



Canada's Capital University

College of the Humanities

**CHRISTIANITY
RELI 2210A**

Fall 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Timothy Pettipiece, PhD (Timothy_Pettipiece@carleton.ca)

FALL TERM: Mon Wed 16:05 - 17:25 / Sep 10, 2012 to Dec 03, 2012

WHERE: 304 SA

OFFICE HOURS: Wed 2:30-3:30 or by appointment - 2A35 Paterson Hall

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will provide students with a broad outline of the the history, literature, and teachings of Christianity from its origins through to the modern period. Even though a number of (often challenging) theological themes and debates will be explored, the course is taught from a non-confessional, interdisciplinary perspective. Students are expected to engage with the material in a critical way and to ask some difficult questions about the nature and legacy of the Christian tradition. Emphasis will be placed on reading of selection of primary sources in historical context.
NB: Religious activism of any kind will not be tolerated in the classroom.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

This course has three main components:

- i) in class lectures and discussions of a chronological sequence of major themes
- ii) outside of class readings and videos
- iii) written essay and exam

TEXTBOOK:

Linda Woodhead, *Christianity: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2004)

EVALUATION:

Essay	(50%)—Due Dec. 3 (see details below)
Exam	(50%)—Multiple choice and short answer (date TBA)

ESSAY (50%)—at least 10 pages

For your essay, you are invited to investigate in more detail one of the texts, authors, or themes from the course syllabus. Other topics are possible but must be approved by me beforehand. Once you have decided on a topic that peaks your interest, you are expected to find *at least ten* relevant books and/or articles to serve as the basis of your paper from one of the three local university libraries. If you are investigating a particular text, you may choose to examine issues such as its original language, genre, social-setting, author, theological perspective, later reception, etc. If you choose to study a person, you should describe his or her social setting, career, major ideas, writings, historical significance, etc. Thematic papers should address broader issues and incorporate a wider array of sources. These suggestions are meant as a minimum and should not be interpreted as a formula. Remember! Any information taken from your sources and used in your paper must be properly referenced (either in footnotes or in parentheses). Please consult the university's policy on plagiarism.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Sept 10 INTRODUCTION: A NEW FAITH IN AN OLD WORLD

PART I: EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Sept 12 JESUS OF NAZARETH

Sayings of Jesus (www.earlychristianwritings.com/q.html)

Passion Narrative (www.earlychristianwritings.com/passion-young.html)

Video: Jesus the Jew (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjAWyg7ZCJk&feature=relmfu>)

Who was Jesus?

What do we know about him and his message?

Sept 17 PETER, PAUL, & MARY

Letter to the Galatians (www.earlychristianwritings.com/galatians.html)

Gospel of Mary (www.gnosis.org/library/marygosp.htm)

Video: "The First Christians" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RirSyr5wYn4&feature=related>)

Who speaks in the name of Jesus and the church?

How did early Christians establish their authority?

Sept 19 ORTHODOXY & HERESY

Secret Book of John (www.gnosis.org/naghamm/apocjn.html)

Ptolemaeus, Letter to Flora (www.gnosis.org/library/flora.htm)

Why do Christians read the Jewish Scriptures or "Old Testament"?

Who defines heresy?

Sept 24 PERSECUTION & MARTYRDOM

Pliny's Letter to the Emperor Trajan (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/pliny.html)

Video: How Christianity Spread (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdwYAprd6g&feature=fvwrel>)

How did the Romans react to the early Christians?

Why would Christians die for their beliefs?

Sept 26 ATHENS & JERUSALEM

Clement, Stromata, Book 1.5 (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/clement-stromata-book1.html)

Tertullian, Prescription of the Heretics (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian11.html)

Is theology compatible with philosophy?

Can pagan and Christian thought be reconciled?

PART II: IMPERIAL CHRISTIANITY

Oct 1 RELIGION & EMPIRE

Edicts of Toleration (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html>)

Inscription of Kirdir (<http://www.avesta.org/mp/kz.html>)

How did Christians relate to the idea of "empire"?

How did Christians react to political power?

Oct 3 HOLY MEN & WOMEN

Life of Paul the First Hermit (<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm>)

Life of Macrina (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/macrina.html>)

What did Christians seek out in the wilderness?

How did early Christians relate to their bodies?

Oct 10 COUNCILS & CREEDS

Letter of Eusebius on Nicaea (www.newadvent.org/fathers/2804.htm)

Nicaea (<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3801.htm>)

What was the central issue of the Christological debates?

How did/does politics influence theology?

Oct 15 ISLAM & ICONOCLASM

John of Damascus, *Defense of Icons* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/johndam-icons.asp>)

Pact of Umar (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/pact-umar.asp>)

What is the religious function of an image?

What new perspectives did Islam bring to the debate?

Oct 17 BYZANTIUM

Justinian, *Dialogue with Paul of Nisibis* (<http://www.voskrese.info/spl/nisibtext.html>)

Procopius, *Secret History* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/procop-anec1.asp>)

Video: Byzantium, Building the Dream (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWr9MkYtAE>)

Was this a "Christian" civilization?

What is the long-term legacy of Byzantium?

PART III: MEDIEVAL CHRISTENDOM

Oct 22 BISHOPS & KINGS

Gelasius I on Spiritual & Temporal Power (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/gelasius1.asp>)

Conversion of Clovis (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/496clovis.asp>)

Why would ancient European kings convert Christianity?

What did Christianity bring to medieval Europe?

Oct 24 CRESCENT & CROSS

Urban II Speech at Clermont, 1095 (www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/urban2-5vers.asp)

Usman Ibn Munqidh *On the Franks* (www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/Usamah2.asp)

Video: The Crusades (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TunMN8tJ34&feature=related>)

How did Christians justify their invasion of the Holy Land?

What is the long-term legacy of the Crusades?

Oct 29 SCHOLASTICISM

Anselm (1033-1109) *Proslogium* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/basis/anselm-proslogium.asp>)

Thomas Aquinas, *On the Existence of God* (www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/aquinas1.asp)

Is it possible to know or define God?

On what foundations are theological systems based?

Oct 31 HEARTS ON FIRE

Heloise, *Letter to Abelard* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/heloise1.asp>)

Julian of Norwich, *Divine Love, Revelation 1* (www.ccel.org/ccel/julian/revelations.pdf)

Is there room for Eros in the life of the church?

What is the mystical path to God?

Nov 5 CULT OF THE SAINTS

Bede, *The Life of St. Cuthbert* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/basis/bede-cuthbert.asp>)

Life of Saint Francis (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/stfran-lives.asp>)

What is the function of saints for Christian tradition?

What makes a person holy?

PART IV: A NEW WORLD

Nov 7 RADICALS & REFORMERS

Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/luther-freedomchristian.asp)

Calvin, *Letter to the King* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/calvin-onclergy.asp>)

Video: Reformation (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fd3tyCTXINQ&feature=relmfu>)

What issues were the reformers frustrated with?

What was the basis of their vision of Christianity?

Nov 12 COUNTER-REFORMATION

Tridentine Creed (www.traditionalcatholic.net/Tradition/Prayer/Tridentine_Creed.html)

Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/loyola-spirex.asp)

What kind of Catholic Church emerged from the Reformation?

How is that legacy played out today?

Nov 14 MISSION

St. Francis Xavier, *Letter from India* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1543xavier1.asp)

Video: Dark Continents (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbGw6IE4i-o>)

Do Christians have a right to carry on missions?

Have Christian missionaries done more harm or good?

Nov 19 MODERNITY

Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes* (www.cin.org/v2modwor.html)

Christian Defense of Religious Freedom (www.worldevangelicals.org/resources/source.htm?id=464)

Video: "God and the Scientists" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnOrARIBdoE&feature=relmfu)

What frightens Christians about the modern world?

What is the role of the church in contemporary society?

Nov 21 WHAT NEXT?

Video: "The Future of Christianity" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7ACTxwtUTI>)

Is there a future for Christianity?

What might Christianity look like in another millennium?

Nov 26 SPECIAL TOPIC: CHRISTIANITY IN POPULAR CULTURE

How are Christians represented in popular media?

Nov 28 SPECIAL TOPIC: CHRISTIANITY AND PUBLIC LIFE

What does Christianity contribute to public issues and debates?

Dec 3 CONCLUSIONS & REVIEW

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points

ABS Absent from final examination, equivalent to F

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 9, 2012 for the Fall term and March 8, 2013 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar's Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Merton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library