



AMERICAN
NATIONAL
CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE

VATICAN COUNCIL II AND THE ANCC Summer Term I 2025

Course Syllabus

COURSE TITLE

TH-112: Vatican Council I and the ANCC

Credit Hours: 1.5

Class Meeting Time: Saturdays, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM EDT via ZOOM

Semester: Summer 2025: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, and August 9.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Most Rev. George R. Lucey

Email address: glucey@anccmail.org

Phone: (973) 800-2357

Office hours: The course instructor prefers to be contacted first by email unless the matter is urgent. The instructor will respond to email communications as soon as possible. If you would like the instructor to contact you by phone, please include your number in your email. Also, please indicate if the matter is urgent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course describes how the American National Catholic Church locates herself in the larger Church Catholic, and how the Church is part of God's plan of salvation. The course explores the origin and development of the National Catholic Church from the first millennium. Utilizing the Catholic theological perspective of the Church as the Body of Christ, the course will focus on the pastoral dimensions of articulating an understanding of the National Catholic Church. The course will address the way in which the ANCC and the Independent Sacramental Movement are a pilgrim people, called into existence to gather humankind into a living witness of the presence of the Kingdom among us. The course will be conducted in a seminar format with discussions focusing on actions leading to a comprehension of the way that the Church is at the service of humankind.

Participants will:

1. Approach the sources of ecclesiology in scripture and tradition with fidelity to their developmental context to understand the theological dimensions of the ecclesiology of the ANCC.
2. Be able to competently articulate an understanding of National Catholics as valid expressions of Catholicism.
3. Identify and elaborate on the major principles of subsidiarity, synodality as related to collegiality, conciliarity, adjournamento, and the social nature of the Church promulgated at Vatican Council-II, which inform the structure of the ANCC.

4. Be able to articulate one's own understanding of their own roles as clergy and the People of God in a Catholic community outside of the structures of Rome, while understanding the covenantal nature of belonging to the ANCC.

TEXTS

In addition to the required texts listed below, additional readings may be assigned from supplemental texts. These additional readings will be provided by the instructor as handouts at no cost to the participants. Assigned readings will make use of the abbreviated references in bold print.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Documents of Vatican Council II. I use the Abbot edition, and there are many very good editions of the documents.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Clifford, Catherine E, and Gaillardetz, Richard R. *Keys to the Council: Unlocking the Teaching of Vatican Council II*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 2012

Gaillardetz, Richard R., *An Unfinished Council: Vatican II, Francis and the Renewal of the Catholic Church*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN.

Documents of the ANCC: <https://www.americannationalcatholicchurch.org/ancc-news/>

ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK

Seminar: Participation and small group seminars are constitutive parts of the course and the purpose is to provide an opportunity for integration of material for pastoral implications by sharing insights and experiences.

Discussion Animation: Participants will have the opportunity to meet in pairs outside of class time to animate (lead) a session of the seminar, if time permits.

Assignment: A short reflection on the following:

- a.) Significant learnings from the course
- b.) Thoughts on pastoral applications from the course
- c.) A one-page statement about how you understand national catholicism and your role in the Church.

Formatting and Submission of Papers: Papers must be prepared using Microsoft Word or a Microsoft Word compatible/equivalent word processor. All papers must conform to the following format:

Type font: Times New Roman 12 point. Text should be typed in regular face except for emphasis, which may be done using boldface, underlining, italics or a combination of the three. Headings and subheadings should be no larger than 16 point.

Margins, Paragraphs and line spacing: Papers should use a one-inch margin on all four sides. Using the "Paragraph" dropdown menu, select "0" space before each paragraph and 6 pt. space after each paragraph. Doing this eliminates hard breaks that take up unnecessary space (in other words, there should be no paragraph space holders between each paragraph). Set the line spacing to 1.5.

Page numbering: Insert and center page numbers in the footer of each page (using the page number dropdown menu from the "Insert" menu tab allows you to insert and center page numbers automatically).

Citations and Notes: Documentation of your sources and ideas is essential in academic writing. Please use a standard style for uniform citations; you may wish to consult one of several style books for this purpose. You may use either footnotes or endnotes.

Submission of your papers: All papers should be converted to PDF files and emailed to the instructor before 5 PM eastern time on the date they are due. Papers that do not meet the formatting requirements outlined above will not be accepted and will be returned for proper formatting.

PLAGIARISM AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Refer to the ANCTI Policies and Procedures for the ANCTI policy on plagiarism and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in courses.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Participants are expected to attend each of the five classes of the course. Perfect attendance, while desired, is not always possible to achieve for reasons beyond a participant's control. Accordingly, a participant may have no more than one unexcused class absence. Additional unexcused absences will result in a reduction in the participant's grade and absence from more than three classes will result in the participant being automatically withdrawn from the course, and the final evaluation will so reflect.

All participants are expected to actively engage the course material and class discussions. Class participation forms an element of the grade for participants taking the course for credit, but even those not taking the course for credit are encouraged to participate fully as discussion is a vital part of the learning experience.

Presence in Class on Cams. All course participants should be aware of the requirements regarding presence in live online instruction: Unless specifically excused by the instructor, each participant is required to participate via a live camera, and the participant's presence must be seen as actively present on the camera view in the class. A static screenshot or similar static symbol is not permitted except for very brief periods of less than five minutes, should a participant need to step away from the class for personal care. Should a somewhat longer period be required, the participant must secure the instructor's permission, preferably in advance, and may be taken only with the instructor's approval. Use of this exception should not be abused during any class session.

Because all classes are conducted via Zoom, participants must mute their microphone once the class has begun and unmute when they wish to ask a question, make a comment or respond to something raised during the class. Care must be taken not to "speak over" one another.

Participants are expected to always show the utmost courtesy and respect for others participating in the course.

Other policies and procedures: Participants should consult the ANCTI website (<https://antci.org>) for additional policies and procedures pertaining to Institute courses.

Participants should also refer to the Institute's Policy and Procedures (available on the Institute's website at <https://ancti.org>) regarding withdrawal from courses.

GRADING

Grades for this course will be determined through evaluation of class participation, assignments and presentations, both written and oral. Where applicable, grades for this course will be determined through evaluation of class participation, assignments and presentations, both written and oral.

Participants taking this course for academic credit in the American National Catholic Theological Institute will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Assignments and participation will be evaluated using the following indicators of performance:

E = Excellent (Approximate equivalent to: A+, A, A-)

S = Satisfactory (Approximate equivalent to B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-)

U = Unsatisfactory (Equivalent to F)

W = Withdrawal (Student withdrawal from course for any reason)

WP = Withdrawal Passing (withdrawal with course at least half completed successfully)

WT = withdrawal based on exceeding the withdrawal time limit.

Accordingly, work rated “E” or “S” will be recorded as a Pass; work that is unsatisfactory will be recorded as a Fail. Participants should also refer to the Institute’s Policy and Procedures (available on the Institute’s website at <https://ancti.org>) regarding withdrawal from courses.

Late Work: If a participant is aware of a situation that will cause work to be submitted late or a presentation not to be made on time, the participant should inform the instructor as soon as possible to request to be excused from the deadline for the work or the presentation date. If excused, the instructor will assign a new due date in consultation with the participant. Unexcused work/presentations will result in no credit for that work or presentation. Unexcused work/presentations submitted late because of an unforeseen emergency will be accepted when a reasonable explanation, as determined in the instructor’s sole discretion, is provided.

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Letter Grade	4.0 Scale
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
62 or less	F	0

Weighted elements of your grade:

Papers will be evaluated on a Likert scale on the following dimensions:

Integrated	Attempted	Not Attempted
5	2	1
4	3	

Clear thesis statement.

The thesis statement addresses the content of the reflection.

Reasoned arguments support the thesis statement.

Evidence of engaging the readings and seminar discussions.

Evidence of critical thinking.

Able, when appropriate, to adopt an evaluative stance toward the text, concept or theological statement.

Organization of ideas.

Clarity of writing style.

Mechanics (spelling, footnote, bibliography).

Final grades for this course will be reported to the Registrar. Participants taking the course for credit should receive their grade no later than three days after they are reported to the Registrar.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework
Class 1 July 12	Introduction: Starting Points: 1.) The foundational principles of the ANCC in the model of the hopes of the Council. 2.) How does Vatican Council II shape the theology of the ANCC 3.) Discussion of seminar participants' theological perspectives as shaped by the Council.
Class 2 July 19	History of the ANCC. Vatican Council II and the visions lived out in the ANCC.

Class 3 July 26	A non-competitive, Eucharistically-centered ecclesiology; the pillars of Vatican Council II's Ecclesial hopes.
Class 4 August 2	Pastoral expressions of Vatican Council II in the ANCC.
Class 5 August 9	Integration and discussion of the vision and growth of the ANCC.