

# History 317 The History of the Christian Church and the Expansion of Christianity I

Professor Deborah Fleetham  
Office: Rec. 422, Phone: 494-4155  
Office Hours: TTh 9:30-10:30 or by appt.  
Email: [dfleetham@purdue.edu](mailto:dfleetham@purdue.edu)

## Course Summary

This course is a survey of the history of Christianity from its emergence to the eve of the Protestant Reformation (0-1500). The first section of the course traces the emergence of the Christian movement out of Jewish and Greco-Roman roots, its spread as a minority religion across the Roman Empire, and its articulation of an “orthodox” doctrine and a canonical Scripture. The second section explores the solidification of theologically and institutionally distinctive Latin (Roman Catholic) and Greek (Orthodox) traditions and their eventual schism. It will also explore how monasticism and the conversion of Northern Europe reshaped both traditions. The final section focuses on Western Christendom during its heyday in the High Middle Ages. It explores institutional reform (in the papacy, monastic orders, and education), spiritual practices, and medieval biblical interpretation. The section concludes with the unraveling of the late medieval Catholic Church.

## Required Texts

- Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol 1, (Harper, 1984)\*
- St. Basil the Great, *On Social Justice* (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2009)\*
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Cistercians and Cluniacs* (Cistercian Publications, 1970)\*
- Course Reader (available at Boiler Copy Maker in the Union)

The first three texts are available for sale at University and Follett bookstores and on reserve at Hicks Undergraduate Library. The Course Reader is available at the Boiler Copy Market in the Union. It is the student’s responsibility to procure the texts by the assigned date and to report any difficulty obtaining texts to the instructor in advance of the due date.

## Course Requirements

- # Examinations (3 @ 28% each): Three exams, September 28, Nov 4, and TBA during final exam week). Make-up exams will be scheduled **only** in cases of documented emergencies or hardship, as determined by instructor.
- # Daily Assignments (16%)
  - Questions for Take-Home Assignments will be available on Blackboard Vista. They are due at the beginning of class. on the due date.
  - Unannounced quizzes on readings (No Make-ups)
  - Class Discussion
- # Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected. After the fourth absence, each additional absence will result in a one percent deduction of the final grade.
- # Any uncompleted assignments will receive a “0.” Late assignments will be considered uncompleted without approval of the instructor.
- # Grading Scale: 95-100 A; 90-94 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-; 77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-73 C-; 67-69 D+; 63-66 D; 60-62 D-; 59 and below F.

## Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is an unacceptable offense and will result in failure of the course and forwarding of the case to the dean’s office for review. Written assignments will include concrete guidelines.

## Contingency

In the event of a major campus emergency (such as natural disaster, epidemic, etc.), the above requirements, deadlines, and grading policies/percentages are subject to changes that may be required by an officially revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course site on Blackboard and the instructor’s departmental webpage or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email, phone, or leaving a message in the history department main office.

### **Class Etiquette**

Please be respectful both of your fellow students and me. Your punctual arrival to class is expected and appreciated. As a courtesy, remember to turn off cell phones, and use computers in class only for course-related activities. No texting, tweeting, facebooking, or use of other social networking during class. Failure to observe this etiquette will result in confiscation of electronic devices until the end of the class period.

### **Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Lecture Outlines will be available on Blackboard in the Lecture Outlines folder. Announcements (such as minor changes in the reading schedule or class cancellation) will be made by email and posted on Blackboard. **Complete readings BEFORE class and BRING readings to class on assigned date. Failure to bring readings to class will result in a deduction of points from your daily assignment score.**

## **Section I: The Emergence of Christianity and the Early Church (100 BCE to 300CE)**

August 24 Introduction

26 Jews and Jewish Scripture

Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 1, 2

Course Reader (CR): Deuteronomy 4, 5

31 From Jerusalem to Antioch: Paul and the Mission to the Gentiles

Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 3

CR: Acts 9: 1-31; Acts 15: 1-35; Romans 15:1-22: Galatians 2:1-21

Sept. 2 The Christian Movement After the Apostles

Readings: Gonzalez Chapter 4, 5

7 The Church in the Roman Empire - **Take Home or Quiz**

Readings: Gonzalez Chapters 6, 10, 12

CR: Letters of Pliny the Younger and Emperor Trajan (c.112)

Martyrdom of Ignatius

9 Christians as the Romans Saw Them – **Take Home or Quiz**

Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 7

CR: Origen, *Against Celsus*

14 Charges of Heresy: the Gnostics and Marcion - **Take Home or Quiz**

Readings: Gonzalez, Chap 8 (58-62)

CR: The Gospel of Truth

The Gospel of Thomas

Thomas Bartlett, "The Betrayal of Judas

16 Establishing Orthodoxy: Canon, Tradition, and Creeds

Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 8, 9, 12

CR: Irenaeus on Tradition and Succession

Cyprian, Treatise On the Unity of the Church (248-58)

Early Creedal Statements

21 The Blood of the Martyrs - **Take Home or Quiz**

Readings: CR: The Martyrdom of Polycarp

23 Early Christian Life and Practice

Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 11

CR: Didache, Teaching of the Twelve Apostles (early 2<sup>nd</sup> century)

Justin Martyr, On Christian Worship (150)

28 **EXAM # 1**

## **Section II: The Early Medieval Church in East and West (320-1000)**

30 Constantine and the Imperial Church

Readings: Gonzalez, Chapters 13, 14

CR: Eusebius, The Conversion of Constantine

Eusebius, Oration in Praise of Constantine

Oct 5 Official Orthodoxy: Arianism and The Nicene Council

- Readings: Gonzalez, Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19  
 CR: Arius, On the Status of the Son  
 Nicene Creed (325)
- 7 Ecclesiastical Structure and Politics  
 Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 26  
 CR: Leo I, The Petrine Doctrine (440-461)  
 Justinian, Regulating Church Discipline
- 14 The Ascetic Life – **Take Home or Quiz**  
 Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 20  
**St. Basil the Great, On Social Justice (Book)**
- 19 The Greek Tradition – **Take Home or Quiz**  
 Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 22, 27  
 CR: John of Damascus, On Theokotos (Mother of God/Bearer of God)  
 Council of Chalcedon, Definition of the Christian Faith (451)  
 John of Damascus: In Defense of Icons, c. 730
- 21 The Latin Tradition  
 Readings: Gonzalez, Chapters 21, 23, 24
- 26 **Discussion:** The Latin Fathers: Ambrose, Jerome, and Augustine **Take Home or Quiz**  
 Readings: CR: Ambrose, Letter to Emperor Theodosius  
 Letters to and from Jerome on Translation  
 Augustine, Youthful Indiscretions (from *Confessions*)  
 Augustine, Account of his Conversion (from *Confessions*)  
 Augustine, On the Two Cities (From *City of God*)
- 28 Evangelism and The Emergence of Islam  
 Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 28  
 CR: Correspondence of St. Boniface (8<sup>th</sup> Century)
- Nov 2 Charlemagne and the Conversion of Northern Europe  
 4 **EXAM # 2**

### Section III: Medieval Christendom (1050-1500)

- 9 Papal Reform  
 Readings: Gonzalez, , Chapter 29  
 CR: Gregory VII, Simony and Celibacy (1074)  
 Gregory VII, Deposition of Henry IV (1076)  
 Gregory VII, The Dictates of the Pope
- 11 Monastic Reform: The Cistercians – **Take Home or Quiz**  
 Readings: **St. Bernard of Clairvaux** *Cistercians and Cluniacs (Book)*, pp. 3-12, 33-69
- 16 Monastic Reform: Mendicants – **Take Home or Quiz**  
 Readings: Gonzalez, Chapter 31  
 Rule of St. Francis
- 18 Intellectual Reform: Interpreting Scripture in the Middle Ages  
 Readings: CR: Bernard of Clairvaux, *Sermon on the Song of Songs*  
 Thomas Aquinas, *Catena Aurea* – Gospel of Matthew  
 Matthew 12: 46-50 (Jesus with his mother and brothers)  
 Matthew 26: 26-29 (Last Supper)
- 23 Art and Architecture

### Thanksgiving Break

- 30 Christian Practice: The Seven Sacraments - **Take Home or Quiz**  
 Readings: CR: Seven Sacraments, Doctrinal Statements
- Dec. 2 Saints, Relics, and the Virgin Mary

- Readings: CR: Edward Grim, The Murder of Thomas Becket  
Tales of the Virgin  
Tales of the Host
- 7 Heretics and Inquisitors  
Readings: Gonzalez Chapters 30, 31, 32  
Gregory XI's Condemnation of Wycliffe 1382 *and* Wycliffe's Reply, 1384  
Bernard Gui, Inquisitorial Technique (c.1307-1323)
- 9 Late Medieval Church and Life

**Final Exam:** Date and Time TBA