This course explores the broad question of what it means to be Catholic today in different cultural contexts. We will begin by addressing some common misconceptions and frequently-asked questions regarding the Catholic Church, its teachings, and its history. We will examine contemporary Catholic thought (e.g., liberation theology, feminist theology, eco-spirituality, and more) as we address some major challenges facing the Church and the world (e.g. women in leadership, sexuality and gender equality, climate change, economic inequality, migration, and sexual abuse scandals). Ultimately, we will use the example of Catholicism today to grapple with the broader question of religion’s place in the modern world. You do not need to be familiar with Catholic traditions to enjoy the course—all are welcome!