

The Popes

Saints or sinners, reformers or rogues, vital or venal?

Purpose: The purpose of this seminar is to examine the lives of some of the men who have served as Popes, and to explore the character, competence and consequences of their reign on Church and society.

Course #	19SPO
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Dean Poli
Co-moderator:	Fletcher Davis
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting February 26
Location:	UMass Transit Center, Amherst

Description: Some 265 men have served as Popes and over 30 men have been declared anti- popes of the Catholic Church. Some have been holy, while some have been wicked; some have been competent while some have been incompetent; some have been learned and some have been ignorant. In this seminar we will become acquainted with the lives of some of these men and the effect of their tenure as Pope on Christianity and the world beyond.

Role of participants: Each participant will prepare a short presentation (30-35 minutes) and lead a discussion concerning the life of one or more men who have served as Pope. A list of Popes participants may choose from will be available at the Preview.

Resources: In addition to the many web sites that exist dealing with this topic, participants may also find the following publications useful: *Lives of the Popes*, Richard P. McBriend; *Pontifex Maximus: A Short History of the Popes*, Christopher Lascelles; *Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes*, Eamon Duffy.

About the Moderators: Dean Poli has moderated or co-moderated approximately 10 seminars since joining LIR in 2006. Although he taught engineering for 40 years at UMass, since joining LIR all his seminars have dealt with topics in history.

Fletcher Davis, an ordained Episcopalian, has participated in a wide variety of LIR seminars, mostly in the areas of science and public policy.

Maximum number of participants: 17

Auditors accepted: yes, up to 1