

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
College of the Humanities

CHRISTIANTY [as of August 2011]

RELI 2210A – (Fall 2011)

Professor Johannes C. Wolfart

Office: Office: 2A62 Paterson Hall; Telephone: x2932

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is a survey of Christianity from (roughly) the time of the first Christian communities to (roughly) the present. The aim is to introduce students to key concepts, doctrines and practices of the Christian traditions, all within an historical framework. Due to the nature of the survey course and the complexity and diversity of Christian history, we will actually only be studying very small samples from the Christian traditions. At the very least, students in this course should come to a greater appreciation of the diversity of the Christian traditions. It is a further aim of this course, however, to provide students with some more general frameworks for understanding Christian history (i.e. for locating the tiny bits of Christian history we manage to study in this course). Such frameworks are identified, in particular, in the 5 non-narrative “excurses” found in the schedule of topics. Please note, finally, that while some of the worldviews studied in this course are explicitly theological, the academic procedures and critical methods employed in the academic study of religion are not. **This course presupposes your acceptance of the principles of the modern research university.** Your understanding of these, especially as they pertain to the study of religion, will undoubtedly develop further during this course.

EVALUATION

Essay Proposal – **10%** (due 12 October -- detailed essay brief to be distributed in class)

Term Essay – **30%** (due 16 November)

Midterm Examination – **20%** (conducted in-class on 24 October; see policy on missed midterms below)

Final Examination – **40%** (in examination period)

Certainly, it is my aim as a teacher to get to know you as individuals, to recognize your individual strengths and weaknesses, and to foster individual intellectual development. At the same time, however, I am obliged also to treat individuals equally in certain key respects. As a marker, therefore, I cannot take into consideration anything other than your actual performance on the items above.

YOUR WRITTEN WORK IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DATE

SPECIFIED. For the sake of equity the following **penalties for late assignments** will be strictly enforced: 2 marks (i.e. 2% of total course grade) per day or partial day. **No assignment will be accepted more than one week past its due date.** Exceptions will be made only in extreme cases (snow storm, documented medical emergency, etc.) and when an extension has been granted by me (and for very good reasons of course) at least one week in advance of the due date.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATION FOR THE MIDTERM! If you must miss the Midterm Examination you must choose whether to add the 20% value of the midterm to your term essay or to your final examination. In order to do this, however, you must a) supply adequate documentation of the reason why you missed the mid-term (i.e. illness, family emergency, etc.) and b) apply to have the normal grade distribution changed using the form available from my office.

TERM ESSAY

For this course you are required to prepare a term essay/research report of 4-5 pages (1000 words) on a topic which you have chosen from a presented list of options. You will be asked to perform your task within a set of strict parameters. For example, you will have to identify and locate scholarly sources on your topic; you will have to cite such sources in accordance with academic standards, and so forth. Further details, including evaluation criteria, will be communicated to you in a separate assignment brief early in the course.

LECTURES

This is a lecture course, which means that my oral presentation is the primary mode of communication. Nevertheless, I shall also devote a certain amount of time to discussion and question periods. Readings are a prerequisite and not a substitute for lecture material. You can expect the examinations to be based primarily on material presented in class. Thus attendance is not optional but obligatory in this course. Lectures will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:05-2:25pm in Room TBA.

Late arrivals are very distracting to both your fellow students and to me, so please be punctual. Finally, please be advised that I do not permit audio or A/V recording in my classes. It goes without saying, but PLEASE do switch off all electronic communication devices during class.

READINGS

The assigned textbook for this course is Ralph Keen, *The Christian Tradition* (2004). This textbook is available from Octopus Books on Third Avenue (just off Bank – www.octopusbooks.ca). Since this textbook is published by a major publisher, you can almost certainly pick up a used copy online. Ralph Keen is a serious and respected scholar and the textbook has many things to commend it. I especially like Keen's ability to combine high level of scholarly precision with relative simplicity and ease of use. Like all textbooks, however, this one also has some serious deficiencies (for example, it is unabashedly biased towards so-called western Christianity and is clearly pitched for the American market).

Please note, finally, that readings are a prerequisite rather than a substitute for class attendance.

Your ability to follow lectures and to participate effectively in question and discussion periods will depend on you keeping up with the reading. In my experience, student success in this course is directly correlated to class attendance.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held Mondays from 3:00-4:00pm and Thursdays from 1:00-2:00pm.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

In order to ensure compliance with the privacy act commonly known as FIPPA (i.e. for your protection), Carleton communications policy states that faculty must conduct email communications with students only through their Carleton Connect accounts. Please be advised, further, that students can normally expect up to a 24hour turn-around time on e-mail communication, especially during high volume times (i.e. before examinations, at essay time, etc.). Finally, for obvious reasons I cannot and will not repeat lecture material in emails, so if you miss a class it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from a classmate (if you don't know anybody in the class, I can facilitate an introduction).

CLASS SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Week I (12/14 September) – Introduction to the Course: Basic problems and definitions.

Reading: Keen, 14-19.

Week II (19/21 September) – Formative Christianity: Councils, Creeds and the Canon. **Excuse I: what (many) Christians believe.**

Reading: Keen, 23-52.

Week III (26/28 September) – Christianity and the Roman Empire: The conversion of Constantine and its legacies.

Reading: Keen, 53-66.

Week IV (3/5 October) – Lay and Monastic worship. **Excuse II: what (many) Christians do.**

Reading: Keen, 67-75; 91-116.

Week V (12 October) – Christianity and the Holy Roman Empire: The Coronation of Charlemagne, its Circumstances and Legacies.

Reading: Keen, 77-87; 133-141.

TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE ON 12 OCTOBER

Week VI (17/19 October) – The Institutions of the Western Church in the Middle Ages: Power and Learning

Reading: Keen, Keen, 142-153; 154-164.

Week VII (24/26 October) – Piety and Devotion in the Middle Ages. **Excuse III: Gender and Christianity.**

Reading: Keen, 165-177; 187-199.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS ON 24 OCTOBER

Week VIII (31 October/2 November) – The Protestant Reformations of the Sixteenth Century.

Reading: Keen, 178-186; 203-225.

Week IX (7/9 November) – The Catholic Reformation of the Sixteenth Century.

Reading: Keen, 237-251.

Week X (14/16 November) – From “Confessionalism” to “Denominationalism” to “Ecumenism”
Excuse VI: the many varieties of Christianity.

Reading: Keen, 223-236; 263-282; 310-319.

TERM PAPER DUE ON 16 NOVEMBER

Week XI (21/23 November) – Missions and European Colonialism **Excuse V: the concept of “World Christianity.”**

Reading: Handout via WebCT.

Week XII (28/30 November) – Challenges of Modernity.

Reading: Keen, 320-331; 334-344.

Week XIII (5 December) – Review and examination preparation.

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. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

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 Menton 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.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 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 Menton 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