TRRS 863B Magisterium and Infallibility - Fall 2013
Credit Hours: 3: This course is a seminar for students in the STRS doctoral and licentiate programs.
Classroom: 502 Caldwell Hall, Monday: 9:40-12:10

Instructor: John T. Ford c.s.c., Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
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Office Hours: Wednesday: 1:30-2:30 and by appointment
For an appointment, please e-mail: ford@cua.edu

Course Description:
This doctoral seminar considers the historical context and provides a systematic analysis of the teaching of Pastor Aeternus (Vatican I) and Lumen Gentium (Vatican II) as background for the contemporary discussion on magisterium, papal primacy, and infallibility. Students enrolled in the seminar are expected to prepare and present a research paper on some aspect of magisterium and infallibility.

Seminar Topics:
[1] Revelation as Communication: Tradition, Scripture, Magisterium, Infallibility
[2] Vatican I, Pastor Aeternus
[4] “Infallibility Debate” and Select Analyses
[5] Student presentations: each presentation should be a preliminary draft of a research paper; the presentation should be patterned on a conference format of approximately 25-30 minutes with 20-25 minutes for questions and comments. Papers may be based on a conciliar text or on a contemporary commentary.
[6] Status quaestionis

Required Texts:
Vatican I, Dei Filius, Pastor Aeternus; Vatican II, Lumen Gentium.

Course Goal:
The primary goal of this seminar is to provide an overview of “Magisterium and Infallibility” in both church teaching and in contemporary discussion.
Goals for Student Learning
In addition to acquiring a basic appreciation of Magisterium and Infallibility, this course provides students with an opportunity to present their research for critique by their peers in a way similar to a professional conference; students are then encouraged to prepare papers of publishable quality.

Course Requirements
   The topic should deal with some aspect of Magisterium and/or Infallibility.
   The research paper should follow the style of Theological Studies.
[3] Class participation including suggestions for and critique of student presentations.

Expectations. Attendance, punctuality, and participation are expected. Cell phones are to be turned off during class. Papers are to be submitted electronically.

Bibliography: Bibliographies on related topics will be distributed separately.

Class Schedule:
August 26; September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 15, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18, 25; December 2, 9.

Catholic University Expectations and Policies
Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm): “The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.”

Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm and http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm.

Accommodations for Students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu.

University grades: The University grading system is available at http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#I for undergraduates and http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#III for graduate students.
Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on http://cardinalstation.cua.edu.