Medieval Church

Course Number
HIST-UA 9117 F01 / MEDI-UA 9017 F01 / RELST-UA 9672 F01

Brightspace course site https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/206946

Fall 2022
Please contact florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 26 August 2022

Lecturer Contact Information
Matteo Duni
Office Hours: T 2:00pm-3:00pm

Units earned
4

Course Details

● Tuesdays, 3:00pm to 5:45pm

● All times are Central European Time (CET). Please note that in Europe, Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, October 30th 2022 and clocks will be set one hour earlier.

● Location: Villa La Pietra, classroom Le Vedute.

● COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Florence community, we are closely following CDC and local guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being are our top priority.

Course 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.

Course Objectives

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: 10 %
• Management of class discussion: 15%
• 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%.

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Failure to
submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless
of grades achieved in other assignments.

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. 4, the last one that of Dec. 12. Professor will circulate a sign-up calendar of presentations in the week of Sept. 13. 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. The final deadline for the submission of papers is Nov. 29. No extensions.

**Attendance Policy**
Studying 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. 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 expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two percent deduction on the participation component of the final grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course.

As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor and/or the Academics team by e-mail florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, Moses Center accommodations, religious observance or emergencies. For two or more consecutive days of absences due to health reasons, a doctor's note must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team. *Please note that remote attendance will only be considered by the Office of Academic Support if for health reasons you are unable to attend class in person after two consecutive days of absence.*

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed by getting notes from a classmate or meeting with your faculty member during office hours.

Exams, tests and quizzes, oral presentations, and/or important deadlines that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation.

For a detailed explanation of the global attendance policy, see the NYU Florence Attendance Policy Flowchart.

The Global Attendance Policy is posted in the Academic Policies tab in Brightspace, on the NYU Florence Student Portal website, and is posted around campus.
After you have read and reviewed the policies, if there is anything that still needs further clarification or raises a question, please reach out to florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu.

**Final exams**

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics team. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

**Late Submission of Work**

Please refer to Academic Policies in Brightspace.

**Required Text(s)**

All readings are available online on the NYU Brightspace course site. Hard copies of some textbooks are available for consultation and semester-long loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Please email florence.library@nyu.edu to reserve a copy. To request scans from books on reserve please fill out the Ulivi Library Book Scan Form.


Session 1 – 6 Sept. - Introduction: topics and format of course

Session 2 – 13 Sept. - The Medieval Church: the Original Features

Session 3 – 20 Sept. - Church and Society in the XI Century: Clergy and Laity
   Lynch, The Medieval Church, 126-29, 137-51; Gurevich, “Popular Culture in the Mirror of Penitentials”, 78-103; Shinners, ed., Medieval Popular Religion, 1000-1500, 293-303

Session 4 – 27 Sept. – Site Visit: Certosa of Galluzzo (Florence)

Session 5 – 4 Oct. – The Investiture Controversy and Gregorian Reform

Session 6 – 11 Oct. – Medieval Religious Experience: the Saints

Session 7 – 18 Oct. - Heretics and the Inquisition, 12th-13th Centuries

Session 8 – 21 Oct. (Friday) – Field trip: Convent of La Verna

Session 9 – 25 Oct. – MIDTERM EXAM

1 Nov.:Holiday – No class

Session 10 – 8 Nov. - New Religious Orders: the Rise of the Friars

Session 11 – 15 Nov. – Site visit: convent of Santa Maria Novella
Session 12 – 22 Nov. - Medieval Religious Experience, II: Gender and Mysticism

Session 13 – 29 Nov. -The Late Medieval and Renaissance Papacy

29 NOV.: TERM PAPER DUE

Session 14 – 6 Dec. - Humanism and Religion from Valla to Erasmus
  Nauert, *Humanism*, 36-41, 52-58, 142-163; Erasmus, *Concerning the Eating of Fish*, 271-326

Session 15 – Make-Up Day - Monday, 12 Dec. - Martin Luther and the Outbreak of the Reformation
  Chadwick, *The Reformation*, 40-75; Ozment, “Humanism and the Reformation”, 290-309

Session 16 – Date TBA – FINAL EXAM

Your Lecturer
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.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism
As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offenses against academic integrity.

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. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.
For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

- NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines
- NYU Library Guides

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU’s Office of Global Programs and NYU’s global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer and Office of Academic Support in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays.

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)

Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, NYU Brightspace, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website.

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the Personalizing Zoom Display Names website.

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU Florence.

Bias Response
The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University’s existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.

To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the Web Form (link)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Telephone: 055 5007277