**Syllabus for first seven weeks of COVERING RELIGION Spring 2012**

(Syllabus for second half of the semester will be distributed after trip to Italy)

**FACULTY**

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**REQUIRED TEXTS** (on reserve in the Journalism Library)

Thomas Bokenkotter, *A Concise History of the Catholic Church* (Image, 2005)

Alexander Stille, *Benevolence and Betrayal* (Picador, 1991)

Sergio Luzzatto, *Padre Pio* (Picador, 2007)

**OPTIONAL TEXT**

Mary Pat Fisher "Living Religion: A Brief Introduction" (Prentice Hall, any edition)

*ALL OTHER READINGS IN THE SYLLABUS CAN BE FOUND IN COURSEWORKS*

**JAN. 23, Week One -- the structure of the Catholic Church**, its unique place in Italian life and the way it has shaped and continues to shape Italian society. Church as state and church and state.

Read Chapters 1-3 and 9-14 of Bokenkotter

**JAN. 30, Week Two -- The Church and minorities. The story of Italian Jews.** The history of the ghetto. The racial laws under fascism. Holocaust period. Current controversy: the canonization of Pius XII. (Use class to explain unification, Jews role in unification, assimilation of Jews, rapid rise of Jews in Italy – contrast with France of Dreyfus – fascism, the Lateran pact.) The current story of the church and new immigrants, especially Muslims.

Readings: “Benevolence and Betrayal,” section three, a family of the ghetto, the Diveroli’s of Rome.

Stille, “Anti-Semitism in Italy, 1988,” The Atlantic.

State Department Reports on Italy and Religious Freedom

Optional readings:

Section One of Benevolence and Betrayal: “The Ovazzas.”

ADL report on anti-Semitism in Europe

Kertzer’s “Popes against the Jews.”

Pope Paul IV, *Cum nimis absurdum* (1555)

DUE: RITUAL MOMENT

FAITH REPORTS BEGIN: Michael and Hoda

NEWS ANCHOR REPORTS BEGIN: Nathan, Anam and Sarah

Guest: Tony Carnes

**FEB. 6, Week Three: Monopoly Religions and Pluralistic Religious Marketplaces** –

Readings: Massimo Introvigne and Rodney Stark: “Religious Competition and Revival in Italy: Exploring European Exceptionalism,” *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion, vol. 1, 2005.*

Laurence Iannacone, "Why Strict Churches Are Strong," *The American Journal of Sociology, v. 99, n. 5 (March, 1994), pp. 1180-1211.*

Peter Boyer, “A Hard Faith,” The New Yorker, May 16, 2005.

Ian Fischer, “Pope’s Vision of a smaller church,” NY Times, May 30, 2005.

Optional reading:

Rodney Stark and Roger Finke: “Beyond Church and Sect: Dynamics and Stability in Religious Economies.”

DUE: TEACHING MOMENT

FAITH REPORTS: INES AND ABY

NEWS ANCHORS: BRANDON, ANNE AND NEHA M.

**FEB. 13, Week Four: Toward Pluralism**

Readings: “Religious Pluralism in Italy,” Paolo Naso

Franco Garelli, “Catholicism in Italy in the Age of Pluralism,” Chapters 6-8, pp. 71-113,

“The Making of Religious Pluralism in Italy from a New Generational Perspective,” Annalisa Frisina, *Social Compass, 2011 (Sage Publications)*

FAITH REPORTS: ANDREA, BOGDAN AND NEHA P.

NEWS ANCHORS: RAYA, TERESA AND TRINNA

**FEB. 20, Week Five: The Politics of Immigration: dealing with the new other.**

The Bossi-Fini law, the Lega Nord, xenophobia, nightmare fantasies and growing reality.

Readings: Michele Totah, *Fortress Italy*

“Army of Evil,” The Daily Telegraph, April 16, 2008

Racism in Italy, stories from The Guardian, December, 2009.

Annalisa Frisina, “Young Muslims’ Everyday Tactics and Strategies: Resisting Islamophobia, Negotiating Italianness, Becoming Citizens,” *Journal of Intercultural Studies,* October 20, 2010.

Optional:

“Islam in Italy,” Country Profiles

FAITH REPORTS: RAYA, TERESA AND TRINNA

NEWS ANCHORS: ANDREA, BOGDAN AND NEHA P.

**FEB. 27, Week Six: The Enduring (and Changing) Power of the Catholic Church**

The power of the Church beyond weekly church attendance. The influence

of newer lay groups such as Communion and Liberation, Opus Dei, the legislation passed that favors the Church, the system of state financing of the Church, tax breaks, etc. The indirect influence family life. Right to die legislation, medical wills, crucifixes in the classroom, artificial insemination and adoption laws.

Readings: “Teachers cut, religious schools up,” *La Repubblica*,

Communione e Liberazione file

Selected articles from *La Repubblica (to be translated by Francesca)*

European Court of Human Rights, decision in the Lautsi v. Italy case.

*Osservatore Romano* on the Lautsi case.

Reuters, “Vatican Refuses to Obey Italian Law”

FAITH REPORTS: BRANDON, ANNE AND NEHA M.

NEWS ANCHORS: INES AND ABY

DUE: STORY ON YOUR FAITH BEAT AND ITALY

**MARCH 5, Week Seven: Mystical Religion in the Modern World: Lourdes, Padre Pio**

By this time you should have found time somewhere in the semester to read Chapters 24-27 of Bokenkotter, which treat the Church’s response to the challenge of the French Revolution and the unification of Italy.

Readings:

Introduction to Ruth Harris’s “Lourdes,”

Sergio Luzzatto’s “Padre Pio,” selected chapters, chs 1-6 and 9-10. (available on Amazon from anywhere between $7 and $25.)

Recommended chapters on the cult of Mary in Gary Wills’ “Papal Sins.”

And Kenneth Woodward on “Making Saints.”

FAITH REPORTS: NATHAN, ANAM AND SARAH

NEWS ANCHORS: MICHAEL AND HODA

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

Sunday, Feb. 5 -- Visit several New York City houses of worship with Tony Carnes (9:30 to 3:30)

Saturday, Feb. 11 -- Class trip to Congregation Ramath Orah, 550 West 110th Street (10:30 to 12:30)

Saturday, Feb. 18 -- Class Trip to Padre Pio Shrine, 210 West 31st Street

Friday, Feb. 24 -- Class trip to NYC mosque. (Details to be announced.)

Thursday, March 8 -- Class leaves for Rome from JFK at 9:35 p.m. aboard Alitalia Flight 611

Friday, March 9 -- Class arrives in Rome at 12:05 p.m.

March 9 to 19 – Class in Rome, Naples and San Giovanni Rotondo and Bari, Italy

Monday, March 19 -- Class leaves Bari, Italy at 11:15 a.m. aboard Alitalia Flights 1612 and 610 to Rome and New York

Monday, March 19 -- Class arrives JFK 7:35 p.m.

After our return from Italy, we will have class on the following Mondays, but only from 9:30 to 12:30: April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7. (There will be no class on March 26.)