

PLSC 289

The Catholic Church in Comparative Perspective

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11:45 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

404 Robinson

Albion College, Fall 2017

Instructor:

Dawid Tatarczyk
303 Robinson Hall
dtatarczyk@albion.edu
517-629-0664

Office Hours:

Mondays: 10:00-11:00 am
Fridays: 2:00-3:00 pm

Catalog Description:

What is the political significance of the Catholic Church? By examining different traditions of scholarly literature students acquire the tools necessary to make reasoned judgments about urgent political problems in comparative politics. While the class focuses on the Catholic Church it also seeks to place in the context of global challenges. Some of the covered concepts include but are not limited to: institutions, human rights, authoritarianism and democracy, secularization, and public policy.

Required Course Texts:

- 1) Anna Grzymała-Busse, *Nations Under God: How Churches Use Moral Authority to Influence Policy*, Princeton University Press (2015)
- 2) Paul Christopher Manuel, Lawrence C. Reardon, Clyde Wilcox, *The Catholic Church and the Nation-State: Comparative Perspectives*, Georgetown University Press (2006)
- 3) John L. Allen Jr., *The Catholic Church: What Everyone Needs To Know*, Oxford University Press (Updated Edition) (2014)
- 4) Additional readings will be sent out via email

Technology Policy:

Personal computers are welcome in the classroom (Facebook, twitter, internet surfing, email, social media, etc... is not). Computers can enhance our shared learning by allowing us to look up information online and visit websites together during class and take notes. Computers also can detract from our shared learning environment by diminishing the quality of class discussion, and they can also interfere with the learning of others when used for non-class purposes. Your attendance in class is necessary for the successful learning of course objectives and successful completion of course assignments including a strong participation grade; however, your attendance is always optional. Therefore, if you have pressing needs that require you to use your

personal computer for tasks unrelated to the course, please respect my time and the time of your colleagues by staying home to take care of your business rather than bringing your business into the classroom.

Out of respect for each other, cell phones must be turned off during class sessions. If you need to be accessible during class time, you may keep your cell phone on vibrate. Cell phones may not be answered in the classroom, quietly and respectfully leave the classroom if you must respond to an urgent call. This policy also holds for texting. The classroom will be a no-text zone. All texting must be done outside of the classroom. You are always welcome to leave class should your attention be demanded elsewhere and this is preferable. This policy applies to ipads, smartphones, and all digital devices. Misuse of technology – by sending email, texting, updating Facebook pages, tweeting, or surfing the internet (when unrelated to the discussion at hand) or using them in any way that is distracting from the learning of other students – will result in suspension or termination of the computer/smartphone/technology privilege for the student or the entire class. If technology becomes distracting, I will ask students to leave their electronic devices in a designated box at the start of class to be picked up after the course's conclusion.

Students may not digitally record class sessions without the express permission of the instructor and other students in the course.

I reserve the right to make amendments to technology policies at any time during the semester

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to understand and follow the College's guidelines regarding academic integrity: "As an academic community, Albion College is firmly committed to honor and integrity in the pursuit of knowledge. Therefore, as a member of this academic community, each student acknowledges responsibility for this or her actions and commits to the highest standards of integrity. In doing so, each student makes a covenant with the college not to engage in any form of academic dishonesty, fraud, cheating or theft" (Albion Catalog). Suspected violations will be reported to the student and the college officials immediately. Confirmed instances of academic dishonesty may result in failure of the course and other consequences as outlined by the College. If you are unsure about whether your actions may fall under these guidelines, please do not hesitate to speak with me about your concerns.

Disability Statement:

If you have a disability and may require accommodations or modifications in class instruction or course-related activities, please contact the Learning Support Center (LSC) staff who can arrange for reasonable accommodations for students who provide documentation of their disability/condition. If you are presently registered with the LSC and have requested accommodations through the LSC for this semester, please plan to meet with me as early as possible to discuss the best way to implement these accommodations in this class. The LSC is located on the third floor of the Seeley Mudd Library of call 517-629-0825.

Late Assignments Policy:

Late assignments will not be permitted except in the most unusual of circumstances – requiring a note from a medical or university official that makes such a request on your behalf. If you are concerned that you will not be able to turn in an assignment on time or if you will be absent on a scheduled exam day, you must speak with me in advance to determine whether or not accommodation can be made. Unexcused absences on exam days will result in failure of the exam. If there is a conflict that requires an exam to be rescheduled, the student must make arrangements to take the exam in advance of the scheduled exam date.

Academic Resources:

THE ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER, located in the Seeley Mudd Building of the Library supports student success at Albion College through the Learning Support Center, the Quantitative Skills Center, and the Writing Center. The ASC also coordinates academic peer tutoring services and educational technologies for enhancing student learning. For information, visit the ASC website at <http://www.albion.edu>

THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTER offers individualized assistance with college-level study strategy and skill development. Students frequently utilize the center to improve grades, reading speed or comprehension. In addition, the Learning Support Center provides assistance and accommodations to students who have documented learning disabilities. For more information, contact Pam Schwartz, Learning Support Specialist (x0825; pschwartz@albion.edu)

THE QUANTITATIVE SKILLS CENTER provides a wide range of support to students in many subject areas. Students are free to drop in for occasional help from trained student tutors or to make appointments for on-going tutorial sessions. QSC staff members are available to assist you with the use of mathematics, statistics, spreadsheets, or graphing calculators in any course. The center also offers workshops on topics such as partial derivatives in chemistry and preparing for graduate school exams. For more information, contact the QSC Director, Karla McCavit (x0824; kmccavit@albion.edu)

THE WRITING CENTER provides trained peer review consultants prepared to work with writers at every stage of the writing process – from getting started brainstorming to writing drafts, and from organizing ideas to revising or final editing. Writing consultants support students by responding to writing in process, not by proofreading, editing, or writing students' papers. Both drop-in tutoring and scheduled appointments are available during the Writing Center's afternoon and evening hours. For more information, contact the Writing Center (x0828; writing@albion.edu) or the Director, Scott Hendrix (shendrix@albion.edu).

Method of Instruction:

This course will combine lecture, discussion, group work, and the **case method** of teaching. Cases are short factual descriptions of events that were written specifically as teaching tools. They are designed to help students learn by experiencing the complexities and ambiguities that actual participants in politics confront. The cases we'll study are based on real-world examples of specific dilemmas involving ethics and global citizenship. Please come prepared each class session to discuss the relevant cases.

Class sessions may also involve lectures by the instructor complemented by group discussions and in-class assignments. You will be expected to come to class fully prepared to participate in these activities. Everyone in the class brings unique experiences and perspectives to the course. We will all learn and enjoy the course more if members actively participate in class discussions and small group activities. I will strive to create a safe environment where all feel welcome to express their opinions freely; one in which points of fact and opinion can be debated but where all members and their viewpoints are treated with respect.

Course Requirements:

Two In-Class Exams: 60%

Students must complete two in class exams (midterm and final) worth 30% each. You will be able to earn up to 100 points on each exam. Your scores will be transformed to a standard numeric grade using the following formula: $\frac{X}{20} - 1$, so if you earn 80 points on your midterm that would translate to 3.0.

Case study presentation: 20%

Each student is required to give one presentation based on one of Manuel et.al., chapters. Presentations will be graded on the 4.0 scale.

Participation & Attendance: 20%

I will primarily grade participation on attendance and active participation in and quality of contributions to class discussion and completion of in-class assignments and activities. Participation will be graded on the 4.0 scale.

Final Grade Formula

1. Your four grades will be weighted to receive one numeric grade. For example, if your scores were:
 - a. In class participation = 3.50 (worth 20%)
 - b. Midterm = 3.50 (worth 30%)
 - c. Final = 3.10 (worth 30%)
 - d. Presentation = 4.0 (worth 20%)

Your overall numeric grade would be 3.48.

2. Your numeric grade will be then applied to Albion’s scale:

Albion's Scale	Score Needed
4.0	3.8 and above
3.7	3.79-3.50
3.3	3.49-3.15
3.0	3.14-2.85
2.7	2.84-2.50
2.3	2.49-2.15
2.0	2.14-1.85
1.7	1.84-1.50
1.3	1.49-1.15
1.0	1.14-0.85
0.0	0.84 and below

3. 3.48 would translate to 3.3 on your official transcript.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1-Introduction

21 August

Read:

- Grzymała-Busse—Chapter 1 “Introduction”
- Manuel et. al.—“Foreword” and “Introduction”
- Allen—“Introduction”

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

Week 2—The Catholic Church and Contemporary Politics

28 August

Read:

- Manuel et. al.—Chapter 1 “Vatican II and Contemporary Politics”, and Chapter 2” The Vatican as a Transnational Actor”

Monday

Wednesday—No class instructor Tatarczyk attending academic conference

Friday—No class instructor Tatarczyk attending academic conference

Week 3—Secularization and Policy Influence

4 September

Read:

- Grzymała-Busse—Chapter 2 “Weapons of the Meek”
- Manuel et. al.—Chapter 3 “The Latin European Church”
- Allen—Chapter 7 “Faith and Politics”

Monday—No class Labor Day

Wednesday

Friday

Week 4—America and the Catholic Church

11 September

Read:

- Grzymała-Busse—Chapter 5 “Religious Pluralism and Church Influence”
- Manuel et. al.—Chapter 4 “The American Church”
- Allen—Chapter 11 “Rome and America”

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #1 Manuel et. al., Chapter 4 “The American Church”

Week 5—Structure of the Church

18 September

Read:

- Vallier Ivan “Comparative studies of Roman Catholicism: dioceses as strategic units”, *Social Compass* [sent via email]
- Manuel et. al.—Chapter 5 “The Chilean Church”
- Allen—Chapter 1 “The Catholic Church 101” and Chapter 3 “The Church Outside ‘The Church’”, and Chapter 8 “Catholicism and Sex”

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #2 Manuel et. al., Chapter 5 “The Chilean Church”

Week 6—The Catholic Church in Post-Communist Societies

25 September

Read:

- Grzymała-Busse—Chapter 4 “Post—Communist Divergence”
- Manuel et. al.—Manuel et. al., Chapter 6 “The Polish Church”
- Pew Research Center “Religious Belief and National Belonging in Central and Eastern Europe” (2017) [sent via email]

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #3 Manuel et. al., Chapter 6 “The Polish Church”

Week 7—Midterm Exam Week

2 October

Monday. Mid-term review

Wednesday. Mid-term review cont.

Friday. Mid-term exam

Week 8—Catholic Monopolies

9 October

Read:

- Grzymała-Busse—Chapter 3 “Catholic Monopolies”
- Manuel et. al.— Chapter 7 ”The Catholic Church in Ireland and Northern Ireland”

Monday—No class Fall Break

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #4 Manuel et. al., Chapter 7 ”The Catholic Church in Ireland and Northern Ireland”

Week 9—Institutional Crisis

16 October

Read:

- Manuel et. al.— Chapter 8 ”The East Timorese Church”
- Allen—Chapter 2 “Historical Highlights and Lowlights”, Chapter 9 “Catholicism and Money”, Chapter 10 “Crisis and Scandal”

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #5 Manuel et. al., Chapter 8 ”The East Timorese Church”

Week 10—Social Justice, Liberation Theology, Latin America

23 October

Read:

- Manuel et. al.— Chapter 9 ”The Brazilian Church”
- Allen—Chapter 4 “The Life of the Mind”
- Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Congregation For The Doctrine Of The Faith) “Instructions On Certain Aspects Of The ‘Theology of Liberation’” [sent via email]

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #6 Manuel et. al., Chapter 9 ”The Brazilian Church”

Week 11—The Church in Africa

30 October

Read:

- Manuel et. al.— Chapter 10 ”The Rwanda Church”
- Allen—Chapter 5 “Worship” and Chapter 12 “New Frontiers”

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #7 Manuel et. al., Chapter 10 ”The Rwanda Church”

Week 12—The Catholic Church in Comparative Perspective

6 November

Read:

- Manuel et. al., Chapter 11 "The Angolan Church", and Chapter 12 "The Indian Church"

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #8 Manuel et. al., Chapter 11 "The Angolan Church"

Presentation #9 Manuel et. al., Chapter 12 "The Indian Church"

Week 13—Political Significance of the Church

13 November

Monday—In class movie

Wednesday—No class Thanksgiving Break

Friday—No class Thanksgiving Break

Week 14—Future of the Church

20 November

Read:

- Grzymała-Busse—Conclusion "Where Churches Matter", and Appendix "Further Test of the Argument"
- Manuel et. al.— Chapter 13 "The Chinese Church", and Chapter 14 "The Congolese Church"
- Allen—Chapter 13 "Pope Francis"

Monday

Wednesday

Friday—Presentation #10 Manuel et. al., Chapter 13 "The Chinese Church"

Presentation #11 Manuel et. al., Chapter 14 "The Congolese Church"

Week 15—Review Week

27 November

Monday—In class movie

Wednesday—Final exam review

Friday—Final exam review cont.

Final Exam

Tuesday, 5 December from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

***I reserve the right to amend this syllabus**