

**Christian Discipline** RELI 3232A (Fall 2009) [accurate as of 30 July 2009]

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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will explore the key concept of *discipline* in Christian ideology and practice, primarily in an historical mode. It is worth noting at the outset that the historical disciplines [!] are both humanistic and social scientific, which is to say the class will dedicate energy to the pursuit of BOTH descriptive data AND critical interpretations of the Christian past. For the most part the readings consist of scholarly treatments (i.e. “secondary literature”), both classic and current, of certain cases or themes, but they also include some diverse examples of “primary sources.”

Major course objectives include: 1) a consideration of certain Christian ideologies and institutions as historical entities; 2) consideration of aspects of Christianity that have broader social historical and cultural historical significance; 3) a better understanding of aspects of a major religion that appear irrational and may be deeply troubling; 4) a more precise and nuanced appreciation of how historical Christian ideologies and institutions continue to impinge on the lives of Christians and non-Christians alike.

Please note also 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. Similarly, your completion of the essay proposal and the term essay will likely add to your academic skills set.

### **EVALUATION**

Essay proposal – 20% (due 19 October)

Term Essay – 30% (due 23 October)

Examination – 30% (in December examination period)

Participation – 20% (ongoing)

**Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified.** 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. Similarly, for the sake of equity the following **penalties for late assignments** will be strictly enforced: 2 marks (i.e. 2% of total grade) per day or partial day. 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.

### **LECTURES**

This is a lecture course, which means that my oral presentation is the primary mode of communication. Nevertheless, I shall also devote a considerable amount of time in each class to discussion and question periods. Your participation in these will be noted and assessed by me, and will be reflected in your participation grade (see above). Thus attendance in class is not optional but obligatory in this course. Lectures will be held in Tory Building 431 on Mondays from 6:05-8:55pm (with a very short break around 7:30). 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**

There is no text book for this course. All assigned readings are available online or will be made available to via WebCT, as per the class schedule (below). It is your responsibility to read the assigned selections carefully. These readings are a prerequisite rather than a substitute for class attendance. Please note that your ability to participate effectively in question and discussion periods will depend on you keeping up with the reading. Finally, consider also that is likely that the choice and development of a suitable essay topic will start with these readings.

### **TERM ESSAY**

In this course you will be expected to produce a term essay on a topic of your choice, within certain parameters. An essay is different in certain key respects from other forms of academic writing. Certainly, a term essay is not a book report or a research paper. An **essay brief** with detailed instructions will be distributed to you in due course. To further increase the likelihood of your success with the essay, I have made the preparation of an **essay proposal** a significant part of this course.

### **PARTICIPATION**

Attendance and participation are not exactly the same thing. In order for me to consider you to be participating in the course you must enter into class discussion and question periods in a manner that shows that you are both prepared and engaged with the course materials. Your choice and development of an essay topic may also be taken as an indicator of such engagement.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

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

### **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 (Sept.14) – Introduction to the course and statement of questions.

Week II (Sept. 21) – C.D.D. (Christian Domestic Discipline): “super-weird, or what?”

**Readings:** 1) Robert M. Price, “Masochism and Piety” *Journal of Religion and Health* 22 (1983), 161-166. [Springerlink]; 2) visit <http://christiandomesticdiscipline.com/>.

Week III (Sept. 28) – The deep background: The disciplines of early Christianity.

**Readings:** 1) Daniel Caner, “The Practice and Prohibition of Self-Castration in early Christianity” *Vigiliae Christianiae* 51 (1997), 396-415. [JSTOR]; 2) Laura Engelstein, *Castration and the Heavenly Kingdom* (Cornell University Press, 1999) [excerpt via WebCT]

Week IV (Oct. 5) – Medieval monastic disciplines: some examples

**Readings:** 1) *The Rule of St. Benedict* [excerpt via WebCT]; 2) Niklaus Largier, *In Praise of the Whip* (Zone Books, 2007) [excerpt via WebCT]

**October 12 University Closed for Thanksgiving.**

Week V (Oct. 19) – Lay disciplines: some examples. **Essay proposal due!**

**Readings:** 1) Fiona Bowie, “Self-transcendence and the Group: Attitude to Life of Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century Beguines” *New Blackfriars* 73 (2007), 584-597 [Wiley InterScience]; 2) John Henderson, “The Flagellant Movement and Flagellant Confraternities in Central Italy, 1200-1400” in: D. Baker, ed., *Religious Motivation: Biographical and Sociological Problems for the Church Historian* (Basil Blackwell, 1978), 147-160 [via WebCT]; 3) George C. Barker, “Some Aspects of Penitential Processions in Spain and the American Southwest” *Journal of American Folklore* 70 (1957), 137-142 [JSTOR]

Week VI (Oct. 26) – Early modern spiritual and social discipline I: The Protestant trajectory.

**Readings:** 1) Lyndal Roper, “The Politics of Sin” in: idem, *The Holy Household* (Oxford University Press, 1989), 56-88 [excerpt via WebCT]; 2) Ron Rittgers, “Private Confession and the Lutherization of Nördlingen” *Sixteenth Century Journal* 36 (2005), 1063-1085. [JSTOR]

Week VII (Nov. 2) – Early modern spiritual and social discipline II: The Catholic trajectory.

**Readings:** 1) Euan Cameron, “For Reasoned Faith or Embattled Creed? Religion for the People in Early Modern Europe” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society Sixth Series* 8 (1998), 165-187. [JSTOR] 2) William Bradford Smith, “Friedrich Förner, the Catholic Reformation and Witch-hunting in Bamberg” *Sixteenth Century Journal* 36 (2005), 115-128. [JSTOR]

Week VIII (Nov. 9) – Church Discipline: ecclesiological or anthropological?

**Readings:** 1) Menno Simons, *On the Ban: Questions and Answers (1550)* in: G.H. Williams, ed., *Spiritual and Anabaptist Writing* (SCM Press, 1957), 263-271 [via WebCT]. 2) visit <http://www.religiousshunning.org>.

Week IX (Nov. 16) – Christian discipline and capitalist economics: The Puritan Legacy.

**Readings:** 1) E.P. Thompson, “Time, Work-discipline and Industrial Capitalism” *Past and Present* 38 (1967), 56-97 [JSTOR]; 2) R.H. Tawney, “A Godly Discipline versus the Religion of Trade” in: idem, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism* (Peter Smith, 1962 [1926]), 211-227 [excerpt via WebCT]

**N.B. this is the last date for withdrawal and for registration for final examination via the Paul Menton Centre**

Week X (Nov. 23) – Christian discipline and capitalism meet colonialism: Temperance movements in the New World.

**Readings:** 1) Jim Blaumohl, "Inebriate Institutions in North America, 1850-1920" in: C. K. Warsh, ed., *Drink in Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993), 92-114 [excerpt via WebCT]; 2) Jan Noel, "The Bottle and the Hudson's Bay Company" and "Red River Crusades" in: idem, *Canada Dry: Temperance Crusades Before Confederation* (University of Toronto Press, 1995), 183-208 [excerpts via WebCT]

Week XI (Nov. 30) -- Resistance and subversion: Christian disciplines and indisciplines. **Term essay due!**

**Readings:** Lyndal Roper, "Drinking, Whoring and Gorging: Brutish indiscipline and the formation of Protestant identity" in: idem, *Oedipus and the Devil* (Routledge, 1994), 145-167 [excerpt via WebCT], 2) Jennifer Knust, "Who's on Top? Sex talk, power and resistance" in: idem, *Abandoned to Lust: Sexual Slander and Ancient Christianity* (Columbia University Press, 2006), 1-13 [excerpt via WebCT]; 3) Patrick W. Lasowski, "Children of the Midnight Mass" in: P. Cryle and L. O'Connell, eds., *Libertine Enlightenment* (Palgrave, 2004), 236-247 [excerpt via WebCT].

Week XII (Dec. 7) – Conclusions to the course: Now, how does it make sense?

## 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](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](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](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 <sup>th</sup> floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library