Course Description
This course is an introduction to the history of early and medieval Christianity, exploring the environment, movements and significant personalities in the development of the Christian Church. It is hoped that this course will promote a faithful love for and personal engagement with today’s Church through developing a familiarity with the issues and practices of the early and medieval Church.

Goals:
- To help students appreciate the history of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of which they are a part.
- To acquaint students with major events and personalities in early and medieval Christianity.
- To help students understand the organic development of the church as a result of the interaction of church and culture as well as intra-church movements.
- To encourage students to appreciate and critique their own traditions, beliefs, and practices in light of the experiences, errors and wisdom of the early and medieval church, and allow the past to question and inform our present.

Required Reading:


Course Requirements for Master of Divinity or MA Students:

Class Attendance and Participation – 10% of grade

On-Line Quizzes on Reading Assignments – 30%
- The course schedule includes on-line five quizzes. These quizzes will be administered by Moodle. They are designed solely for the purpose of encouraging students to complete a thorough reading of their assignments. They are open book but timed. Each quiz must be completed by the beginning of class on the date noted on the syllabus.

Complete Three Papers. The paper shall conform to the Turabian Manual of Style, 8th ed., 2013 and may be submitted electronically. The paper shall be double-spaced with one inch margins and 12 point font. The paper shall not include a title page. It shall include footnotes
(not endnotes) and need not include a bibliography. The following three papers are due by the beginning of the class designated in the “Course Schedule.”

1) Paper on Early Church Spirituality – 20%
   The required reading includes five primary texts. Students shall write a book review of each text by the date noted on the syllabus. A book review template will be provided. The book review shall be submitted electronically no later than the beginning of the class session dedicated to the discussion of the book.

2) Paper on Islam and/or Crusades – 20%
   Prepare a 4-7 page paper for an adult Sunday school class on Islam and the Crusades. The paper should be accompanied by a power-point presentation.

3) Paper on Pre-Reformer – 20%
   Write a 3-5 page paper on a “Pre-Reformer” and how this person plowed the field and “planted the seed for the Protestant Reformation.

Course Requirements for Diploma and Certificate Students:

Class Attendance and Participation – 25% of grade

On-Line Quizzes on Gonzalez Reading Assignments – 75%
   The course schedule includes on-line five quizzes. These quizzes will be administered by Moodle. They are designed solely for the purpose of encouraging students to complete a thorough reading of their assignments. They are open book but timed. Each quiz must be completed by the date noted on the syllabus.

Grading Policies:

Grammar, Syntax, etc. - Points will be deducted from your grade on written work for incorrect grammar

Late Work will be accepted but subject to a full-grade reduction.

Grading Scale

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Reading Schedule:

Week 1    Gonzalez Chapters 1-7
          Tucker Chapter 1
Week 2  Gonzalez Chapters 8-12
        Tucker Chapter 2
        Moodle Quiz on reading for weeks 1 & 2

Week 3  Gonzalez Chapters 13-16
        Tucker Chapter 4
        Research due on Spirituality of Early Church

Week 4  Gonzalez Chapters 17-20
        Tucker Chapter 3
        Moodle Quiz on reading for weeks 3 & 4

Week 5  Gonzalez Chapters 21-23
        Tucker Chapter 5

Week 6  Gonzalez Chapters 24-26
        Moodle Quiz on reading for weeks 5 & 6

Week 7  Gonzalez Chapters 27-29
        Tucker Chapter 6 & 7

Week 8  Gonzalez Chapters 30-32
        Tucker Chapter 8 & 9
        Paper Due on Islam and/or Crusades

Thanksgiving Break

Week 9  Gonzalez Chapters 33-35
        Tucker Chapter 10
        Moodle Quiz on reading for weeks 7-9

Week 10 Research Paper on Pre-Reformers
        Wrap Up

**Early Church "All-Star Team" on Spirituality: Each student will research one and answer questions at the bottom (Due Week 3)**

- Augustine
- Origen
- Evagrius of Pontus (also, Evagrius Ponticus) [esp. the Praktikos, Antirrhetikos]
- Ephrem the Syrian (sometimes Ephraim)
- John Cassian
- Jerome
- John Chrysostom
- Basil of Caesarea
- Desert Fathers (Vintage, Penguin) or Book of the Elders
- Didache
Benedict of Nursia
Boethius
Life of Anthony/Athanasius
Clement (specifically the theology of the Paedagogus)
Tatian
Tertullian
Ignatius of Antioch
Anselm

QUESTIONS

1) Does the theologian have a theory of ascent/progression? For instance, Evagrius outlines in a triad of books outlines the spiritual progression from the 'practical' (praktike) to the contemplative/'gnostic'. cf John Climacus, etc.

2) What virtue/practice does the theologian posit as the center or foundation of Christian life? e.g., for Ignatius, gratitude is the core. For the Desert Fathers, perhaps humility/apatheia. For Augustine and the Cappadocians, perhaps chastity.

3) What concrete practices/disciplines are most essential to Christian life, and are there any correlations between certain practices and the curtailment of particular vices? e.g., Fasting to combat concupiscence, etc. ('Blessed Agatho held rocks in his mouth for three years to teach himself silence...')

Supplemental Reading List:


Schaff, Philip, editor. *Creeds and Confessions of Christendom, 1876*. (available on line at www.ccel.org)


Williams, Roan. *Christian Spirituality*.


**POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES**

**NOTE:** All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact [ithelpdesk@seminary.edu](mailto:ithelpdesk@seminary.edu) if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

**Class Attendance Policy**

It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).
**Class Tardiness Policy**
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

**Late Work Policy**
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

**Turabian Format**
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**
All work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.edu](http://moodle.edu) in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to ithelpdesk@seminary.edu.