

## Moravian College

### Rel: 290ST: Development of Christianity

#### Spring 2014

**Instructor:** Dr. William Falla

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**Office Hours:** Comenius 205, MWF 9:30-11:00; R: 2:00-3:30; by appt.

#### Course Description:

This course will explore the institutions, social forces, ideas and personalities that shaped the development of the Christian Church from its beginnings to the eve of the Reformation. Special emphasis will be placed on how these entities not only shape the trajectory of the Church but continue to impact the current beliefs and practices of today's Church.

#### Course Objectives:

1. To examine from diverse historical perspectives and analyses the institutions, social forces, ideas and personalities that were part of the Christian Church from the death of Jesus to the Reformation.
2. To examine how these events relate to the larger flow of Western History.
3. To understand the historical discussion of the relation between revelation and reason that developed during this period.
4. To explore how the development of the Church then translates to today and how it is manifested in current Church doctrine and practice. Special emphasis will be placed on the discussion between revelation and reason, and its relation to the current debate between science and religion.
5. To be able to express your understanding of this material coherently, cogently and clearly in both written and oral form.

#### Required Texts:

Gonzales, Justo, *The History of Christianity, vol.1*, HarperOne, New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2010

Baird, Forrest, *Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, vol. 2*, Prentice Hall, Boston, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2011

Augustine, *Confessions*, Penguin classics, 1961

### **Additional Materials:**

Additional written and video materials will be made available on blackboard or either electronically or in hard copy at Reeves Library.

### **Course Evaluation:**

Reflection Papers (40%): you will be asked to write four (4) 4-5 page papers based on the material being studied. The papers will be evaluated on your understanding and use of the course material as well as the quality of your argumentation and writing. They will be due on the dates indicated in the syllabus.

Class Presentation (20%): This will be a 5-10 minute presentation on an important figure in the development of the Early and Medieval Church. The focus should be on the individual's life and contributions. A list of possible subjects will be provided during Week 1. Its due date will be keyed to his/her time period in Church History. It will be evaluated on the quality of your research and the quality of the presentation. Further rubrics as well as scheduled meetings will be provided.

Final Research Paper (20%) This will be 8-10 page paper with proper annotations and bibliography in which you will reflect on the impact of a particular doctrine or event on the current practices or beliefs of the contemporary Christian Church. It will be evaluated on the quality of your research, the effectiveness of use and the quality of argumentation and presentation. There will be benchmark meetings with this paper. The paper is due on the date indicated in the syllabus.

Class Participation (20%): This refers to active participation in the class over and above the Class Presentation. Active participation means the voluntary participation in class discussions as well as the asking of pertinent questions. This participation will also involve the guided reading of the primary sources. Guiding questions will be provided for each reading.

### **Grading Scale:**

**A: 92.5+**

**A-: 89.5-92.4**

**B+: 87.5-89.4**

**B: 82.5-87.4**

**Etc.**

### **Honor Code and Attendance Policies:**

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance is considered in the calculation of your class participation grade and therefore is important. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments. You are also expected to turn in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to its due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade for late submitted work.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Plagiarizing is the presenting the work of another's as one's own. Cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom. Any violation of this policy will result in the lowering of one's grade.

### **Additional Aid/Consideration:**

Students who wish to request accommodations for this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Academic and Disability Support, at 1307 Main St., or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodation cannot be provided until formal authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

## **Course Syllabus**

### **Jan. 13:** Introduction and the Biblical Church

Gonzalez: pp. 8-40

Baird: pp.1-8, 20-26 (Philo)

### **Jan. 20:** Second Century Conflicts

Gonzalez: pp. 41-58

Baird: pp. 10-18

### **Jan. 27:** Defenders and Teachers of the Faith

Gonzalez: pp. 59-96

Origen: Genesis Homily 1 pp. 47-71 (reserve)

**Feb. 3:** Third Century Church

Gonzalez: pp. 97-125

**Paper #1 Due 2/7**

**Feb. 10:** Constantine and the Imperial Church

Gonzalez: pp. 130-172

**Feb. 17:** The Creeds

Gonzalez: pp. 193-218

Nicene, Athanasian & Apostle's Creed (handout)

**Feb. 24:** Early Church Leaders

Gonzalez: pp. 219-40

John Chrysostom: "Homily on Genesis" (reserve)

Augustine Confessions, Book XI, pp. 253-80

**Paper #2 Due: 2/28**

**Mar. 3:** Spring Break

**Mar. 10:** St. Augustine

Gonzalez: pp. 241-61

Augustine: Confessions, Books XII-XIII, pp. 281-347

**Mar. 17:** Dark Ages and Schism

Gonzalez: pp. 269-314

Reuther, Rosemary, "Augustine and Political Theology", *Interpretation*, v.29. #3, p. 252-65 (electronic)

Movie; *Development of Eastern Christianity*

**Paper #3 Due: 3/19**

**Mar. 24:** Holy Roman Empire and Crusades

Gonzalez: pp. 315-356

Baird: pp. 173-80 (Hildegard)

Movie: *Hildegard of Bingen*

**Mar. 31:** Golden Age of Faith I

Gonzalez: pp. 357-406

St. Clare: "The Testament of St. Clare"

Baird: pp. 399-409 (Aquinas, "The Principles of Nature")

**Paper #4 Due: 4/4**

**Apr. 7:** Golden Age of Faith II

Baird: pp 253- 274 (Grosseteste & Bacon)

Davis, Derek, "Sacred Trust: the Medieval Church as an economic firm", *Journal of Church and State*, v. 40 #1, 183-4 (electronic)

**Apr. 14:** Dawning of the Reformation

Gonzalez: pp. 407-45

Baird: pp. 474-88 (Catherine & Nicholas Cusanus)