

## HISTORY 410

### THE POPES, ROME, AND THE WORLD TO 1600

Fall, 2007      Instructor: PETERS      T 1:30-4 PM      Place: Lea Library, VPL 6<sup>th</sup> floor

**Office Hours:** MT 11-12; W 4-5, or by appointment; **Office:** Lea Library, 6<sup>th</sup> floor VPL; **E-Mail:** empeters@sas.upenn.edu; **Phone:** 215-898-8450 (with Voicemail)

The history of the popes and the city of Rome is important, complex, difficult, intricate, fascinating, and rewarding. This course deals with that history. And it begins with a cautionary observation by a wise scholar:

*In one direction, the imposing file of eminent popes might seduce us into a prosopography without intelligible pattern; in the opposite direction, the majesty and continuity of the papal office, hypostatized in imagination as "the papacy" might mask the existential diversity of those who held the office... "the papacy" might seem to be more real than were the flesh-and-blood popes in whom the abstraction was incarnate.*

*Edward A. Synan*

These remarks suggest one problem in dealing with the history of the popes and the papacy. But there are also others, one of them flagged in the title of this course.

The traditional papal blessing, given urbi et orbi - "to the city and to the world" - reflects two distinct aspects of papal and general early European history: the roles of the pope as bishop of Rome - a particular city and its surrounding region, and hence very locally fixed and involved (although Ovid had once also said that, "Roman space encompasses both the city and the world" - *Fasti*, 2.684) - and as head of the Latin Christian Church (in practice, but eventually in theory of all Christians - and hence possessing claims to a kind of universal authority, not only over all Christians [Greek, Latin, Armenian, Syrian, Coptic, and others], but also over the relations between Christians and non-Christians: Jews, Muslims, and pagans). In the second capacity, the papacy is the only institution whose history offers a Europe-wide perspective on early European history, that is, from the fifth to the seventeenth centuries. In the first capacity the papacy is the key to understanding the urban history of medieval and renaissance Rome, certainly the most symbolically important European city, whose legendary history as well as whose measurable urban features played powerful roles in European history and imagination.

The purpose of the course will be to strike a balance between these two papal roles in order to develop a distinct perspective on early European institutional and cultural history. We will also try to strike a balance between Synan's "unintelligible prosopography" and the

abstraction that is “the papacy.” It is useful to keep this in mind when tempted to use such terms as “the papacy” or “the church” as the subject of a sentence and a historical actor.

The course will follow a chronological sequence, from the first to the seventeenth centuries. Along the chronological line we will pause often to consider particular problems and aspects of papal history and individual pontificates. The course is emphatically not exclusively a study of church- or religious – history, nor of what since the eighteenth century has been called “church-state relations.” Although it is a “religious” institution, developed during a period when religion determined much of the rest of European culture, the papacy is and also has been many other things. Its history touches all other aspects of European history: from finance and administrative structures to art and architectural history, urban design, artistic patronage, law, diplomacy, theology, and comparative constitutional and institutional history. We will also consider some of the Papstfabeln, items of papal mythology, including the persistent, but quite non-existent “Pope Joan.”

The office of pope is the oldest continuous governmental office in the world, and it was an elective office, making for interesting counterpoint to other forms of authority and power in the early European world, as well as raising questions about the recruitment of popes, papal elections, and the functions of the person and body of the pope in papal rule.

We will use the best recent short history of the papacy to 1534, that of Bernhard Schimmelpfennig, and other scholarly works; that of Kathleen Cushing, to consider in close detail the major constitutional revolution in papal history, the Investiture Conflict; that of I.S. Robinson on the crucial twelfth century that created the institutional structure of the papacy, and another, by Alain Boureau, on one of the most interesting aspects of papal mythology, “Pope Joan”. The book by Krautheimer is very dated in its papal history in the first eight chapters, but essential for Rome in Chs. 9-14. The reading in the first eight chapters will focus only on visual materials (churches, images, &c.) and we will get the history from elsewhere.

The rest of the common reading will be in original sources in translation. Since there is a substantial amount of translated source material for the history of the popes and the papacy, class discussions of the original sources will take the form of reports and discussions, but everyone will read at least some of the sources for some aspects of papal history.

#### COMMON REQUIRED READING (Pennsylvania Book Center)

Richard Krautheimer, Rome: Profile of A City, 312-1308 (Princeton ISBN0-691-04961-0)

Bernhard Schimmelpfennig, The Papacy (Columbia, ppr.0-231-0715-4)

The Lives of the Ninth-Century Popes (Liber Pontificalis) trans. Raymond Davis (University of Pennsylvania Press ISBN 0-85323-479-5)

Kathleen G. Cushing, Reform and the Papacy in the Eleventh Century (Manchester, ppr. 0-7190-5834-1)

Brian Tierney, The Crisis of Church and State (UToronto/MART ppr.0-8020-6701-8)

The Correspondence of Pope Gregory VII (Columbia, ppr. 0-231-09627-5)

Alain Boureau, The Myth of Pope Joan (UChicago Press, ppr. 0-226-06745-9)

There are several books on Reserve in Rosengarten and essential electronic materials. These, too, will be required common reading.

## SYLLABUS

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING
1 9/11	Introduction	
2 9/18	Rome and the Roman Christian Community	Schimmelpfennig 1 & 2; Krautheimer 1-2
3 9/25	The Roman Bishops East and West	S 3; Tierney I.1; Krautheimer 3-4
4 10/2	The Popes and the Carolingians	S 4; Tierney I.2; Krautheimer 5; Davis
5 10/9	The Popes and the Local Nobility	S 5; Tierney I.3; Krautheimer 6; Davis
6 10/16	The Investiture Conflict I	S 6; Cushing; Krautheimer 7
7 10/23	The Investiture Conflict II	Cushing; Tierney II Robinson 1-4 ;
8 10/30	The Twelfth Century	S 7; K 7; Tierney III; Robinson 8-11; Krautheimer9-10
9 11/6	The City in The Thirteenth Century I	S 8; Tierney III; Krautheimer 8, 12-14

### **Investiture Conflict paper due 10/30**

10 11/13	The Thirteenth Century II	S 8-9; Brentano (Reserve); Robinson 5-7
11 11/20	The Century without Rome	S 10; Musto (Reserve)
12 11/27	Schism, Councils, Return to the Ruins	S 11; Thomson (Reserve)

### **Second paper due 11/27**

13 12/4	Rome Reborn	
---------	-------------	--

We will read Boureau intermittently throughout the semester.

There will be detailed agenda for each week handed out at least by the week before.

The essays will provide you with the experience of writing historical analysis directly from the sources (in translation, helped by the discussions in the common reading). The topics reflect various distinct aspects of papal history and require different kinds of intellectual and imaginative enterprise on your part. If you come to the course with a particular kind of interest, I urge you to use it in the course.

In addition to the two (brief) papers assigned from the common reading and oral report write-ups, there is also required a somewhat more ambitious research paper, not necessarily of great length, but extending a bit further than the common reading. This paper may be the study of a particular pontificate (not all pontificates are eligible, since not all have useful material in English – see me), some aspect of Roman urban history, or an aspect of papal history generally, across a broad spectrum. I will discuss this paper more fully in class.

The class will consist of both lectures and discussions. There will be oral reports assigned each week, which will then be written up (one or two pages) and submitted. I expect the reading to be done on time and the discussions to reflect the reading. The papers, too, are due on time. Please be especially attentive to this if you are a second-semester senior or otherwise need grades in at a specific time at the end of the semester. I do not like incompletes, allow them very reluctantly, and often cannot grade them until well into the following semester. The reading is also uneven in length. Please budget your time well ahead.

This course offers a lot, and you have the luxury of being selective across a broad field of topics and themes that interest you. Use it well.

### **Reserve, Reference, and/or Blackboard:**

This Syllabus

Protocols

Guidelines for writing essays

*The Marvels of Rome: Mirabilia urbis Romae*, ed. Eileen Gardner

Master Gregorius, *The Marvels of Rome*, trans. John Osborne

Robert Brentano, *Rome Before Avignon*

Colin Morris, *The Papal Monarchy*

J.A.F. Thomson, *Popes and Princes, 1417-1517*

Ronald G. Musto, *Apocalypse in Rome*

Agostino Paravicini-Bagliani, *The Pope's Body*

Christopher Ryan, ed., *The Religious Roles of the Papacy... 1150-1300*

John C. Moore, ed., *Pope Innocent III and His World*

John C. Moore, *Pope Innocent III (1160/1-1216): To Root Up and to Plant*

Yves Renouard, *The Avignon Papacy*

Bruno Steimer and Michael G. Parker, eds., *Dictionary of the Popes and the Papacy (Ref.)*

Philippe Levillain, ed., *The Papacy: An Encyclopedia*, 3 vols. (Ref.)