

**Course Number:** T C 358

**Title:** Pope Francis's Catholic Church: The Making of the Modern Papacy

**Semester:** Spring 2024 – Maymester taught in Rome, Italy

**Instructor:** Sean Theriault, Professor, Department of Government, College of Liberal Arts

**Description:**

This course, taking place in Rome, focuses upon the history and politics of papal succession and church policy. Specifically we will concentrate on Pope Francis, the Holy See, the Vatican, and the world that it serves. The course will introduce, describe, and analyze how the Church makes its decisions and why. Each student is expected to do all the readings before the class meeting – a good classroom conversation and a student's good grade depends upon it. This course will have a regular classroom schedule in addition to Rome schedule where we tour the great churches, meet with the Princes of the Church, and observe the church's influence. In total, students will develop an understanding of the church as a historical, religious, and political organization.

**Texts/Readings:**

- Mitch Finley. 2005. *Key Moments in Church History: A Concise Introduction to the Catholic Church*. Roman & Littlefield.
- John-Peter Pham. 2006. *Heirs of the Fisherman: Behind the Scenes of Papal Death and Succession*. Oxford University Press.
- John L. Allen, Jr. 2015. *The Francis Miracle: Inside the Transformation of the Pope and the Church*. Time: New York.
- John L. Allen, Jr. 2006. *All the Pope's Men: The Inside Story of How the Vatican Really Thinks*. Doubleday: New York.
- A course packet sent via email before leaving for Rome. All readings in the Course Packet are designated as a hollow circle.

**Assignments:**

Grades will be determined according to the following formula:

- 40% Attendance, Class Participation, and Homework Assignments. Throughout the class students will have attendance quizzes and, perhaps, homework assignments. There will be no excuses for missing attendance quizzes and no extensions will be given on homework assignments. Additionally, I will take attendance for our out-of-class meetings and tours. Students must attend these or their grade will suffer.
- 50% Semester Project. This paper will be an examination of an aspect of St. Francis's Church that utilizes course information, the historic setting, and the tours/meetings to gain an additional insight to how the church functions and why.
- 10% Presentation on Semester Project.