

Moody Bible Institute
Christianity and Western Culture I

GSU 2221 – Fall 2016

Dr. Bryan Litfin

Office Hours: email me

TA: Ariel (Huhn) McCrory

Office: Sweeting 351

Phone: 4174

litfin@moody.edu

ariel.huhn@moody.edu

Course Description

The course explores the development of Christianity within the context of Western Culture from the ancient world through the early and high medieval periods up to the year 1300. After a brief overview of classical antiquity, the course will tell the story of church history as a continuous narrative from Greco-Roman times to feudal Europe and the emergence of Christendom. Special attention is given to the mutually formative interaction that took place between the church and society. The course is grounded in the theological premise that the Trinitarian God who orders, comes into, and indwells our world has chosen to work through men and women as His instruments. Therefore, a central course ethic is an appreciation for the events of history as vessels for God's work at all times.

Course Objectives

- The student will acquire a framework of Western civilization and church history into which other subjects studied at MBI can be integrated.
- The student will analyze the events of church history as models for understanding the interplay between Christianity and the cultures in which it exists.
- The student will gain a sense of his/her heritage in the faith that will energize and motivate contemporary ministry.
- The student will learn to view himself or herself as part of the universal (catholic) church.
- The student will come to value the breadth of Christianity throughout all of church history.

Course Texts

- Everett Ferguson, *Church History, Vol. 1: From Christ to the Pre-Reformation* [2nd ed.] (F)
- Bryan Litfin, *Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction* [2nd ed.] (GTK)
- Bryan Litfin, *Early Christian Martyr Stories* (ECMS)
- Kevin Madigan, *Medieval Christianity: A New History* (MC)

Course Procedures and Policies

1. All practical questions about the course structure should be referred *by email to the TA*, not to the professor: ariel.huhn@moody.edu
2. Dr. Litfin asks you not to eat food in class, nor do anything on your digital device except note taking. Please respect the privilege and expectations of being in a course at Moody.

Course Requirements

- A. **Reading:** The course schedule below lists reading assignments from the textbooks (**F, GTK, ECMS, MC**) or the Course Documents (**CD**) folder on Blackboard. These readings are required to be read prior to the class lecture for which they are listed in the schedule. Students will not have to report that they have done the readings on time. However, you will be tested on any and every word within those readings, so students who do not read deeply and comprehensively throughout the semester, including taking notes that can be studied later, will have little chance of passing the course. “Cramming” just before the exams will not work.
- B. **Examinations:** The five in-class exams are the sole basis for your final course grade. These will be closed-book, Scantron examinations worth 50 points each. Then your final total will be multiplied by four to create a 1000-point scale. The exam content will cover anything taught in class, or found in the readings, or stated on the PowerPoints. *The exams may not be taken early or late. They may only be taken on the scheduled dates.*
- All tests are cumulative to what has been covered by that point.
 - An **integrity pledge** will be required on the Final. Your “yes” answer will attest that you did not in any way violate the Student Contract at the end of this syllabus. If you cannot honestly answer yes before God, you must speak with the professor.
 - If you need accommodations from the Testing Center, coordinate it with the TA.
 - There are no make-ups for the exams for any reason except life-threatening emergencies or absolute physical incapability. Even if you are sick, come anyway. Oversleeping or forgetting to take the test will result in a zero, likely causing you to fail the class. **DON’T MISS EXAMS.**
- C. **Attendance** will be taken by swiping your fob up to 15 minutes before class or 10 minutes after. *You may not leave early after fobbing in.* Look under “Tools” on Blackboard to check your attendance. More than 6 cuts will result in a grade reduction. You may **ONLY** attend the course section for which you are enrolled.
- D. **Grading Scale:**
- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| A = 951 – 1000 points | C = 781 – 850 points |
| A- = 931 – 950 points | C- = 761 – 780 points |
| B+ = 921 – 930 points | D+ = 751 – 760 points |
| B = 881 – 920 points | D = 721 – 750 points |
| B- = 861 – 880 points | D- = 700 – 720 points |
| C+ = 851 – 860 points | F = 699 points or less |
- E. **Extra credit for struggling students:** The option of writing a paper may be offered **ONLY** to *students who end the course with a grade of 650-699*. The paper would grant 5 points per page, up to a maximum of ten pages (double spaced, normal margins), in order to get you to 700. The paper must summarize some of the lectures with as much detail as possible. Demonstrate your knowledge of the lecture content. The final grade for a student who chooses this option can be no higher than a D-. Students who are overcut (more than six) may **NOT** write the paper.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

CD = Blackboard Course Documents **F** = Ferguson **GTK** = Getting to Know the Church Fathers
ECMS = Early Christian Martyr Stories **MC** = Medieval Christianity

For Ferguson and MC, quit at the logical place on the final assigned page (normally a section heading).

DATE	LECTURE SUBJECT	Assignment to be read BEFORE CLASS
8/22	Introduction to Course Procedures	
8/24	Standing on the Prow of the Ship	CD Williams; GTK Intro
8/26	The Jewish Context	F 29-31; ECMS ch. 1
8/29	The Greek Context	CD Plato; F 28-29
8/31	The Roman Context	CD Pliny & Trajan; F 27-28; ECMS ch. 2
9/2	EXAM #1	
9/5	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
9/7	The Birth of Christianity	CD Gospel of Thomas; F 34-42, 85-93, 100-04; GTK ch. 1 [skip "Taste of" section this time]; ECMS ch. 3
9/9	Friday Film	
9/12	Judaism and the Primitive Church	CD Josephus; Justin Martyr; F 45-48; GTK ch. 2; ECMS ch. 5
9/14	Strategies for 'catholic' Unity	F 105-120; GTK ch. 3; ch. 4
9/16	Persecution and Martyrdom	F 63-70, 78-84; GTK ch. 5 [skip "Taste of" section this time]; ECMS pgs 1-11; ch. 4; ch. 8
9/19	Constantine and Imperial Christianity	F 177-87 [read up through 'Eusebius']; ECMS ch. 11; ch. 12
9/21	The Council of Nicaea	F 191-97, 199-210; GTK ch. 7
9/23	Early Christian Art and Architecture	F 167-70; ECMS pgs 11-17
9/26	Early Christian Art and Architecture	CD John of Damascus; F 253-54, 337-42
9/28	Augustine of Hippo	F 268-74; GTK ch. 10; ECMS ch. 13
9/30	EXAM #2	
10/3	Early Christology & Chalcedon	CD Heretical Christology; CD Definition of Chalcedon; F 256-67; GTK ch. 11
10/5	Asceticism and Monasticism	CD Benedict; Life of Antony; F 227-33, 317-19; GTK ch. 6; ch. 9
10/7	Early Christian Mission	CD Life of Ulfila; F 234-37; GTK ch. 8
10/10	CLASS CANCELED	Begin reading MC at your own pace. The assignment is about 210 pages (10 per day x 3 weeks) as follows:
10/12	MISSIONS CONFERENCE	Chs 2-4; Chs. 6-8; Ch. 11 to page 219; Ch. 12 to page
10/14	MISSIONS CONFERENCE	245; Ch. 13; Ch. 15; Ch. 17 to page 361.

10/17	STUDY/READING DAY	Continue reading MC at your own pace.
10/19	CLASS CANCELED	
10/21	CLASS CANCELED	
10/24	CLASS CANCELED	Continue reading MC at your own pace.
10/26	CLASS CANCELED	
10/28	EXAM #3	Finish reading MC . Exam is over this reading.
10/31	The Byzantine Empire	CD Conversion of Russia; F 310-317, 349-53
11/2	The Fall of Rome	CD Fall of Rome; F 286-300, 325-27
11/4	Friday Film	
11/7	The Rise of the Papacy	CD Pope Gregory; Tomb of Peter [virtual tour]; F 138-39, 302-05, 319-22
11/9	British and Celtic Christianity	CD Sending of Augustine; F 355-61; GTK ch. 12
11/11	The Birth of Europe	CD Birth of Europe
11/14	CLASS CANCELED	
11/16	CLASS CANCELED	
11/18	EXAM #4	
11/21	Charlemagne and the Early Middle Ages	CD Charlemagne; Heliand; F 365-76
11/23	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
11/25	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
11/28	The High Middle Ages	CD Altar-Throne Struggle; F 385-87, 399-402, 403-12; 458-60, 498-504
11/30	Life in Medieval Christendom	CD Innocent III; F 473-78
12/2	The Crusades	CD Urban's Speech at Clermont; F 333-35, 413-24
12/5	Medieval Intellectualism	CD Life of Francis; F 426-27, 434-39, 445-52; 478-91
12/7	Wrap-Up and Exam Review	GTK Epilogue

FINAL EXAM: **12:00 Section = exam on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 1 to 3 pm**
1:00 Section = exam on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 8 to 10 am

**Student Contract:
A Pledge of Responsibility**

As a student in CWC 1, I agree to adhere to the following Christian responsibilities:

1. I pledge to honestly and accurately report my attendance throughout the semester. If I am not in the classroom for at least 45 minutes, I will report an absence by not fobbing in.
2. I pledge to exhibit Christian integrity in all my work for this class. I will never look at previous semesters' exams, use any sources during the test except my own memory, or copy other students' work.
3. I pledge not to use Quizlet or any other web-based quiz service, because although there can be good uses of such web sites, it is too easy to accidentally view previous semester's exams.
4. I pledge never to make a record of any exams (by phone camera, photocopying, or any other means). In other words, I pledge never to remove a physical copy or an image of the exam from the classroom or the approved Testing Center location.
5. I pledge to be in class on time for my five exams. I understand that the exam times are fixed, and that I must be *in class at my assigned time on those dates* to take the exams. I will make all travel arrangements accordingly, knowing that I cannot take the exams early or late. I understand that if I do not attend an exam period, I will receive no credit for that exam.
6. I pledge to be able to answer "yes" to the following question, which will be on the Final Exam: "On my allegiance to Jesus Christ, I have not *cheated* in any way in this course. I have not misrepresented my attendance; nor gained any prohibited assistance on exams; nor copied or removed exams from the classroom; nor in any other way cut corners or violated my Christian integrity in CWC 1."

Final Exam Date

12:00 Section = exam on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 1 to 3 pm

1:00 Section = exam on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 8 to 10 am

No taking it early. No make-ups.
**DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS
THAT INTERFERE WITH YOUR EXAM!**

COURSE CALENDAR

Christianity and Western Culture 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
August				
22 Introduction	23	24 Standing on the Prow of the Ship	25	26 The Jewish Context
29 The Greek Context	30	31 The Roman Context		
September				
			1	2 EXAM #1
5 LABOR DAY: NO CLASS	6	7 The Birth of Christianity	8	9 Friday Film
12 Judaism and the Primitive Church	13	14 Strategies for 'catholic' Unity	15	16 Persecution and Martyrdom
19 Constantine and Imperial Christianity	20	21 The Council of Nicaea	22	23 Early Christian Art & Architecture
26 Early Christian Art & Architecture	27	28 Augustine of Hippo	29	30 EXAM #2
October				
3 Early Christology and Chalcedon	4	5 Asceticism and Monasticism	6	7 Early Christian Mission
10 CLASS CANCELED	11	12 MISSIONS CONFERENCE	13	14 MISSIONS CONFERENCE
17 STUDY/ READING DAY	18	19 CLASS CANCELED	20	21 CLASS CANCELED
24 CLASS CANCELED	25	26 CLASS CANCELED	27	28 EXAM #3
31 The Byzantine Empire				
November				
	1	2 The Fall of Rome	3	4 Friday Film
7 The Rise of the Papacy	8	9 British and Celtic Christianity	10	11 The Birth of Europe
14 CLASS CANCELED	15	16 CLASS CANCELED	17	18 EXAM #4
21 Charlemagne & the Early Middle Ages	22	23 THANKSGIVING NO CLASS	24	25 THANKSGIVING NO CLASS
28 The High Middle Ages	29	30 Life in Medieval Christendom		
December				
			1	2 The Crusades
5 Medieval Intellectualism	6	7 Wrap-Up and Exam Review	8	9 STUDY/ READING DAY
12	13 12:00 Section <i>Final Exam at 1 pm!</i>	14 1:00 Section <i>Final Exam at 8 am!</i>	15	16