

# **Medieval Political Theology: The Rise of Papalism**

Mr. Timothy Enloe, Instructor

## **Course Description**

Long before Luther's hammer rang on the cathedral door, a great reformation (many said a great *revolution*) shook the foundations of Christendom. This was the Investiture Contest of the 11th century. Spearheaded by the imposing, fiery force of Pope Gregory VII and carried out in titanic theological and political struggles with both the State *and* other catholic bishops, the Gregorian reforms had wide-ranging, lasting effects on the Christian consciousness of Europe.

So severe was the shaking, and so fantastic the rebuilding in its wake, that Martin Luther himself once wrote that all the worst features of the papal system during his day could be traced right back to the reign of Pope Gregory VII, five centuries earlier. In a sense, then, significant aspects of the Protestant Reformation, especially its understanding of Christ's Two Kingdoms, owe their concerns and shape to this earlier Catholic revolution.

## **Course Format**

The format of the course will include several lectures which should be listened to prior to the class session. The sessions themselves will consist of guided discussion in which the instructor will often be doing most of the talking, but generally to illuminate and draw out themes from the text for discussion. Thus, students will be expected to come having read and engaged with the text selection for the week, and with thoughts prepared to contribute.

Classes will meet via Zoom for one hour each week and will be recorded for later viewing by students who cannot participate. Additional student participation and instructor interaction can take place on our private Davenant Commons discussion board.

## **Course Objectives**

Objectives for this course include: (1) to gain a greater familiarity with the basic idea of *reform* prior to the Protestant Reformation; (2) to augment one's ability to appreciate and evaluate the Protestant achievement of the 16<sup>th</sup> century; (3) to increase Church history knowledge; (4) to shed light on the Protestant two kingdoms doctrine and begin thinking about better ways to apply it today.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Weekly readings (due before our meeting each week).
2. Listen to short lectures, if noted on syllabus.
3. Weekly interaction with fellow participants and the instructor

## **Additional Recommended Course Elements:**

1. Weekly submissions of reactions to/questions about the readings.
2. Participation on the course discussion board on Davenant Commons.

## **Course Texts**

Weekly Primary Source Readings (provided with course registration payment)

## **Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Discussion Topics</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	2/2-8	Overview: The Investiture Contest	“On Earth as it Is in Heaven” Sanctification and Perfectionism	Monks, Marriage, Money, and Mitres (approx. 15 pp.)
2	2/9-15	“There Are Two...”: Early Development of Papal Authority	Monasticism “vs.” Monkery Hagiography and Truth	Life of Pope Gregory VII (§ 1-38, pp. 262-287)
3	2/16-22	“Prince of the Apostles”: Later Development of Papal Authority”	Authority and Power “To Obey Is Better than Sacrifice”	Life of Pope Gregory VII (§ 39-69, pp. 288-313)
4	2/23-29	“Proceeding in the Footsteps of the Men of Former Times...”	What is a Christian political order? Law and Revolution	Life of Pope Gregory VII (§ 69-97, pp. 313-339)
5	3/1-7	“Do you not know that we are to judge angels?”	Papal Mediatorship Kingship and Headship	Life of Pope Gregory VII (§ 98-124, pp. 339-364)

6	3/8-14	Charlemagne and His Discontents	“Secular” and “Sacred” “Church and State”	Life of Emperor Henry IV (20 pp.)
7	3/15-21	“The Dangerous Man”: Catholic Bishops vs. Catholic Bishops	Apostolic Succession Kings and the Kingship of Christ	§ 1 of Letters of Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV (approx. 15 pp.)
8	3/22-28	“The Modern Nero”: Christian Priestly Polemics Against the Christian Emperor	Polemics or Irenics? Kings and the Kingship of Christ	§ 2 of Letters of Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV (approx. 15 pp.)
9	3/29-4/4	The “Secular” Strikes Back	<i>In the world but not of the world (?)</i> “Autonomous” <i>under Christ</i>	§ 3 of Letters of Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV (approx. 15 pp.)
10	4/5-11	Retrospect and Prospect: Anticipations of the Reformation	<i>Vicars or Representatives?</i> The Supreme Law of Society	§ 4 of Letters of Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV (approx. 15 pp.)