

*Santa Clara University Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries
Fall 2025-DRAFT SYLLABUS*

HISTORY OF U.S. LATINO/A CATHOLICISM: CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT LATM 221

Robert Lassalle-Klein, Ph.D., M.S.W.



Schedule of Meetings

Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 pm

Click this link for all online meetings:

<https://scu.zoom.us/j/4757798992?pwd=VVFKL20zTkRLak5RenNKMWw1RnJKdz09>

<u>CLASS NUM.</u>	<u>TUESDAYS (hours)</u>		<u>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS</u>
#1	Sept. 23	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#2	Sept. 30	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Summary Assignment (participation) #1 (10-4-25)
#3	Oct. 7	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#4	Oct. 14	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Summary Assignment (participation) #2 (10-18-25)
#5	Oct. 21	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Proposal for Final Project Paper (10-25-25)

#6	Oct. 28	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#7	Nov. 4	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Short Paper #1 (11-8-25)
#8	Nov. 11	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
#9	Nov. 18	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	
	Nov. 25	THANKSGIVING!!	
#10	Dec. 2	6:00-9:00 pm (3)	Oral Presentation Final Project Paper
Final	DEC 10		Final Project Paper (12-10-25)

History U.S. Latino/a Catholicism- Conquest to the Present

LATM 221

Instructor: Robert Lassalle-Klein
Email: ralassalleklein@scu.edu

Telephone: 510-206-4904
Office hours: Noon-1pm
every Wed. via Zoom (use link
above), or by appt

Course Description

This course explores the history of Latino/a Catholicism in the Americas. Starting from a decolonial Christian perspective (Vatican Apologizes for Role in “Doctrine of Discovery” 3/30/23), we review five centuries of violent efforts by settler colonialism to displace and replace Indigenous peoples and the complex entanglement of these efforts with Catholic mission activity. We investigate issues generated for Hispanic, “mestizo,” Latinx, white, and other people living in the borderlands of national, cultural, and religious identity. And we examine the role of historical and contemporary events shaping the dynamic reality of 21st century U.S. Catholic Latino/a ministry, parish life, apostolic movements, public advocacy, and faith.

A required course in the Latina/o Ministry emphasis (an elective for other students); 4 units.

Assignments:

Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation

1. **Participation and Course Responsibility: 30%**
 - a. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend *every* class session and will be held responsible for the assigned material. **Students will be allowed one unquestioned, excused absence. Unexcused absences of two or more may**

result in one whole letter grade deduction each. Please inform me of all absences at least twenty-four hours before class by emailing ralassalleklein@scu.edu or by phoning 510-206-4904.

b. **Short Summary Assignments (ungraded short summary of the reading for that day):**

Students will be asked to complete assignments summarizing the assigned readings in preparation for two classes. Answer each question with at least one paragraph. You may write as much as you want, but you should at least do the minimum. Answers may be taken directly from the readings.

Citations are not required, though it is recommended that you provide page numbers in parentheses at the end of each answer (e.g. "Brett Hoover argues that the State has a right to restrict immigration and that Christians have a responsibility to obey the state. However, he argues that neither the rights of the state nor the responsibility of Christians to obey the state are absolute (133)").

c. **In class discussion**

Class participation entails active engagement in class discussions. This involves preparing the readings, asking questions, the frequency and clarity of your contributions, knowledge of the reading matter under discussion, the ability to articulate a position, the clarity and power of your reflections, and attentive listening to others.

2. **Short Paper Assignments: 40%**

Students will write two short reflection papers on topics related to the major themes from the course. The due dates are provided in the assignment list above. All essays/answers must be double spaced, typed, in 12-point type with one-inch margins and at least 5 pages long. They should be checked for spelling and grammar, and must include citations and footnotes. Essays should be turned in to the DIGITAL DROP BOX IN CAMINO by the day assigned. Late essays will only be accepted with permission after the due date. The grade for late essays will be automatically reduced by 20% unless you provide a written excuse and receive permission to be late. Further information will be provided in class and on *Camino* regarding these papers.

3. **Final Project Paper: 30%**

There will be a final eight to ten page project/paper asking students to outline elements of your own biblical theology of migration and to explain how it fits (or does not) into your ministry. Details regarding the project and paper will be announced in class.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Theological Foundation

Knowledge of the human reality of history of Latino/a Catholicism from colonialism to the present as a foundation for ministry and theological reflection that enriches ministerial practices across varying contexts.

Goal 2: Pastoral Proficiency

- A) Familiarity with leading historical, theological, and ethical studies of history of Latino/a Catholicism, colonialism and the Church, and knowledge of official Catholic teaching on the subject, and
- B) the ability to apply this knowledge in pastoral settings that include discernment, compassion, pastoral leadership, and ministries of accompaniment

Goal 3: Servant Leadership

A commitment to identify and understand systemic and personal injustices, racism, and misunderstandings suffered by Latino/a Catholics and non-Catholics.. Exposure to the skills needed to work in collaboration with individuals and institutions in accompanying Latine-Hispanic Catholic communities, supporting local communities and institutions, and promoting positive social change both within and outside the Church and the state.

Goal 4: Diversity Fluency

Awareness of and critical engagement with how one's own culture influences their views, attitudes, and actions in regards to ethnic identity and how that is expressed in ministry. Exposure to ministerial models engaging Latino/a-Hispanic Catholics and non-Catholics that build the community of Christ through sensitive and respectful interactions with all cultures and traditions, especially with individuals who vary by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and dynamics of wealth, poverty, and power.

Required Readings

TEXTBOOKS (NB: Matovina provided free through the SCU library or the U.N.)

Gonzalez, Juan. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*: Second Revised and Updated Edition. Penguin Books, 2022. 382 pages STUDENTS MUST PURCHASE THIS BOOK. \$10.00 NEW (KINDLE) ON AMAZON.

Matovina, Timothy. *Latino Catholicism: Transformation in America's Largest Church*. Princeton University Press, 2014. 250 pages. LINK: <https://www-jstor-org.libproxy.scu.edu/stable/j.ctt7rpx2> NB: PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY SCU LIBRARY

READER (NB:All Articles and Selections from Listed Books Provided Free by Instructor in Camino)

- Davila, María Teresa. Latino/a Ethics. *Companion to Latinoax Theology*, 1272-310.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=7219871>
- Ellacuría, Ignacio. The Crucified People: An Essay in Historical Soteriology. In Michael E. Lee, ed., *Ignacio Ellacuría: Essays on History, Liberation, and Salvation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2013, 195-224.
- Espín, Orland O. *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Latinoax Theology*. Second Edition. John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2023.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=7219871>
- Flores, Nicole M. "Latine Perspectives on Care for Creation." *Companion to Latinoax Theology*, 347-364.
- Garcia, Sixto J. "The Latino/a/x Theology of God as the Future of Theodicy: *A Proposal from the Dangerous Memory of the Latino/a Jesus*." *Companion to Latinoax Theology*, 140-161.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=7219871>
- Goizueta, Roberto S.. "Grace and Sin. Salvation." *Companion to Latinoax Theology*, 237-251.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=7219871>
- Hixon, Walter. *American Settler Colonialism: A History*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Chaps 1, 4,5,6. 98 pages. LINK:
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=1588866>
- Las Casas, O.P, Bartolomé de. Briffault, Herma, trans; Donovan, Bill, Introduction. *The Devastation of the Indies: A Brief Account*. Johns Hopkins University Press; First Edition, Feb. 1, 1992. "Excerpts from Devastation of the Indies," 7 pgs.
- Machado, Daisy L. "History and Latinx Identity: Mapping a Past That Leads to Our Future." *Companion to Latinoax Theology*, 25-43.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=7219871>
- Nanco-Fernández, Carmen M. "Lo Cortidiano as Locus Theologicus." *Companion to Latinoax Theology*, 3-24.
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/santaclara/detail.action?docID=7219871>
- Penyak, Lee M., and Petry, Walter J. eds. *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2006.
- Sobrino, Jon. "The Crucified People and the Civilization of Poverty: Ignacio Ellacuría's 'Taking Hold of Reality.'" *No Salvation Outside the Poor: prophetic-Utopian Essays*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Press, 2008, 1-18.

Bibliography of Additional BACKGROUND NON-REQUIRED Materials

Referenced in Lectures or Readings

(NB: None of the Following Materials Are Required Reading)

Catholic Magisterial Statements on History of Latino/a Catholicism:

Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, Fifth General Conference. "Disciples and Missionaries of Jesus Christ, so that our Peoples may have life in Him, 'I am the Way and the Truth and the life' (Jn 16:4)" <https://www.ltrr.arizona.edu/~katie/kt/misc/Aparecida/Aparecida-document-for-printing.pdf> Links to an external site.

_____, Second General Conference. Medellín ("Document on Poverty" (2), "Document on Peace" (1), "Document on Justice" (3-4); "Document on Education" (2, 9); "Document on Youth" (15); "Document on Catechesis" (6); "Document on Lay Movements" (2, 4, 9, 13); "Document on the Poverty of the Church" (2, 7). <https://www.geralschlabach.net/misc/medellin-1968-excerpts/> Links to an external site.

_____, Third General Conference. *Puebla: Evangelization at Present and in the Future of Latin America: Conclusions*. See Bettenson and Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church* (368, d) <https://sculib.scu.edu/search/?Ydocuments+of+the+Christian+church&SORT=D/Ydocuments+of+the+Christian+church&SORT=D&SUBKEY=documents+of+the+Christian+church/1%2C154%2C154%2CE/frameset&FF=Ydocuments+of+the+Christian+church&SORT=D&1%2C1%2C> Links to an external site.

Codex Matritensis (Madrid Codex, 1562-1575). "The Place Where One Becomes Deified." Penyak, Lee M., and Petry, Walter J. eds. *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2006, 3-4.

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People. Instruction, *Erga migrantes caritas Christi*, (*The love of Christ towards migrants*). Vatican City, 2004. [Erga migrantes caritas Christi - The love of Christ towards migrants \(vatican.va\)](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/erga_migrantes_caritas_christi/erga_migrantes_caritas_christi_en.html)

Diego (1537-1588). "Huitzilopochtli and Tlaloc." *Religion in Latin America*, 12-13.

Pope Alexander VI. "Papal Bull, Inter Caetera." May 4, 1493. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. 49 W. 45th St., NY, NY 10036. Link: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/spotlight-primary-source/doctrine-discovery-1493>.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, Shrine of Aparecida, May 13, 2007, no. 3, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2007/may/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070513_ Links to an external site.

Pope Francis. *Evangelii Gaudium*,

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/pa-pa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.htmlLinks to an external site.

. “Laudate Deum, Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis to All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis.” Rome, Italy (Oct. 4, 2023). Accessed online Nov. 1, 2023 at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

. “*Laudato Si*, Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father on Care for Our Common Home.” Rome, Italy (May 24, 2015). Accessed online Sept. 30, 2023 at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.pdf

. “Papa pide perdón por crímenes de la Iglesia durante colonización Latinoamérica.” *Diario Libre*, <https://www.diariolibre.com/actualidad/papa-pide-perdn-por-crmenes-de-la-iglesia-durante-colonizacin-latinoamrica-JYDL1233381> .

. “Pope ends Amazon Synod: We have seen the disfigured face of the Amazon.” *Rome Reports*. October 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRXZeYPTQ7c>.

. Pope Francis, “Participation at the Second World Meeting of Popular Movements. Address of the Holy Father.”

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/july/documents/papa-francesco_20150709_bolivia-movimenti-popolari.html

. “Messages World Day of Migrants and Refugees.” Accessed online September 30, 2023 at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration.html>

Pope John Paul II. “*Apostolic Journey to America. Homily of John Paul II.*”

(*Guadalupe as Patroness of the Americas*). Accessed online 10-10-23 at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/1999/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_19990123_mexico-guadalupe.html

. “*Canonization of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin. Homily of the Holy Father.*” Mexico City, Wednesday July 31, 2002. Access online 10-16-23 at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_20020731_canonization-mexico.pdf

. *Redemptoris missio* (esp. 14), https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio.htmlLinks to an external site.

- Pope Paul III. "Indians Are Truly Men." In Penyak, Lee M., and Petry, Walter J. eds. *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2006, 28-29.
- Pope Paul VI. Documents of Vatican II. "Gaudium et spes" (esp. GS 2, 4, 35, 44, 53-56, 60, 64-72, 85-86). https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.htmlLinks to an external site.
- Rubios, Dr. Palacio. "The Requerimiento." Document claiming Church authority for the Conquest, *Religion in Latin America*, 25-27.
- Sahagún, OFM., Fr. Benardino de (1499-1590). "Serpentine Prudence. *Religion in Latin America*, 56-57.
- USCCB. Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. United States conference of Catholic Bishops. Accessed online 11-16-23 at: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>
- _____. "Combating Racism - Statements and Letters." Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. United States conference of Catholic Bishops. Accessed online 11-16-23 at: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism/combating-racism-statements-and-letters>
- _____. "Quotes from Church teachings on the rights of migrants and refugees." <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/migrants-refugees-and-travelers/quotes-rights-migrants-refugees>
- _____. "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope." *Issued by USCCB and Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.*, January 22, 2003. <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/strangers-no-longer-together-on-the-journey-of-hope>
- _____. "Welcoming God's People." *National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America, Diocesan Phase of the 2021 2022 Synod*. September 2022, 7-9. Accessed October 15, 2023 at: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/us-national-synthesis-2021-2023-synod>
- _____. "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity and Diversity." 2000. Access online September 30, 2023 at: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pastoral-care-migrants-refugees-travelers/welcoming-stranger-among-us-unity-diversity>
- Vatican, Holy See. "Documents." Migrants and Refugee Section-Dicastary for Promoting Integral Human Development. Accessed online Sept. 30, 2023 at: <https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/documents/>
- _____. *Joint Statement of the Dicasteries for Culture and Education and for Promoting Integral Human Development on the "Doctrine of Discovery"*, 30.03.2023. Holy See Press Office
- Vatican News. "Church defends Indigenous peoples: 'Doctrine of Discovery' was never Catholic." March 30, 2023. 2017-2025 Dicasterium pro

Communication. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-03/vatican-formally-repudiates-doctrine-of-discovery.html>

Vega, Luis Lasso de la. "Virgin of Guadalupe." *Religion in Latin America*, 96-98.

COURSE POLICIES & PROTECTIONS FOR YOU

Attendance Policies and Procedures

Attending class is indispensable to 1) learning the subject matter and 2) mastering the critical skills this course intends to cultivate. This course runs like a traditional classroom but with some students present in person and others present from remote locations; all students meet at the same time, "coming to class" promptly at 6:00 PM.

Students will be allowed one unquestioned, excused absence. Unexcused absences of two or more may result in one whole letter grade deduction each (i.e. B to C). For unavoidable absences, please speak to me in advance. Accommodations may be made rarely if you speak to me after a class meeting.

Zoom-based students must attend from a quiet environment, free from distractions. Students should follow best practices for Zoom meetings, including: 1) operating in a **well-lit area with one's laptop connected to power and on level surface** (setting your laptop on top of a pile of books to raise it to eye level is a big help); 2) **muting laptops when not speaking and raising one's hand** (via Zoom or physically) to enter the conversation; 3) avoiding cell phone use.

Academic Integrity

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of—and commitment to—a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.

Academic integrity is part of your intellectual, ethical, and professional development. I expect you to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. I will clarify expectations on academic integrity -- including the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT and course sharing sites for all assignments and exams in this course. If you have questions about what is appropriate on any assignment, please let me know before you hand in work. For more resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see this [LibGuide on Academic Integrity](#).

Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX)

Santa Clara University is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

Please know that as a faculty member, California law SB 493 requires me to report any information brought to my attention about incidents of sexual harassment or misconduct to the SCU [Equal Opportunity and Title IX Office](#) (408) 551-3043. This includes, but is not limited to, disclosures in writing assignments, class discussions, and one-on-one conversations.

Should you need support, SCU has dedicated staff trained to assist you in navigating campus resources, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and filing a formal complaint with the University or with law enforcement. Please see the [Student Resources](#) page for more information about reporting options and resources.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence and wishes to speak to a **confidential** resource who is not required to report, please contact one of the following SCU resources for support:

- [SCU Wellness Center](#)
- [CAPS](#)
- Any individual (clergy, counselors) acting in a professional capacity for which confidentiality is mandated by law

I am happy to help connect you with any of these resources.

Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Santa Clara University does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related medical conditions. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor, and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Students needing accommodations can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. Students needing accommodations can also seek assistance with accommodations from the Office of Accessible Education (OAE) or from the Office of Equal Opportunity and [Title IX Office](#). This [resource page](#) from Title IX provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights.

Office of Accessible Education

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact the Office of Accessible Education (OAE), Benson 216, <http://www.scu.edu/oae> as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through the OAE, please be sure to request accommodations through myOAE and discuss them with me within the first two weeks of the quarter.

I am here to assist you in any way I can, but I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from OAE. The OAE will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assistive technology. Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible. OAE must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The OAE would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks.

For more information, you may contact OAE at 408-554-4109.

Safety Measures

In order to meet our learning objectives, we will adhere to the highest standards for safety and mutual respect. University policy allows faculty to require the use of face coverings in their classrooms. I may request that students wear face coverings occasionally or throughout the academic term. Failure to comply with my request is a violation of the [Student Conduct Code](#), which I will need to report.

Use of Classroom Recordings

All online class meetings will be recorded and made available on Camino. As is stated in the [Student Conduct Code](#): "...Dissemination or sharing of any classroom recording without the permission of the instructor would be considered "misuse" and, therefore, prohibited. Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action by the University. At the instructor's discretion, violations may also have an adverse effect on the student's grade."

Copyright Statement

Materials in this course are protected by the United States copyright laws. I am the copyright holder of the materials I create, including notes, handouts, slides, and videos. You may make copies of course materials for your own use and you may share the materials with other students enrolled in this course. You may not publicly distribute the course materials without my written permission.

Technology Support

SCU can provide you with technical assistance, and you can also reach out to our providers directly for questions. For Camino (SCU's branded instance of Canvas) support, contact caminosupport@scu.edu or call 408-551-3572.

You can also find support resources via the help button within the Camino platform (on the left-hand navigation) to access after-hours support via email, chat, or phone.

For Zoom assistance, contact Media Services at mediaservices@scu.edu or 408-554-4520. You can also get support from the [SCU website](#) or the [Zoom Help Center](#) website.

For SCU network and computing support, contact the SCU Technology Help Desk at techdesk@scu.edu or 408-554-5700. They can provide support for MySCU Portal, Eduroam, Duo, hardware and software issues, and more.