A SURVEY OF CANON LAW
FALL 2015

Description

An introduction to key terms and concepts in canon law through a textual analysis of several topics treated in the 1983 Code of Canon Law including ecclesial structures, the sacraments of initiation and healing, teaching authority, and penal law. Note: Students preparing for ordained ministry or parish ministry should also take the course in the theology and canon law of marriage taught at St. John’s Seminary in the spring term by Father Mark O’Connell. Students interested in studying in greater depth material covered in this survey may the course in special questions in canon law taught at St. John’s by Father James Conn, S.J. This survey is a prerequisite for both courses.

Requirements

Students are expected to prepare for each class by reading carefully at least the canons to be covered that day, with special attention to those listed in bold face in the syllabus. They should take note of any technical terms with which they are not familiar and, with the professor’s help, develop a personal glossary of juridical terms. They should formulate in advance any questions relevant to the text that may occur to them and, before class if possible, inform the professor of them. Central questions for preparation and for class include: what is the reason for this law? how is it to be applied in concrete pastoral settings? and how am I to explain it to parishioners and others?

Class dynamics will usually involve a student being called upon to read aloud in English the text of the bold-faced canon to be discussed. The student will be questioned in such a way as to lead the class from a naïve to a clear understanding of the text. Only bold-faced canons will be subject to examination.

The final grade is determined by class participation, an objective mid-term examination, and a 10-15 minute oral examination at the end of the term.

Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Use canonical terms correctly;
- Find and use supplementary canonical resources;
- Explain the reasons for the norms covered in class;
- Identify areas of canon law relevant to their future work and needing further study.
**N.B. Associate Dean Bader has mandated that the following be added to all BC syllabi:**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected at all classes. If an absence is foreseen please contact the professor before the class to be missed. If an absence is unforeseen (e.g., illness or emergency) please contact the professor as soon as possible after the missed class. Excessive absences will result in lowering of the final grade.

For **Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Kathy Duggan (Kathleen.duggan@bc.edu), Associate Director, Academic Support Services, the Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities and ADHD) or Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one’s own. Penalties at Boston College range from a grade penalty to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another’s words or ideas must be fully cited. If in the original wording, quotation marks or blocked, indented quotations must be used. For more information regarding plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, please consult the STM website at [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html) [link verified June 6, 2013]

**STM School-Wide Grading Policy** (adopted by the Faculty in the Fall 2012): based on the Academic Policies of Boston College for Graduate Courses. All grading in this class is reflective of these descriptions.

A Work is exceptional in every respect. There is an active and sophisticated engagement with all aspect of the course, demonstrated through careful analysis or creative treatment of the ideas covered. Both class participation and written work indicate outstanding mastery of content, originality of thought clearly expressed, and clarity in connecting course concepts with ministerial and theological interests.

A- Work is superior and above the average graduate level expectations. This involves mastery of the course content, recognition of the “big picture” within which course material is situated, and capacity to make cogent links with one’s ministerial and theological position. This level is reflected in the ability to express one’s thoughts effectively in writing and to contribute significantly to class conversation.

B+ Work is more than satisfactory at the graduate level. This involves mastery of the course content and the ability to draw connections across course topics and with appropriate theological and ministerial topics. Contribution to class conversation gives evidence of both active listening and thoughtful participation. Written work is clear, focused and well organized.

B Work is clearly satisfactory at the graduate level. There is consistent engagement with, and a basic mastery of, the course material with a good command of the various topics.

B- Work is barely acceptable at the graduate level. This reflects a basic command of the course material, an adequate articulation of the connections across content areas, and a basic
recognition of the implications for pastoral work.

C Work is marginally acceptable at the graduate level. This is a basic mastery of most of the course materials but not all. It represents that you have slipped below an acceptable level of work in one or two areas.

F Work is unsatisfactory and fails to meet the requirements of the course.

P/F Pass/Fail option must be arranged with the professors by the end of the first week of the semester if this grade is desired in place of a standard Letter Grade.

For Saint John’s Seminary

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The seminary and the Theological Institute take the matter of cheating, plagiarism, improper use of material, failure to give credit for work cited or used in a term paper (or other assignment), and other forms of academic dishonesty very seriously, viewing them as grave offenses which call for the most serious sanctions.

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary (http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary) defines plagiarism as the act of plagiarizing, which is: “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; use (another's production) without crediting the source, or to commit literary theft; present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source “.

In case of suspected dishonesty, the faculty member will speak to the student first. If the faculty member is unconvinced by the student’s explanation, he or she will report the incident to the Dean of Faculty. A Disciplinary Board may be convened by the Rector to address the issue.

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Office Hours  By appointment (mobile number: 215-439-4844)


Bibliography


Fall 2015 Calendar of Classes and Material

September

3 No class meeting. Read for background: Outline of the Code of Canon Law; Apostolic Constitution Sacrae disciplinae leges; Preface to the Latin Edition; canons 1-34; 85-93; 96-112; 129-144.

10 Introductory Canons to Book IV and the Sacraments: 834, 837, 838, 841, 843, 844, 846

In the next weeks, read for background: Praenotanda for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; Rite of Baptism for Children; Rite of Confirmation; General Instruction of the Roman Missal; Instruction Ecclesiae de mysterio, Instruction Redemptionis sacramentum.

17 Baptism: 849, 852, 861, 863, 865, 866, 868, 872, 873, 874; Confirmation: 879, 880, 882, 883, 884, 889, 891, 892, 893

24 Holy Eucharist: 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 910, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 919, 921, 923, 924, 925

October

1 Holy Eucharist (continued): 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958

8 Penance: 959, 960, 961, 962, 965, 966, 967, 974, 975, 976, 977, 983, 984, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991; Anointing of the Sick: 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007

15 Mid-term examination


November

5 Universal Ecclesial Structures (cc. 330-367) especially cc. 330-343, 349, 351, 360-367

December

3
Consecrated Life (cc. 573-746)
especially cc. 573, 576-579, 583, 584, 586-591, 507-612, 617, 643, 648, 656, 662-683, 710, 731

10
Book III: The Church’s Teaching Function (cc. 747-833)
especially cc. 749-752, 764-767, 802-818