Class Description:
Wielding nearly unlimited authority over the lives - and the after-life – of millions of Europeans, the Catholic Church was by far the most important political, as well as cultural, power of the Middle Ages. The only global institution of this era, the Church was at the same time able to nourish strong local roots. Cardinals and popes came from all over the continent and dealt with international politics at the highest level, while priests and friars brought home to the people a faith tied to the neighborhood church and confraternity, and personified by a saint's shrine and relics.

Through a combination of lectures, students' presentations, films and site visits, this course will explore selected aspects of the Medieval Church’s history: its often rocky relations with the other supreme power of the time, the Holy Roman Empire; the rise of monasticism and its different versions; the spread of heretical movements and their repression by the Inquisition; sainthood, and how “heavenly” women and men could serve to articulate very earthly ideologies on state, society, gender roles.

Instructor Details:
Matteo Duni, PhD
NYUGlobal Home Email Address: md90@nyu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
Villa Ulivi Office Location: TBA
Villa Ulivi Phone Number: +39 055 5007 300

Desired Outcomes:
On completion of this course, students should:

- Have reached a good level of knowledge of the medieval Church’s most important structures, and of the social and political forces that shaped the different phases of its history;
- Have a basic sense of the evolution of religious ideas and practices in Europe between the eleventh and the sixteenth century;
• Be able to appreciate the extent to which institutions, doctrines, policies developed by the Medieval church still influence the current Catholic Church’s outlook and policies;

• Be able to understand the historical context in which medieval and Renaissance art were created

Assessment Components

- Class participation and management of class discussion: 25%
- One in-class mid-term exam: 25%
- One in-class final exam: 25%
- One term paper (8-10 pages, typed, with bibliography) on a subject of the student's own choice: 25%.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Class presentations: Students will present to the class on a theme chosen among the weekly topics listed on the syllabus. They are first to show clearly the main points discussed by the author(s), expressing their personal point of view, comparing the readings examined to other texts read in class, and explaining whether they are convinced of the authors’ opinion and why. Presentations must be an exercise in critical thinking, not a mere repetition of the readings’ contents; they will have to be concise (max. 30 minutes), lively and to the point. After their presentation, students will chair the class discussion, that is, questions and comments from their peers. PowerPoint, handouts, and other creative methods of interaction/presentation are encouraged, but must be discussed with the professor. Students may have to read additional bibliography to prepare for presentation, and in any case must meet with professor beforehand. Presentations have to be done normally in pairs, on the first class of the week chosen. The first week available for presentations is that of Oct. 2, the last one that of Dec. 4. No presentations will be scheduled in the week of Nov. 6. Professor will circulate a sign-up calendar of presentations in the week of Sept. 18. All students MUST sign up for a presentation by that week. No rescheduling of presentations will be allowed.

In-class Examinations: They consist of two parts. The first part will be a list of ten names, dates and events. Students will have to identify eight of them with short definitions - 2-3 complete sentences each. The second part will be composed of four essay questions. Students will choose two, and answer them fully, that is, with essays approx. two pages long each. The final exam will not be cumulative. Professor will hand out study sheets before both exams.

Term Paper: Students may choose the topic for their term paper, but have to discuss it first with professor and have his approval. A bibliography for the paper will be defined in a discussion with professor. Papers should be 8 to 10 pages, double-spaced, including bibliography and notes. Students are encouraged to submit a draft of their papers by Nov. 13. The final deadline for the submission of papers is Nov. 20. No extensions.

Assessment Expectations

- Grade A: The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are concise, incisive and
supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

- **Grade B:** The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

- **Grade C:** The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement.

- **Grade D:** The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

- **Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

**Grading Guidelines**

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**Grading Policy**

Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work

**Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see the Moses Center for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.
Attendance Policy
Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to the number of class times over a single week.

Excused Absences:
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student. The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:

Absence Due to Illness
- If you are sick, please see a doctor. Contact the Office of Student Life for assistance.
- For absences that last for two or more consecutive days, a doctor’s certificate, “certificato medico” is required. The doctor will indicate in writing the number of days of bed rest required. Please note these certificates can only be obtained on the day you see the doctor and cannot be written for you afterwards.
- Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported WITHIN 48 HRS of your return to class via the online NYU Florence Absence Form [insert new hyperlink]
- OAS will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness
- OAS will only notify faculty of absences REPORTED on the ABSENCE FORM
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences

Due to Religious Observance
- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday
- Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form [insert new hyperlink]
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.
Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity

- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.
- Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form [insert new hyperlink]
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

Late Submission of Work

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

Plagiarism Policy

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, The faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school. Please consult the “Academic Guidelines for Success” distributed on your USB key at Check-in and on the NYU Florence Global Wiki.

For a detailed description of some possible forms of plagiarism and cheating please consult the Community Compact that you signed at Orientation, a copy of which is on the above mentioned Wiki and USB key.

Writing Center:
The Writing Center, located in Aula Belvedere in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting. Sign up for a consultation at the Writing Center’s website and submit your working draft or ideas a day in advance to NYU Florence Writing Center. Drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Be assured that very rough drafts are welcome. Please note that we do not correct or “fix” your writing; instead we prompt you to think and work. Our aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term
Required Text(s):
It is recommended that students purchase the books marked with *: they are available at the Paperback Exchange bookstore, via delle Oche 4/r. Copies of each textbook are available for consultation and short term loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Extra copies of some textbooks are also available for semester long loans. The library of Villa Ulivi holds both the originals and the master copies of all the other readings. For more information on Books and Course Materials go here.


Miller, Maureen C., “Why the Bishop of Florence had to get married”, Speculum, 81, No. 4 (2006), 1055-1091


Supplemental Texts(s):
Texts that students are not required to purchase are in NYU-FL Library or available on line.

Internet Research Guidelines:
The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 – Sept. 4
Introduction: themes, focus and format of the course

Session 2 – Sept. 11
The Medieval Church: the Original Features

Session 3 – Sept. 18
The Catholic Church in the XI Century: Clergy and Laity

Session 4 – Sept. 25
*Site visit: Certosa of Galluzzo*

Session 5 - Oct. 2
The Investiture Controversy and Gregorian Reform

Session 6 - Oct. 9
Medieval Religious Experiences: The Saints

Session 7 – Oct. 12 (Friday)
*Fieldtrip: Convent of La Verna*
Session 8 – Oct. 16

New Religious Orders, Heretics and Inquisition Between the 12th and the 13th Century


Session 9 – Oct. 23

MIDTERM EXAM

FALL BREAK, OCT. 29 – NOV. 4

Session 10 – Nov. 6

The Late Medieval and Renaissance Papacy


Session 11 – Nov. 13

Medieval Religious Experiences, II: Gender, Mystics, Civic Religion


Session 12 – Nov. 20

Humanism and Religion from Valla to Erasmus

Nauert, Humanism, 36-42, 142-160; Erasmus, Concerning the Eating of Fish, 271-326

TERM PAPER DUE

Session 13 – Friday Nov. 27

Martin Luther and the Outbreak of the Reformation

Chadwick, The Reformation, 40-75; Ozment, “Humanism and the Reformation”, 290-309

Session 14 – Dec. 4

The spread of the Reformation in Europe. The “Radical Reformation”
Session 15 – Dec. 11

FINAL EXAM

Classroom Etiquette

- Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings.

Required Co-curricular Activities
Please note that this course includes one site visit and one field trip, this latter scheduled on Friday, Oct. 12. These are an integral part of class, and thus attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will be penalized according to the rules indicated above (see “Attendance Policy”).

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.

Your Instructor
Matteo Duni’s (PhD in History and Civilization, European University Institute) research interests focus on the history of religious beliefs and practices in late medieval and early modern Italy and Europe.