

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:

Augustine of Hippo, *The Confessions* (Penguin)
Chadwick, Henry, *The Early Church* (Penguin)
Eusebius, *The History of the Church* (Penguin)
George Marsden, *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*
Warner, Marina, *One of All Her Sex* (Vintage Books)

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 Grades. Grading components are as follows:

- Grading Unit #1: Shorter Papers: There will be four short papers due in this class. The average of the grades for these items will constitute 50% of the final grade.

- Term Paper: Students will complete a 15 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.
- 1. 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.

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.

III. 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.

Major Dates in the Course

- Sunday, October 4th, 8:p.m. Film Viewing TBA
- September 10th: Book Critique on George Marsden due; discussion

- September 29th: The Primitive Church: Major History Themes (Sources: Eusebius, Chadwick, course materials)
- October 15: Christianity and the Roman Empire: How does One Transform the other, and vice-versa (sources: Augustine's Confessions, Chadwick, class materials)
- November 3: Short Paper: critique of Marina Warner's *Alone of All Her Sex*
- November 24th: Rough Drafts Due (in class) for major paper; E-mail and hard-copy.
- December 3rd: Final Papers Due
- Reading Day: Take-Home Finals E-mailed to Professor
- Wrap-up Presentations on Final Exam Day