem: Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People.**

*Perfectae Caritatis:*

*Readings:*

a. Hahnenberg, 95-100.
b. Bulman and Parrella, 225-240.

c. Schner, 63-72.
d. O’Connell, 79-90.
f. Wiltgen, 212-222.

*Apostolicam Actuositatem:*

*Readings:*

b. Leckey, 86-91.
c. Sullivan, 60-83
d. Bulman and Parrella, 193-207.

e. O’Connell, 141-157.
f. Schner, 73-82.
h. Rynne, *The Third Session*, 68-84.
i. Wiltgen, 101-103, 184-190.

9. **EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS: Gravissium Educationis: Declaration on Christian Eduations; Inter Mirifica: Decree on the Means of Social Communication.**

*Gravissium Educationis:*


Readings:

a. Hahnenberg, 141-146.
b. Leckey, 92-96.

Inter Mirifica:

Readings:

b. Tanner, 116-118

b. Stacpoole, 195-201.

10. MISSION: Ad Gentes: Decree on the Church = Missionary Activity.

Readings:

a. Hahnenberg, 133-140.
b. Bevans and Gros, 87-120

c. O’Connell, 180-196.
d. Stacpoole, 270-282.

11. ECUMENISM AND INTER-FaITH DIALOGUE: Unitatis Regintegratio: Decree on Ecumenism; Orientalium Ecclesiarum: Decree on the Catholic Eastern Churches; Nostra Aetate: Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions.

Unitatis Redintegratio:

Readings:
a. Hahnenberg, 110-121.
b. Cassidy, 104-121.
d. Schner, 37-54.

**Orientalium Ecclesiарum:**

**Readings:**


d. Schner, 37-54.

**Nostra Aetate:**

**Readings:**

a. Hahnenberg, 156-163.
b. Cassidy, 225-263.
c. O=Collins, 109-133.
e. O’Connell, 108-121.
f. Schner, 135-142.
h. Rynne, *The Third Session*, 31-35.
j. Wiltgen, 73-78, 167-175.

**12. SYNOPSIS**

a. O=Collins, 147-170
b. O=Malley, 52-91.
c. Alberigo, 119-130.