

HST 328
History of the Christian Church to the Reformation
Instructor: Dr. David Leinweber
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I. Course Objectives:

- A. To gain a greater understanding of the issues, events, and trends, which constitute the history of the Christian Church from the advent of Christianity to the Reformation.
- B. To develop critical writing and thinking skills.
- C. To reflect on the sometimes difficult relationship between religion and scholarship.

II. Assigned Readings:

The Holy Bible (Recommended: The New Oxford Annotated Bible, Revised Standard Version.)

Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* (Penguin)

St. Augustine, *The Confessions*

Marina Warner, *Alone of all Her Sex*

Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

George Marsden, *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*

Owen Chadwick, *The Reformation*

Special readings will occasionally be distributed to students, or placed on reserve in the Oxford Library. These will also be required readings.

III. Course Policies:

A. Grading: The final grade will be averaged from Two Gradesgrades. Grading components are as follows:

1. Grading Unit #1: Shorter Papers. There will be five short papers due in this class. The average of the grades for these items will constitute 50% of the final grade.
 - There will be five shorter papers of a single-page, double-sided, single-space, 10 pitch font paper.
 - Term Paper: Students will complete a 15-20 page paper, focussing on some issue which the instructor will provide. The term paper will count for 50% of a students' grade.
 - Rough Drafts: Students will be expected to complete a major rough draft of the term paper and review their progress towards the paper's completion in at least one formal, scheduled office appointment with the professor.

2. **Presentation:** Scheduling factors permitting, a PowerPoint presentation will be made to the class providing an overview of the student's major research project for that semester. There will be no grade given for this presentation, provided the student makes a good faith effort. An unprepared or sloppy presentation may result in a lowering of the student's paper grade, at the discretion of the instructor.
3. **Final Exam.** Students will complete a take-home final examination involving written identification of terms/passages/items drawn from throughout the course. The exam will be graded on a S/U basis; students will need to score above an 80 for an S.

Also note the following:

- **LearnLink Participation:** From time to time, the instructor may ask students to produce topic paragraphs, or short essays on LearnLink. These will need to be done according to the professor's dictates.
- The instructor may add, detract, or alter the above grading distributions and assignments as he sees fit, according to the particular way the class evolves.
- All work is, of course, done in accordance with the Honor Code of Oxford College.
- Everybody takes and uses their own notes, no exceptions.

B. Attendance: Attendance is encouraged, expected, and an important consideration in any judgement calls which may arise during the distribution of final grades.

IV. Course Schedule:

The course is divided into four units. Each unit will conclude with a blue-book examination. Broad unit themes, readings, and examination dates, are given below. Remember that additional readings may be assigned, in addition to those given below.

Unit 1: Early Christianity

- Film: September 11, Library VCC, 8:00-11:30
- Short Paper Due, September 15, Review of George Marsden's book *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*

Unit 2. Christianity's Ascent in the Roman Empire

- Short Paper Due, September 29: Eusebius as a Church historian?

Unit 3: The Great Change)

- Short Paper Due: October 17th, Augustine as a Window on Late Antiquity and/or the Early Middle Ages?

Unit 4: The Heyday of European Christianity

- Short Paper due: November 3, Critique of Marina Warner, *Alone of All Her Sex*

Unit 5: the Call for Reform

- Short Paper Due, November 20th: Discussion of the ideas of George Marsden.

November 29: Term Papers Due; A rough Draft should be reviewed with instructor in his office prior to the submission of the final paper.

Final Exam Date in accordance with the University schedule for final examinations.