

CHRISTIANTY [the following is accurate as of 30 July 2009]

RELI 2210A – (Fall 2009)

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. Therefore, the secondary aim of this course is 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

Written Assignment – **40%** (due 3 November – detailed essay brief to be distributed in class)

Midterm Examination – **20%** (conducted in-class on 15 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 ASSIGNMENT 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 written assignment 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.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

For this course you are required to prepare a research report of 4-5 pages 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.

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 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:35-3:55pm in Room 340 of the Tory Building.

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). These I shall attempt to offset with supplemental readings, which will normally be made available to you via WebCT.

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00pm and Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00pm.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

In order to ensure compliance with the federal 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 (10 September) – Introduction to the Course: Basic problems and definitions.

Reading: Keen, 14-19.

Week II (15/17 September) – Formative Christianity: Councils, Creeds and the Canon. **Excuse I:** what (many) Christians believe.

Reading: Keen, 23-52.

Week III (22/24 September) – Christianity and the Roman Empire: The conversion of Constantine and its legacies.

Reading: Keen, 53-66

Week IV (29 September/1 October) – Lay and Monastic worship. **Excuse II:** what (many) Christians do.
Reading: Keen, 67-75; 91-116.

Week V (6/8 October) – Christianity and the Holy Roman Empire: The Coronation of Charlemagne and its circumstances.
Reading: Keen, 77-87; 133-141.

Week VI (13/15 October) – Byzantine Christianity and Beyond: The Orthodox traditions.
Reading: Handout via WebCT

MID-TERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS ON 15 OCTOBER

Week VII (20/22 October) – The Institutions of the Western Church in the Middle Ages: Power and Learning
Reading: Keen, Keen, 142-153; 154-164.

Week VIII (27/29 October) –Piety and Devotion in the Middle Ages. **Excuse III:** Gender and Christianity.
Reading: Keen, 165-177; 187-199.

Week IX (3/5 November) – The Protestant Reformations of the Sixteenth Century.
Reading: Keen, 178-186; 203-225.

WRITTEN ASSIGMENT DUE ON 3 NOVEMBER

Week X (10/12 November) – The Catholic Reformation of the Sixteenth Century.
Reading: Keen, 237-251.

16 NOVEMBER IS THE DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL AND FOR PMC EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS

Week XI (17/19 November) – From “Confessionalism” to “Denominationalism” to “Ecumenism”
Excuse VI: the many varieties of Christianity.
Reading: Keen, 223-236; 263-282; 310-319.

Week XII (24/26 November) – Missions and European Colonialism **Excuse V:** the concept of “World Christianity.”
Reading: Handout via WebCT.

Week XIII (1/3 December) – Challenges of Modernity.
Reading: Keen, 320-331; 334-344.

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library