OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- identify and integrate the principal elements of the Catholic tradition in ecclesiology, including the relationship between the church and God’s mission in the world
- recognize and exegete various usages of ‘the church’
- express an understanding of ecclesiology as a theological discipline
- articulate a nuanced approach to the dynamics of authority, accountability, and the participation of all the baptized in the life and mission of the church
- identify both the primary influences affecting the church’s mission in contemporary culture and the possibilities for effective mission
- engage critically and constructively with theological writing on the church

CONTENT

1. The Church as a theological reality— defining “the church”; the church in relation to revelation; the mystery of God and the mystery of the church; context and ecclesiology; Vatican II and ecclesiology
2. Jesus and the Church—the mission of Jesus; the movement from Jesus to the church; learning from the first Christian communities
3. The Holy Spirit and the Church—the Spirit and the sacramentality of the church; the Spirit as the heart of communion; the church as ‘an object of faith’
4. The Church as Mission—the church in relation to both the kingdom of God and the world; the promotion of the Gospel and the church’s engagement with society
5. The Church as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic—the implications of the creedal profession
6. The Church as Structure—the justification for and challenge of a structured church; sociological and theological issues concerning the structures of the church
7. The Teaching Authority—the function of the teaching authority in relation to the faith of the whole church; the college of bishops, and the papal ministry
8. Current Issues in the Life of the Church—challenges for the present and the future

ASSIGNMENTS

- Six x 500-word reflections on the daily readings—students are to reflect on one or both readings set down for any day of the course (NB: it will not be possible to treat the two readings for any given day as topics for two separate papers). The reflection papers are not to be summaries of the readings, but your response to issues raised by the readings—what was helpful and why; what needs further clarification and why; points of disagreement and why.
Papers are to be submitted electronically—lennan@bc.edu—three papers are to be submitted by 5.00pm on Friday 10 July and the remaining three by 5.00pm on Friday 17 July.

- **2,000 word paper to be submitted by 5.00pm on Wednesday 22 July**

  The Church is not an end in itself, it finds its meaning in its capacity to signify the reality in function of which it exists ...this reality is the Kingdom of God which has already begun in history.


  Discuss with reference to the church’s mission in contemporary society

- **Students seeking three credits:**
  - **1,500 word paper to be submitted by 5.00pm on Monday 27 July**


**DAILY READINGS**

**Monday 6 July**


**Tuesday 7 July**


**Wednesday 8 July**


**Thursday 9 July**

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), chs 1, 2, and 4

**Friday 10 July**

• Roberto Goizueta, “To the Poor, the Sick, and the Suffering,” in *Vatican II: A Universal Call to Holiness*, eds. Anthony Ciorra and Michael Higgins (Mahwah NJ: Paulist, 2012), 62-79

**Monday 13 July**

**Tuesday 14 July**
• International Theological Commission, *Sensus Fidei in the Life of the Church* (2014)

**Wednesday 15 July**

**Thursday 16 July**

**Friday 17 July**