



PONTIFICAL
FACULTY
— OF —
THEOLOGY

Fall 2026 Semester Course

DT887: Latin American Catholic Thought – Popes Francis and Leo XIV (3cr)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course starts by studying the historical and theological landscape of the Catholic Church in Latin America. This will include the colonial and post-colonial history and intellectual currents, modern Catholic Social Teaching since *Rerum Novarum*, the impact of the Second Vatican Council, especially through *Lumen gentium* and *Gaudium et spes* and Paul VI's *Evangelium nuntiandi* and *Populorum progressio*, Liberation Theology and the Vatican responses to it, the Theology of the People, and the recent surge in Pentecostalism. The course will then turn to the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), a council of the Catholic bishops in Latin America created in 1955, with attention to its meetings and documents from Rio de Janeiro to Aparecida. Finally, the course will offer a succinct overview of *Evangelii gaudium*, *Laudato si* and *Fratelli Tutti* and the study of sections of two International Theological Commission's documents: *Sensus fidei in the Life of the Church* (2014) and *Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church* (2018). The course ends tracing similar themes in Pope Leo, also under the lens of Augustinian thought.



PATRICIA PINTADO-MURPHY, S.T.L., Ph. D.

Dr. Pintado-Murphy is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at USML.
Click here to read her profile

<https://usml.edu/staff/patricia-pintado-murphy-s-t-l-ph-d/>

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE
PONTIFICAL FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
1000 EAST MAPLE AVE, MUNDELEIN, IL 60060
847-566-6401 • USML.EDU