Unit Description
The impact of Christianity on the peoples of America is a fast-changing topic. Old models that saw the imposition of a ‘superior’ type of world religion on the various rituals of indigenous societies have long been questioned, but alternative interpretations suggesting a pattern of resistance to Christianity have also been shown to be defective. Instead, recent research has focused on more informal interactions between different social groups that reveal how various elements of the native religions were incorporated into the Christian rituals and vice versa. This unit will give you the opportunity to examine this material in the context of some key stages in early modern European history: the late medieval Spanish background; the pre-reformation humanist outlook of the early mendicant friars; the changes and readjustments brought about by the Tridentine reforms; and the emergence of Baroque forms of spirituality and religious expression.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 5000 word essay, 1 x 2 hour exam

Essential Reading –

Further Information
Date written: 09/03/09                                    Date revised: 20/03/09