UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2016
Instructor: Joseph G. Mueller, S.J.
Course #: THEO 3320
Section: 102
Course Title: The Event and Meaning of Vatican II

Description:

The Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) was a meeting of Catholic Church leaders that took place in Vatican City from 1962 until 1965. This course will examine why Pope John XXIII called this council together and under what conditions this council was held. We will spend most of the course interpreting the constitutions, decrees, and declarations published by Vatican II, along with some other texts composed during the Council, for example, some important speeches. Our interpretation will examine the meaning and interconnections of some of the central themes in Christian theology as expressed in the documents of Second Vatican Council. We will also examine the historical and communal context for understanding these documents, especially the different ways people tend to interpret Vatican II and the reasons for these divergences. Our interpretation of the Vatican II documents will look for the implications of their themes for understanding what it means to be human and Christian.