

Moravian College

Rel: 290ST: Development of Christianity

Spring 2015

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 development of medicine and the sciences within the Church 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 of healing and the sciences, 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, 2nd ed., 2010

Augustine, *Confessions*, Penguin classics, 1961

Additional Materials:

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

Course Evaluation:

Reflection Papers (60%): you will be asked to write six (6) 4-6 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 minimally a 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 including their writings if applicable. 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. A complete bibliography will also be due on the day of your report. Further rubrics as well as scheduled meetings will be provided.

Word List (5%) The vocabulary used by scholars who study this period is often not part of the everyday vocabulary. Therefore, you will be asked to define 25 words that will be provided to you over the course of the semester. These definitions will be evaluated on their completeness and their applicability to the course material. They will be due on the date indicated in the syllabus.

Class Participation (15%): 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.

All grades during the semester will be numerical.

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 Academic and Disability Support, first floor of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodation cannot be provided until formal authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Course Syllabus

Jan. 19: Introduction and the Biblical Church

Gonzalez: pp. 8-40

Jan. 26: Second Century Conflicts

Gonzalez: pp. 41-58

Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian & Origen (handout)

Feb. 2: Defenders and Teachers of the Faith

Gonzalez: pp. 59-96

Paper #1 Due: 2/7

Feb.9: Third Century Church

Gonzalez: pp. 97-125

Feb. 16: Constantine and the Imperial Church **Paper #2 Due: 2/20**
Gonzalez: pp. 130-172
Basil the Great (handouts)

Feb. 23: The Creeds
Gonzalez: pp. 193-218
Nicene, Athanasian & Apostle's Creed (handout)

Mar. 2: Early Church Leaders **Paper #3 Due: 3/6**
Gonzalez: pp. 219-40
Augustine Confessions, Book XI, pp. 253-80

Mar. 9: Spring Break

Mar. 16: St. Augustine
Gonzalez: pp. 241-61
Augustine: Confessions, Books XII-XIII, pp. 281-347

Mar. 23: Dark Ages and Schism **Paper #4 Due: 3/27**
Gonzalez: pp. 269-314
Augustine (handouts)
Movie; *Development of Eastern Christianity*

Mar. 30: Holy Roman Empire and Crusades
Gonzalez: pp. 315-356
Hildegard (handouts)
Movie: *Hildegard of Bingen*

Apr. 6: Golden Age of Faith I **Paper #5 Due: 4/10**
Gonzalez: pp. 357-406
St. Clare: "The Testament of St. Clare"(handout)
Aquinas (electronic)

Apr. 13: Golden Age of Faith II
Aquinas and Medicine (electronic handouts)

Apr. 20: Dawning of the Reformation **Paper #6 Due: 4/25**
Gonzalez: pp. 407-45

Apr. 27: Catch-up

Word List Due: 5/1