1. Course Description
This course introduces the history of Vatican II and the content of the documents. Topics include the background of the Council, the nature of the Church, inner spiritual renewal, the Church and the world, and the effects of the Council.

2. Envisioned Learning Outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate the ability to locate and define major concepts in, and recall overarching themes of, each Vatican II document in order to construct and present the information in a formal and informal manner.
2. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge (defined as the ability to recall, paraphrase, and interpret) of Church doctrine by applying it in a given scenario.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to formulate answers to common questions to prepare him or her to explain authentic Church teaching as presented in the Vatican II documents as opposed to teaching that is in the “spirit of Vatican II.”

3. Weekly Schedule
The schedule below is constructed to partially fulfill the Holy Apostles College and Seminary mission statement “to cultivate lay, consecrated and ordained Catholic leaders for the purpose of evangelization.”

To be able to evangelize, a future leader must have a working knowledge of Church doctrine. This course exposes the student to the teachings of Vatican Council II as the student reads each document in its entirety. This is necessary because these sixteen documents are the major body of ecclesiastical teachings accomplished in the 20th Century. In this course, the student is required to demonstrate knowledge of each document through twelve weekly postings.

But to be able to evangelize, knowing basic doctrine is not enough. The evangelizer must be able to recall the doctrine and interpret it in a manner applicable to the situation. Rarely will the leader be asked to present formal lessons on a document. More often the situation will be one where the leader needs to explain or support the doctrine articulated in a document, by formulating a correct answer to a question, or contrasting true Church teaching with teaching “in the spirit of Vatican II.” In this course, the student is challenged to develop such answers in a series of a real-life scenario paper and a term paper.

This is how the content of the course is categorized:

1. The Constitutions,
2. The Church, other Christian religions and non-Christian religions,
3. The members of the Church,
Week 1: Introduction to Vatican II
This week you will learn about the goals and desires of John XXIII for the council, and about the categories of documents (i.e., constitutions, decrees and declarations) you are about to read. You will also learn about the meaning of the phrase, “spirit of Vatican II.”

- For the true spirit of Vatican II see [http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/1783/the_true_spirit_of_vatican_ii.aspx#.USJFNDc6WZQ](http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/1783/the_true_spirit_of_vatican_ii.aspx#.USJFNDc6WZQ)
- Do a google search using the phrase “false spirit of Vatican II” to find the erroneous understanding of the spirit of Vatican II. This is the sense in which we use the phrase in this class.

Week 2: The Constitutions: Dei Verbum
This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about divine revelation and how it is transmitted to future generations.

- Dei Verbum

Week 3: The Constitutions: Lumen Gentium, Part I
This week you will begin to learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the Church: the mystery of the Church, the People of God, her hierarchical structure and the episcopate, and the laity.

- Lumen Gentium, Part I

Week 4: The Constitutions: Lumen Gentium, Part II
This week you will continue to learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the Church: the universal call to holiness, the religious, the pilgrim Church, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- Lumen Gentium, Part II

Week 5: The Constitutions: Gaudium et Spes, Part I
This week you will begin to learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the Church and its relationship with the modern world: the situation of man in the modern world, the dignity of man, the community of man, man's activity in the world, and the role of the Church in the modern world.

- Gaudium et Spes, Part I

Week 6: The Constitutions: Gaudium et Spes, Part II
This week you will continue to learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the Church and its relationship with the modern world: marriage and the family, the development of culture, economic and social life, political life, and peace and fostering a community of nations.

- Gaudium et Spes, Part II

Week 7: The Constitutions: Sacrosanctum Concilium, Part I
This week you will begin to learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the liturgy: general principles regarding it and the Eucharist.

- Sacrosanctum Concilium

Week 8: The Constitutions: Sacrosanctum Concilium, Part II
This week you will continue to learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the liturgy: other sacraments and sacramentals, the divine office, the liturgical year, and sacred art and music.
Sacrosanctum Concilium

Week 9: The Church, Other Christian Religions and Non-Christian Religions: Dignitatis Humanae, Unitatis Redintegratio

This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about ecumenism and religious freedom.

- Dignitatis Humanae
- Unitatis Redintegratio

Week 10: The Church, Other Christian Religions and Non-Christian Religions: Orientalium Ecclesiarum, Nostra Aetate

This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about Eastern Catholic Churches and the Church's relationship to non-Christian religions.

- Orientalium Ecclesiarum
- Nostra Aetate

Week 11: The Church, Other Christian Religions and Non-Christian Religions: Ad Gentes Divinitus

This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the Church's missionary activity.

- Ad Gentes Divinitus

Week 12: Church Members: Christus Dominus, Optatam Totius, Presbyterorum Ordinis

This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the pastoral office of the bishop, priestly formation, and the ministry and life of priests.

- Christus Dominus
- Optatam Totius
- Presbyterorum Ordinis

Week 13: Church Members: Perfectae Caritatis, Apostolicam Actuositatem

This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about the renewal of the religious life and the apostolate of the laity.

- Perfectae Caritatis
- Apostolicam Actuositatem

Week 14: Christian Education and Social Communications: Gravissimum Educationis, Inter Mirifica

This week you will learn what the Vatican Council II fathers said about Christian education and the instruments of social communication.

- Gravissimum Educationis
- Inter Mirifica

Week 15: TERM PAPER DUE

4. Text Material and Resources:

Most of the readings in this course are available on the internet. You must use the Vatican II documents as translated on the Vatican website.
You will need access to a good public or college library that has the latest edition of the Catholic Encyclopedia. The article I assign is in the New Catholic Encyclopedia, 2nd. Edition, 2003. Do not use the edition that is available on the Internet that was published in the early 1900s!

IMPORTANT NOTE: I have addressed some of the readings, by week, in the Lessons section. Note that I have not addressed all of the reading, but some of the more important points. Do not substitute what I have written for reading the documents on your own!

5 a. Suggested Readings:

I have given links to sites that provide information about Vatican Council II and/or its documents in the Lesson Tab. Here are some of interest if you would like a general overview.

- Council of Faith: The Documents of Vatican II by Fr. John Trigilio.
- Council of Faith - The Post Conciliar Documents by Fr. John Trigilio.

5 b. Suggested Videos:

- A Vatican II Bishop Reflects on the Councils Legacy [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90uKf6tr9AA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90uKf6tr9AA)
- Benedict XVI, The Documents of Vatican II are Compasses for the Life of the Church [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGjNLq4WjWE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGjNLq4WjWE)
- Fr. Mitch Packwa, S.J., Threshold of Hope Series on Vatican II Documents
  Here is the one on Dei Verbum [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_I6cVm8G-k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_I6cVm8G-k)

6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Discussion Postings.

In weeks when a discussion post is required, you must post your summary by Wednesday, 11:59 pm, Eastern Time.

**Summary:** A summary should be not more than 500 words long, with enough information to enable you to remember the doctrine and pastoral themes in each. Make sure you include important definitions in your summary (e.g., What does subsist mean? What does inter-religious dialogue mean? What does ecumenism mean?)

You must respond to the posts of three (3) other students by Saturday, 11:59 pm, Eastern Time.

The posting part of the course addresses **Learning Outcome 1**.

Exceptions to post after the 11:59 pm due dates will only be granted for serious cases, i.e. serious health/family issues… not for vacations. You must contact your professor for consideration of any exceptions. Thus, if permission is given to post beyond the weekly due date, you cannot receive full credit for the posting of that week.

For ease of reading, you will be adding your own discussion areas to post your summaries. Instructions on how to post your own discussion will be provided for you in each weekly lesson container. Please do not add your summary response as an attachment. I do not comment on postings unless a student has posted an error, an interesting point for further discussion, or a direct question. I do, however, read every post.

Note that 50% of your discussion posting grade is based on your summary, and 50% is based on your responses to the posts of three other students.

2. Complete all reading and writing assignments.

Reading assignments are listed in the lessons tab under the appropriate week.
You will have one written homework assignment to email to me during the semester. It will be due on Saturday, 11:59 pm, Local Time, of Week 7. You will not have a Discussion Posting assignment that week.

The writing assignment should be double spaced, Times New Roman Font 12, five pages long. In addition to five pages of text, there should be a title page, footnotes and a bibliography of at least five sources.

Do not list Wikipedia, a dictionary, the Bible, or the 1912 online Catholic Encyclopedia, as sources in your bibliography. Use magisterial or academic references. You may use class readings in your bibliography, but they will not count as any of the five sources. Note: these are research papers.

The paper must be in PDF format. I will not accept papers in any other format.

If you need an extension on the writing assignment, please request it via email at least one week before the due date. If I do not receive a request, I will reduce the grade of the writing assignment by 1/2 grade each day that it is late. Thus an A writing assignment that is two days late could not receive a grade higher than B+. I am willing to grant extensions for serious reasons, such as health. However, if you need an extension for every writing assignment, you should probably postpone enrolling in distance learning courses until you have more free time.

The written assignment addresses Learning Objective 2.

Week 7: Imagine an atheist, one well informed in the “doctrine” of his or her worldview, approaches you and argues the Church has no business making statements about world issues in general, particularly as concerns marriage and family. Using the knowledge you have obtained in reading some Vatican II documents, develop a well thought out, intelligent, cogent argument articulating the Church’s teaching on this issue. Remember that as a future Catholic evangelist and leader, you must answer arguments politely, defining terms, using themes a person can remember, taking into account the information the other has in his or her possession.

3. Term Paper

You will have a term paper to email to me by Friday, 11:59 pm Local Time, of week 15.

The paper should be double spaced, Times New Roman Font 12, at least ten pages long. In addition to at least ten pages of text, there should be a title page, footnotes and a bibliography of sources you have used in constructing your answer.

The term paper addresses Learning Outcome 3.

Imagine you are having dinner with two Catholic friends. One is a fully Catholic person, but is not well acquainted with Catholic teaching on inter-religious dialogue. The other is a good person, but a nominal Catholic, and interprets Church teaching on inter-religious dialogue within “the spirit of Vatican II.” Using the knowledge you have obtained in reading all the Vatican II documents, develop a well thought out, intelligent, cogent argument articulating the Church’s teaching on inter-religious dialogue. Include the issue of whether missionary activity is still required. Remember that as a future Catholic evangelist and leader, you must answer arguments politely, defining terms, using themes people can remember, taking into account the information the others have in their possession.

7. GRADING

- Writing Assignment 30%
- Term Paper 40%
- Summaries 15%
- Responses 15%
My grading practice has developed over the last few years. In Populi, you will see grades for Posting Summary, Posting Response, Writing Assignment, and Term Paper depending on the week. When you receive your grades in Populi, you will see each is worth 100 points. Instead of giving a letter grade, all your work will be graded numerically. At the end of the semester the posting grades (composed of 50% being the summary, and 50% being responses to the posts of at least three other students) will be averaged and count for 30% of your final grade; the grades for your writing assignment will count for 30% of your final grade; and the grade for your term paper will count for 40% of your final grade.

8. DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

Holy Apostles College & Seminary is committed to the goal of achieving equal educational opportunities and full participation in higher education for persons with disabilities who qualify for admission to the College. Students enrolled in online courses who have documented disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact Bob Mish, the Director of Online Student Affairs, at rmish@holyapostles.edu or 860-632-3015. In all cases, reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that all students with disabilities have access to course materials in a mode in which they can receive them. Students who have technological limitations (e.g., slow Internet connection speeds in convents) are asked to notify their instructors the first week of class for alternative means of delivery.

9. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students at Holy Apostles College & Seminary are expected to practice academic honesty.

Avoiding Plagiarism

In its broadest sense, plagiarism is using someone else's work or ideas, presented or claimed as your own. At this stage in your academic career, you should be fully conscious of what it means to plagiarize. This is an inherently unethical activity because it entails the uncredited use of someone else's expression of ideas for another's personal advancement; that is, it entails the use of a person merely as a means to another person's ends.

Students, where applicable:

- Should identify the title, author, page number/webpage address, and publication date of works when directly quoting small portions of texts, articles, interviews, or websites.
- Students should not copy more than two paragraphs from any source as a major component of papers or projects.
- Should appropriately identify the source of information when paraphrasing (restating) ideas from texts, interviews, articles, or websites.
- Should follow the Holy Apostles College & Seminary Stylesheet (available on the Online Writing Lab's website at http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl/resources).

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

Because of the nature of this class, academic dishonesty is taken very seriously. Students participating in academic dishonesty may be removed from the course and from the program.

10. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Even though you are not required to be logged in at any precise time or day, you are expected to login several times during each week. Because this class is being taught entirely in a technology-mediated forum, it is important to actively participate each week in the course. In a traditional classroom setting for a 3-credit course, students would be required to be in class 3 hours a week and prepare for class discussions 4.5 hours a week. Expect to devote at least 7 quality hours a week to this course. A failure on the student's part to actively participate in the life of the course may result in a reduction of the final grade.
NB: An Incomplete may only be awarded to a student who has maintained a passing grade up to the point of
the emergency. Incomplete grades will change to a grade of F unless the requirements stipulated on the
incomplete form are met by the date listed.

11. INCOMPLETE POLICY

An Incomplete is a temporary grade assigned at the discretion of the faculty member. It is typically
allowed in situations in which the student has satisfactorily completed major components of the
course and has the ability to finish the remaining work without re-enrolling, but has encountered
extenuating circumstances, such as illness, that prevent his or her doing so prior to the last day of
class.

To request an incomplete, students must first download a copy of the Incomplete Request Form. This
document is located within the Shared folder of the Files tab in Populi. Secondly, students must fill in
any necessary information directly within the PDF document. Lastly, students must send their form to
their professor via email for approval. “Approval” should be understood as the professor responding
to the student’s email in favor of granting the “Incomplete” status of the student.

Students receiving an Incomplete must submit the missing course work by the end of the sixth week
following the semester in which they were enrolled. An incomplete grade (I) automatically turns into
the grade of “F” if the course work is not completed.

Students who have completed little or no work are ineligible for an incomplete. Students who feel they
are in danger of failing the course due to an inability to complete course assignments should withdraw
from the course.

A “W” (Withdrawal) will appear on the student’s permanent record for any course dropped after the
end of the first week of a semester to the end of the third week. A “WF” (Withdrawal/Fail) will appear
on the student’s permanent record for any course dropped after the end of the third week of a
semester and on or before the Friday before the last week of the semester.

12. ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

Dr. Cynthia Toolin-Wilson, Ph.D., S.T.L is a Professor of
Dogmatic and Moral Theology. She holds a doctorate in sociology
from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and a licentiate from
Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. She serves as
the Registrar and Institutional Statistician, teaches graduate
courses on campus and through distance learning, and is the
author of numerous theology articles. A wife, mother, grandmother
and great-grandmother, she divides her time between Connecticut
and Vermont.