

HSTY 5200 THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE: EARLY AND MEDIEVAL

Wednesday 1:00-3:45pm
Professor Heath W. Carter
Fall 2011

Course Description

This graduate-level course introduces the history of Christianity from its earliest years to the cusp of the Reformation. In one semester we will not be able to explore the whole range of sources and perspectives represented in so broad an area of study. However, we will investigate a sufficiently diverse array of personalities, places, and events to expand students' understanding of the vast and varied Christian tradition.

While we will frequently have occasion to discuss theological trajectories in this class, we will not be concerned primarily with the development of ideas. We will focus instead on elaborating an embodied history of the Christian churches, which attends to the complicated political, economic, and social circumstances within which ordinary believers and ecclesiastical leaders alike preached and practiced the gospel.

Over the course of the semester, then, students will discover the depth and breadth of the Christian tradition as it developed over time. They will moreover cultivate capacities in historical thinking, the critical use of sources, and the crafting of prose. Above all, the hope is that students' encounter with the history of the faithful will inform and enrich their reflection on what it means to be a disciple in the world today.

Required Texts

Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, Volume I: Earliest Christianity to 1453*, Orbis

John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk, *Readings in World Christian History, Volume I: Earliest Christianity to 1453*, Orbis

St. Augustine, *Confessions* (New Translation, Chadwick), Oxford World's Classics

St. Benedict, *Rule of St. Benedict*, Penguin Classics

Grading

Your grade will be determined in accordance with the following percentages:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Portion of Final Grade</u>
Attendance, Participation, and Presentation	Weekly	15%
Midterm Examination	October 12	25%
Short Paper	October 26	10%
Final Research Paper	December 7	25%

Final Examination	TBD	25%
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Attendance, Participation, and Presentation (15%)

Weekly attendance is expected. Students should contact the professor in advance of our meeting if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent them from being present. (Note: if you do miss a class, any work due must still be turned in by 1pm that day).

We will allot time for discussion in every class session. You should come to class having done the assigned reading, developed a basic understanding of the relevant historical issues, consulted your notes from previous sessions, and prepared to engage with your colleagues. To be clear, I don't expect you to have all the answers, but I do expect everyone to contribute regularly and thoughtfully to discussion. I will call on quiet students, so it is in your interest to participate voluntarily.

Finally, every student will make a presentation on one of the assigned primary sources. These presentations should run approximately 15 minutes. They must both 1) supply the wider contexts for the source (ie. Who wrote it? In what period? Toward what end?); and 2) assess the source's significance within the history of Christianity (ie. What was its impact in its immediate context? In later eras? What does it reveal? What does it conceal?). Students are encouraged to consult the professor and to be creative in how they go about presenting the material.

Midterm Examination (25%)

The midterm examination will cover lectures, readings, and discussions, and will be administered in class on October 12th.

Short Paper (10%)

This paper offers students a preliminary opportunity to get beyond the survey and to tackle a historical question of their choosing in further depth (Note: The question *must* be historical. Each student should submit their question to the professor no later than October 5th to ensure that you are on the right track). This paper should draw mainly upon primary source research and should be 5 pages (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point type, Times New Roman font). It is due by 1pm on October 26th.

Final Research Paper (25%)

This paper may build on the short paper. If the student chooses to go that route, feedback on the short paper will help to shape and refine this longer effort. This paper should draw upon both primary sources and the secondary literature, and should utilize online resources only where necessary and appropriate. It should be 15 pages (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point type, Times New Roman font) and is due by 1pm on December 7th.

Final Examination (25%)

The final examination will be administered at the conclusion of the semester, and will cover lectures, readings, and discussions since the midterm.

Other Course Policies

Students may not use laptops during class unless there are extenuating circumstances that make it necessary.

Inclusive use of language is expected in all written and oral work in the course. Please see the NPTS Student Handbook for guidelines regarding the preparation of research papers, as well as policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which will be followed with integrity.

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act is found in the Student Academic Handbook.

Schedule of Meetings

[please note: this schedule is subject to change; if you miss class, be sure to check with me and/or one of your colleagues to confirm that you are up to speed on any amendments to the plan set out here.]

Beginnings of the World Christian Movement

August 31 – History of the World Christian Movement (HWCM) pp. 1-46

Diverse Trajectories of the Early Christian Movement

September 7 - HWCM pp. 47-97; Readings in World Christian History (RWCH) pp. 3-43, 48-52

The Great Church Takes Shape

September 14 - HWCM pp. 99-153; RWCH pp. 43-47, 53-84

The Age of the Imperial Church: Affirmations and Dissent (c. 300 to c. 600)

September 21 - HWCM pp. 155-194; RWCH pp. 87-130

September 28 - HWCM pp. 195-255; RWCH pp. 131-193, pp. 221-228

October 5 – *Confessions*; RWCH pp. 195-206, 213-221

October 12 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION

October 19 – No Class (Fall Break)

New Challenges, New Beginnings: 600 to 1000

October 26 – SHORT PAPER DUE; HWCM pp. 256-304; RWCH pp. 231-251

November 2 – *Rule of St. Benedict*

November 9 - HWCM pp. 305-342; RWCH pp. 253-288

November 16 - HWCM pp. 343-381; RWCH pp. 289-315

New Political Horizons: 1000-1453

November 23 – HWCM pp. 383-439; RWCH pp. 319-338

November 30 – HWCM pp. 440-475; RWCH pp. 339-371

December 7 – FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE; HWCM pp. 476-506; RWCH pp. 373-417

TBA - Final Examination