

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, *The History of the Church*

St. Augustine, *The Confessions*

Jacopus de Voragine, *The Golden Legend*

Marina Warner, *Alone of All Her Sex: The Myth and the Cult of the Virgin Mary*

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 three grades. Grading components are as follows:

1. Shorter Papers: There will be shorter papers of a single-page, double-sided, single-space, 10 pitch font paper. Each will cover readings, and lectures, for a given unit of the course. The three shorter papers will count for 25% of a students' grade.
2. Term Paper: Students will complete a 15 page paper, focussing on some issue which the instructor will provide, or which is approved by the instructor. 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.
3. Presentation: 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.
  4. A Final Exam: Student will complete a take-home final exam in which they concisely identify the major points of significance on 35 terms/items related to course materials throughout the semester. The final exam will constitute 25% of the student's grade.

Also note the following:

- Report on *The Golden Legend* saints. Each student will complete a ten minute report on at least one saint discussed in Voragine's *The Golden Legend*. He or she will report on their saint to the class.
- 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.

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.

### **First Short Paper Due: September 13**

Topical Thurst: The Formation of Church Organization

- New Testament
- Eusebius
- Distributed Course Materials

### **Second Short Paper Due: October 4**

Topical Thurst: Conversion: Social, Cultural, Political, and Personal

- Augustine, *The Confessions*
- Distributed Course Materials

**Third Short Paper Due: October 25**

Topical Thrust: The Ideal Life

Marina Warner: Alone of All Her Sex

**Rough Draft for Longer Paper Due: November 20**

**Term Papers Due: December 4**

**Final Examinations Due The Last Day of Class, December 11**