

Religious Studies 2130 Christianity from the First Century to the Middle Ages

Memorial University, Fall 2013

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12-12:50p.m., A 3020

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Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10-11, by appointment, & whenever the door is open. Feel free to drop by to talk, complain, commiserate, ask questions, argue...

Course Description & Objectives

This course explores the historical development of the principal doctrines of Christianity from the period of the Early Church to the Middle Ages. Among the topics we consider are: worship and liturgy; iconography and church architecture; tensions among Christians, Jews and pagans; struggles between heresy and orthodoxy; the phenomena of persecution and martyrdom; conquest, conversion, and crusades; pilgrimage and popular piety. The main purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the broad trajectory of Christian history from the New Testament era to the medieval period. Students will gain historical literacy, and should be able to intelligently discuss and write about several key figures, texts, movements, and doctrines that gave shape to the early and medieval church in Europe.

Evaluation

Attendance and Participation – From time to time I will assign response papers on course readings, either in class or due the following class. These will be graded pass/fail, and count in assessing your contributions and participation. (10%)

Three Quizzes – based on lectures and assigned readings; a combination of multiple choice, matching and short answer. (30% - 10% each)

Writing Assignments – three writing assignments, each approximately 1000 words. Details to be given in class. (30%; 10% each)

Final Exam – a scheduled final exam covering the course in its entirety. (30%)

[Depending on class size, and mutual agreement, the evaluation components may be adjusted.]

Reading

- Readings are to be completed **before** class.

Peter Brown. *Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, 200-1000*. 10th Anniversary Revised Edition. Wiley Blackwell, 2013. 712 pages. ISBN-10: 1118301269; ISBN-13: 978-1118301265.

Various primary source texts, available online, as listed in the schedule.

SCHEDULE

R = Reading (complete prior to class)

September

W 4 - Course Intro; R: Brown, Introduction

F 6 - Jesus, Christ, and Christians; R: Paul, excerpts

M 9 - 100 C.E.; R: Clement of Rome, excerpts

W 11 - Laws of Countries; R: Brown, chap. 1

F 13 - Christianity and/in Empire; R: Brown, chap. 2

M 16 - Justin, Irenaeus, Tertullian; R: Irenaeus, excerpts

W 18 - Worship, Art, Churches – ~~Due: Writing Assignment 1~~

F 20 - Origen of Alexandria; R: Origen, excerpts

M 23 - Tempora Christiana; R: Brown, chap. 3 – **New due date for Assignment 1**

W 25 - Augustine; R: Augustine, excerpts

F 27 - Catholicism: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome Program (doc film)

M 30 - **Quiz 1**

October

W 2 - Christians and Pagans; Excerpts from Lucretius

F 4 - A World without Empire; R: Brown, chap. 4

M 7 - Frontiers; Dark Ages?; Brown, chap. 5

W 9 - Gregory, Bishops of Tour; Brown, 154-165

F 11 - Byzantium (doc film) – **DUE: Writing Assignment 2**

M 14 - NO CLASS

W 16 - East Rome & the Hagia Sophia: R: Brown, chap. 7

F 18 - Byzantine Theology & Spirituality

M 21 - Gregory the Great; Brown, chap. 8

W 23 - Monasticism ; R: Brown, 219-226

F 25 - Saints, Sin and Penance; R: Brown, 255-266

M 28 - **Quiz 2**

W 30 - Rise of Islam; R: Brown, 289-310; 317-320

November

F 1 - The North; R: Brown, 321-326; 340-347; 371-373

M 4 - Byzantine Icon Controversy; R: Brown, chap. 17

W 6 - Dark Ages, Men of the North (doc film)

F 8 - Closing the Frontier; Boniface: R: Brown, chap. 18 - ***Due: Writing Assignment 3***

M 11 - NO CLASS

W 13 - Charlemagne & the Carolingian Era; R: Brown, chap. 19

F 15 - Heaven & Hell

M 18 - **Quiz 3**

W 20 - *Vision* – feature film (Germany, 2009)

F 22 - *Vision*, part 2

M 25 - Mysticism & Medieval Spirituality; R: Bonaventure, *Itinerarium*

W 27 - Anti-Judaism, Anti-Semitism

F 29 - Abelard and Heloise; R: Excerpts from the Letters

December

M 2 - Crusades & Hersey

W 4 - Wrap-up; R: Brown, preface, xi-xlvi (10th anniversary one)

Policies, Details and the Fine Print

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability, please see me or email me as soon as possible, at the latest by the end of add/drop, to let me know about your disability and any accommodations that you may require.

Class Attendance, Due Dates, Missed Classes

Your responsibilities include regular class attendance. Should you have to miss a class, be sure to inform me ahead of time, if possible. Be aware of and understand the university regulations regarding health-related absence. If you are applying for a waiver of regulations, requesting a deferred final exam or assignment/paper etc. for medical reasons, please refer to General University Regulation 5.14.6 Information Required in Certificates from Health Professionals. To ensure that you meet the requirements outlined in this regulation you are encouraged to use the Student Medical Certificate which is available online through the Registrar's Office website http://www.mun.ca/regoff/STUDENT_MEDICAL_CERTIFICATE.pdf. "A student who is prevented from writing a test or mid-term examination or completing assigned work by the deadline, by illness or bereavement or other acceptable cause, duly authenticated in writing, may apply, in writing and with supporting documents, for an alternate evaluation. Normally, this application must be made within one week of the original date of the examination or deadline to the course instructor. Otherwise, late assignments will be docked at 10% per working day.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Cheating includes but is not limited to allowing another student to copy from your work, presenting someone else's work as your own including through failure to credit the source of ideas, consulting electronic devices such as mobile phones or MP3 players and/or interacting with others while a test is ongoing. Any submission in this course that is similar to another author's work, beyond chance, will be treated as plagiarism. Information about procedures and penalties for academic misconduct is outlined in the University Calendar.

Campus Support

A number of student support services exist on campus that one may wish to provide to students.

- The Academic Advising Centre (SN-4053) provides academic guidance to students in their first year of study. Students seeking advice about a specific Major or Minor should contact the designated undergraduate advisor in that department.
- The Commons (QEII library) provides access to print, electronic and technology resources.
- The Counselling Centre (UC-5000) helps students develop their personal capabilities, ranging from study strategies to assisting distressed students.
- Student Affairs and Services (Answers, UC-3005) answers questions about such things as courses, housing, books, financial matters and health.
- The Writing Centre (SN-2053) is a free, drop-in facility for students and helps them become better writers and critical thinkers.
- The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (UC -4007) serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning (disabilities), chronic illness, or mental health; support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.

Etiquette

Please be punctual and turn off your cell phone when class starts. Laptops are welcome – for study related to the course (not for Facebook, etc.). Debate, argument, passion are welcome; but be civil and treat the views of others with respect.

Key Dates

According to the university diary, for Fall 2013 lectures begin Wednesday September 4; the last day for students to add courses is Wednesday September 18; the Fall semester break is Monday October 14 and Tuesday October 15; the last day for students to drop courses without academic prejudice is Wednesday October 23; there are no classes on Monday November 11 due to Remembrance Day; lectures end Wednesday December 4; and the examination period is Monday December 9 to Wednesday December 18.

If you come across any errors, inconsistencies, or confusions in this syllabus, let me know ASAP.