

Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue

Pontifical Beda College
Wednesdays, 10.50-12.15, First Semester 2011-12
Dr. David Dawson Vásquez
dawson@romestudy.org
www.romestudy.org/Ecumenism.html
tel. 338 200 9228

The course examines the role and nature of the Church in the mystery of salvation, paying particular attention to the relationship of the Church to those who are not in visible union with Roman Catholics (ecumenism) and those who are not baptized Christians (interreligious dialogue). It considers various different aspects of the Roman Catholic position and its application to specific circumstances. Material is drawn from the Scriptures, various documents of the Magisterium, and other theological treatments of the theme.

Each student is responsible for attending class, reading the assigned materials on time, participating in the discussion, and completing an essay. There will also be an exam at the end of the course. Students are also encouraged to explore the issues of the course in supplementary reading.

We will all be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Cor 15:51-58)

12 October

1. Introduction: *Extra ecclesiam nulla salus*

19 October

2. Historical background
 - The Letter of Clement to the Corinthians
 - Irenaeus of Lyons, *Adversus haereses*, 3.3
 - Cyprian of Carthage, *On the Unity of the Church*
 - Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam*
 - Pius XII, *Mystici Corporis*

26 October

3. The Ecumenical Movement & Vatican II
 - *Lumen Gentium*
 - *Unitatis Redintegratio*

9 November

4. Ecumenism after Vatican II
 - *Ut Unum Sint*

23 November

5. The Practice of Roman Catholic Ecumenism
 - *Directory for the Application of the Principles and Norms of Ecumenism*

30 November

6. Specific issues: Orthodox & Anglicans
 - *Gift of Authority*
 - *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ*

7 December

7. Specific issues: Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, and Beyond
 - *Joint Declaration on Justification*
 - *Methodist Text of Association*

14 December

8. Judaism

- *Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration Nostra Aetate (n. 4)*
- *We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah*

11 January

9. The Universality of Jesus and Interreligious Dialogue

11 January

10. Official Statements about Interreligious Dialogue

- *Nostra Aetate*
- *Dialogue and Proclamation*
- *Dominus Iesus*

See also: *Interreligious Dialogue: The Official Teaching of the Catholic Church (1963-1995)*, ed. Francesco Gioia (Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 1997)

19 January (4pm: Centro Pro Unione)

11. Lecture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Ecumenical Celebration of the Word

25 January

12. The practice of interreligious dialogue: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism

Essay

The topic of the essay should be chosen from the following. It may be on an issue in ecumenical dialogue or on an issue within Christianity concerning interreligious dialogue. Due Dec 7.

Option 1: Ecumenical theme.

Utilizing published documents and official accounts of the dialogues between the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian denominations, give a critical analysis of the treatment of the issue, the agreements among Christians, and the differences that remain. The paper should conclude with a reasoned appraisal of the current state of the dialogue on this issue with different dialogue partners, making extensive reference to the relevant documents and books. Paraphrased discussion of these sources should be used rather than extensive quotations. Possible topics: (a) the papacy; (b) the Eucharist; (c) baptism; (d) ordained ministry; (e) Mary; (f) defining full communion.

Option 2: Interreligious theme.

Discuss one of the following themes under debate among Christians in regard to interreligious dialogue. The paper should utilize several sources (books and journal articles) analysing different approaches to the given subject. It should conclude with a considered judgment on the topic from the perspective of Roman Catholic theology, making reference to the relevant magisterial documents. Paraphrased discussion of the sources should be used rather than extensive quotations. Possible topics: (a) interreligious prayer; (b) the universality of Jesus; (c) the role non-Christian religions in God's plan of salvation; (d) the relationship between dialogue and evangelization.

Roman Resources

Centro Pro Unione, Via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, www.prounione.urbe.it

Library, lecture series

Anglican Centre in Rome, Piazza del Collegio Romano, 3, www.anglicancentre.org

Library

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Via della Conciliazione, 5

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Via della Conciliazione, 5