



Religious Studies 138B

Global Catholicism:

Catholic Saints

Spring 2012

Instructor: Kristy Slominski

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Office hours: 3:15-4:15 pm HSSB 3001F

The study of saints provides a window into official Catholicism and the vibrant spiritual lives of Catholics around the world. As mediators, saints are shaped at the crossroads of the mundane and the sacred, the public and the private, the bodily and the spiritual, and the past and the present. Their position as religious boundary figures makes them ideal for introducing multiple themes and approaches of Religious Studies, as well as illustrating the complexity of the Catholic religion over time and around the globe.

This course is structured as a research seminar, with each student researching a different saint. You will sign up for a saint in Week 2. (If you already know of a saint you would like to research, email me a description of why you would like to research that particular saint **by Saturday 5 pm**. If multiple people request the same saint, it will be decided on a first come, first serve basis. I must also check to see if there is enough research material available on these special-request saints!) The research project will extend throughout the quarter through class discussions, research exercises, and progress updates. Your project will culminate in a final paper and a final presentation on your research—either a poster presentation or an oral presentation. These research presentations will occur during our final exam time, which will be transformed into a “**Catholic Saints Research Symposium**.”

Required Materials:

Woodward, Kenneth L. *Making Saints: How the Catholic Church Determines Who Becomes a Saint, Who Doesn't, and Why*. New York: Touchstone, 1990.

You can download the other assigned readings as PDFs from GauchoSpace. GauchoSpace will also be updated throughout the quarter with relevant links, resources, discussion forums, and more, so check the site regularly.

Course Components

Quizzes	20%
Participation	20%
Reading Presentation	10%
Research Exercises	20%
Research Paper	20%
Research Presentation	10%

Grade Scale:		
C+	77-79	
A+	97-100	C
A	93-96	C-
A-	90-92	D+
B+	87-89	D
B	83-86	D-
B-	80-82	F
		Below 60

Quizzes (20%) In-class quizzes (approximately 30 minutes each) will take the place of a final and a midterm exam. Quizzes will focus on the reading material, vocabulary, and major themes of the course. I will let you know of an upcoming quiz at least one class in advance. If our discussions and classroom activities indicate that students are not keeping up with the readings, quizzes will be given more frequently. In other words, you

have some control over the number of quizzes given in this course. If you are registered with the Disabled Students Program and require special time considerations or other testing accommodations, please consult with me ASAP so we can work out reasonable accommodations.

Participation (20%) This is a small seminar-style class, and it requires that you come to class prepared and that you participate in discussions and classroom activities. In this class, “being prepared” means that you have read the assigned reading carefully for that day, have taken notes, have thought about it, and are ready to contribute 2-3 questions or comments for discussion, as well as contribute to discussions started by other students. Although not required, you are also welcome to come to my office hours to discuss the material further or you may contribute to the discussion forum on GauchoSpace to boost your participation grade (although neither replaces the importance of in-class participation!).

Reading Presentations (10%) You will be responsible for guiding the class through a reading once this quarter (sign-ups will be in week 2, along with the sign-up for your research saint). This requires that you become very familiar with your assigned reading and that you produce a 1-page handout (can be double-sided) for the class. I can make the copies if you get it to me beforehand. Your handout should include:

- **VOCABULARY:** list important new terms and definitions, citing relevant page numbers.
- **MAIN POINTS:** 5-10 bullet points that summarize the main points of the article, citing relevant page numbers.
- **DISCUSSION TOPICS:** write 3 comments, topics, themes, or questions that you will use to lead class discussion.
- **OPTIONAL QUOTE:** You may also choose to include a short quoted passage from the reading that contains the main argument, a central piece of evidence, or is otherwise significant for a discussion you would like to start with the class.

You will use the handout to guide the class through the reading. Please prepare to go over the vocabulary and elaborate the main points in about 10 minutes, however we may “stop the clock” at various points for questions and discussions during that time. After the vocabulary and main points are covered, you will lead the class in discussion with your prepared questions or comments.

Research Exercises (20%) This course will use a variety of exercises in Weeks 2-9 to build your research skills. Many of these will be in-class exercises. Your engagement with these will contribute to your participation grade and any products I ask you to turn in (a short reflection or completed handout, for example) will contribute to your research exercise grade. Some will help you build your research paper and will contain a homework component.

**You will receive a handout with details on the research exercises and the research paper in Week 2, and a handout on the research presentation guidelines by Week 7.*

Research Paper (20%) Each student will submit an 8-10 page research paper on a saint, assigned at the beginning of Week 2. The final paper is due at the beginning of our last class, **Wed. June 6th**.

Research Presentation (10%) Each student will present their final research project at our Catholic Saints Undergraduate Research Symposium on **Mon. June 11th** (our assigned final exam time). Like many research symposiums, presenters will have a choice of presenting their data in a poster presentation or an oral presentation with slides.

READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introducing Catholicism and Saints

4/2 Introduction: What is Global Catholicism? What are Saints? What are Global Catholic Saints?

4/4 Dillon, Michele. “Roman Catholicism.” *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*, 1092-7. Edited by Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof. Los Angeles: Sage, 2012.

Nabhan-Warren, Kristy. “Saints.” *Encyclopedia of Global Religions*, 1114-8.

Week 2: The Politics of Saint-making

4/9 Woodward, “Introduction,” 15-9.

Woodward, “Chap. 1: The Local Politics of Sainthood,” 21-49. (34 pages)

4/11 Woodward, “Chap. 2: Saints, Their Cults, and Canonization,” 50-86. (37 pages)

Week 3: The Saint-Makers and Martyrs

4/16 Woodward, “Chap. 3: The Saint-Makers,” 87-126. (39 pages)

4/18 Woodward, “Chap. 4: The Witness of Martyrs,” 127-155. (28 pages)

Week 4: Marketing Mystics and Measuring Miracles

4/23 Woodward, “Chap. 5: Mystics, Visionaries, and Wonder-Workers,” 156-90. (35 pages)

4/25 Woodward, “Chap. 6: The Science of Miracles and the Miracles of Science,” 191-220. (30 pages)

Week 5: Defining Human Virtue and Virtuous Humans

4/30 Woodward, “Chap. 8: The Harmonics of Holiness: Interpreting the Life of Grace,” 251-79. (29 pages)

5/2 Woodward, “Chap. 9: Popes as Saints: Canonization as Church Politics,” 280-308. (29 pages)

Week 6: Sanctity, Sexuality, and the Future of Sainthood

5/7 Woodward, “Chap. 11: Sanctity and Sexuality,” 336-52. (17 pages)

5/9 Woodward, “Conclusion: The Future of Sainthood,” 374-406. (32 pages)

Week 7: The Localization of Saints in South Asia

5/14 Stirrat, R. L. “The Shrine of St. Sebastian at Mirisgama: An Aspect of the Cult of the Saints in

Catholic Sri Lanka." *Man (New Series)* 16, no. 2 (June 1981):183-200. (18 pages)

5/16 Mosse, David. "Catholic Saints and the Hindu Village Pantheon in Rural Tamil Nadu, India." *Man (New Series)* 29, no. 2 (June 1994): 301-32. (32 pages)

Week 8: Gendered and Cultural Encounters with American Saints

5/21 Orsi, Robert A. "What Did Women Think They Were Doing When They Prayed To St. Jude?" *U.S. Catholic Historian* 8, no. 1/2 (Winter - Spring, 1989): 67-79. (13 pages)

Orsi, Robert A. "The Center out There, in Here, and Everywhere Else: The Nature of Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Jude, 1929-1965." *Journal of Social History* 25, no. 2 (Winter 1991): 213-32. (19 pages)

5/23 Holmes, Paula Elizabeth. "The Narrative Repatriation of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha," *Anthropologica*, 43, 1 (2001): 87-103. (17 pages)

Week 9: Nationalism and the Virgin Mary in Poland and Haiti

5/28 MEMORIAL DAY

5/30 Porter, Brian. "Hetmanka and Mother: Representing the Virgin Mary in Modern Poland." *Contemporary European History* 14, no. 2 (May, 2005): 151-70. (20 pages)

Rey, Terry. "The Politics of Patron Sainthood in Haiti: 500 Years of Iconic Struggle." *The Catholic Historical Review* 88, no. 3 (July 2002): 519-45. (27 pages)

Week 10: The Materialization of Mary: Apparitions and Pilgrimages

6/4 Bromley, David G. and Rachel S. Bobbit. "The Organizational Development of Marian Apparitional Movements." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 14, no. 3 (February 2011): 5-41.

6/6 Notermans, Catrien. "Loss and Healing: A Marian Pilgrimage in Secular Dutch Society." *Ethnology* 46, no. 3 (Summer 2007): 217-33. (17 pages)

CATHOLIC SAINTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: Monday, June 11th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM