

History of Christianity as a World Religion 1A (20) U00512

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Class Contact Hours:

Semester 1 Lectures: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:10-1:00 p.m.
 Seminars: Fridays 12:10-1:00 p.m or 1:00-1:50

Class Venue: Lectures: Lecture Room 1, New College
 Seminars: Check your electronic timetable

Initial Class Meeting: Monday 15th September 2014, 12:10 p.m.,
 Lecture Room 1, New College

Description of Course:

HCWR1A looks at the origins and growth of Christianity in the Mediterranean world and beyond, from the first generation of Christians to the fall of Constantinople (50CE to 1453). The course will cover Christianity's role in and interaction with the various cultures of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, the early and medieval Islamic states, and the emergent civilisations of medieval Europe, looking at persecution, education, mission, monasticism, piety, orthodoxy and heresy and other major themes. Tutorials will concentrate on looking in depth at original texts from the periods studied. At the start of semester 1 the texts for every seminar will be made available for students via the course website, and in hard copy for a small fee. The course website is available through your MyEd portal via Learn.

Prerequisites for Course:

None

Learning Outcomes:

Students should gain a comprehensive view of the Christian movement from its Middle Eastern origins to its various manifestations among European, Slavic and Oriental peoples on eve of the Reformation. They will be able to present a broad

range of historical evidence to illustrate the growth and diversification of Christianity as an emerging world religion.

Requirements and Assessment:

Students are expected to attend the lectures throughout the semester and to prepare for their weekly seminars, including by contributing to website discussions and presentations. Attendance at seminars is *required* with a register being kept by the seminar tutor. **[Read carefully the regulations concerning tutorials and seminars given above.]** Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the course website, through which they will make their contributions to the weekly weblog.

The assessment will be as follows:

One essay (30%); one weblog entry on the course website, together with tutorial presentation and weekly comments on the website backed up by participation in the tutorial (10%); end of semester exam (60%).

The essay, of 2000 words in length, must be completed and submitted by **Monday, 27th October by 1pm**. The title is to be chosen from a list of topics, full details of which will be posted on the course website and the HCWR notice board.

The two hour exam will be in two sections, with three questions to be answered, one from each section and a third from either section.

Assessment Criteria:

Essays, examination and blog exercises: 1. a broad understanding of the global Christian movement from its origins to the eve of the Reformation; 2. detailed knowledge of some aspects of the growth and diversification of Christianity as a world religion during this period; 3. ability to handle historical evidence and apply historical approaches; 4. awareness of the interaction of Christianity with other cultures and religions of the time.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Orientation: Dr S Parvis 15th September

1. Introduction to the Course
2. Historiographical Overview
3. Theory and practice of the blogging assessment task
4. Introduction to the Seminars: Dr Parvis and Tutors

Week 2: Christian Origins: Dr S Parvis 22nd September

1. The first churches
2. Hostility and opportunity in the Roman Empire
3. Varieties of Christianity before Constantine
4. Seminar: Martyrdom of Perpetua

Week 3: The Church after Constantine : Dr S Parvis 29th September

1. The Constantinian Revolution
2. The Nicene controversy
3. The Great Escape: Monasticism
4. Seminar: Antony of Egypt

Week 4: The Last of the Ancient Church: Dr S Parvis 6th October

1. Ephesus, Chalcedon, Nestorians and Monophysites
2. Ancient Eastern Churches outside the empire
3. How Christianity survived the Western Roman Empire
4. Seminar: Emergence of the Papacy

Week 5: The Churches of Early Medieval Europe: Dr S Parvis 13th October

1. British and Irish Christianity
2. Continental European Christianity 429-800
3. The making of European Christendom 800-1000
4. Seminar: Adamnan's *Life of Columba*

Week 6: The Flowering of the Byzantine Church and State: Dr P Parvis 20th October

1. Justinian's Constantinople and Beyond
2. Non-Chalcedonian Churches
3. Iconoclasm
4. Seminar: Cosmas Indicopleustes

Essay due Mon 27th October at 2pm.

Week 7: Islam and Christianity: Dr P. Parvis 27th October

1. The impact of Islam on the Churches
2. Christianity and Islam: Dialogue and Confrontation
3. The Crusades and the East
4. Seminar: John of Damascus' *Dialogue between a Christian and a Saracen*

Week 8: The Christian East and the Slavs: Dr P Parvis 3rd November

1. The mission of Cyril and Methodius
2. Late Byzantine theology
3. From Constantinople to Moscow
4. Seminar: The Council of Florence

Week 9: The Western Church of the High Middle Ages: Professor Dawson 10th November

1. The world of the High Middle Ages
2. Monks, nuns and friars
3. Heresy
4. Seminar: St Francis of Assisi

Week 10: The Late Medieval Church : Professor Dawson 17th November

1. The Conciliar movement
2. Late medieval churches
3. Late medieval piety
4. Seminar: Marjory Kempe

Week 11: Overview: all lecturers 24th November

1. Overview: all lecturers
 2. Essay returns
 3. Exam preparation
- No seminar on Friday.

Required Reading

The seminar texts are available on the course website and (for purchase) in hard copy form from the School office. These texts are essential preparation for the weekly seminars and also contain a list of suggested background reading for the seminars. The different essay options, which will be posted on the Ecclesiastical History notice board (outside Dr Parvis' office) and on the website, are accompanied by annotated bibliographies to guide reading for the essays.

Further reading

There is no set text for the course but the following general books are recommended as an introduction. Additional guidance on reading is given in the lectures and with the essays.

Some good, scholarly overviews of the period:

Chadwick, Henry, *The Early Church* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1968)

Southern, R.W., *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1970)

These are vols 1 and 2 of *The Penguin History of the Church* – affordable, readable and nice and detailed

Baus. Karl, ed., *Handbook of Church History*, vol. 1, *From the Apostolic Community to Constantine* (London: Burns & Oates, 1965)

_____, *History of the Church*, vol.2, *The Imperial Church from Constantine to the early Middle Ages* (London: Burns & Oates, 1980)

Kempf, Friedrich et al., *Handbook of Church History*, vol. 3, *The Church in the Age of Feudalism* (London: Burns & Oates, 1969)

These volumes in the *Handbook of church history*, ed. Hubert Jedin and John Dolan, provide a detailed and comprehensive study.

Danieéou, Jean, and Henri Marrou, *The First Six Hundred Years, The Christian Centuries*, vol. 1 (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1964)

Knowles, David, and Dmitri Obolensky, *The Middle Ages, The Christian Centuries*, vol. 2 (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1969)

Tanner, Norman P., ed., *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*, vol. 1 (London: Sheed & Ward, 1990)

Livingston, E.A., ed, *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd edn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005) – a useful reference guide, with good articles on many subjects

Specific regions, periods or topics:

Di Berardino, Angelo, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Early Church*, 2 vols (Cambridge: James Clarke, 1992); revised and expanded edn, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, 3 vols (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014)

Ferguson, Everett, ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, 2nd ed. (New York: Garland, 1999)

Kazhdan Alexander, ed, *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, 3 vols (New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991)

Parry, Ken, et al., eds, *The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999)

Frend, W.H.C., *The Rise of Christianity* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1984)

Grillmeier, Aloys, *Christ in the Christian Tradition*, vol. 1, *From the Apostolic Age to Chalcedon (451)*, revised edn (London: Mowbrays, 1975)

Hall, Stuart G., *Doctrine and Practice in the Early Church*, 2nd edn (London: SPCK, 2005)

Kelly, J.N.D., *Early Christian Doctrines*, 5th edn (London: A. & C. Black, 1977)

Kidd, B.J., *History of the Church to A.D. 461*, 3 vols (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1922)

Pelikan, Jaroslav, *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*, 5 vols (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971—89)

Studer, Basil, *Trinity and Incarnation: The Faith of the Early Church* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1993)

Young, Frances M., *The Making of the Creeds* (London: SCM, 2002)

_____, with Andrew Teal, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon: A Guide to the Literature and Its Background*, 2nd edn (London: SCM, 2010)

Atiya, Aziz S., *A History of Eastern Christianity* (London: Methuen, 1968)

Isichei, Elizabeth A., *A History of Christianity in Africa, From Antiquity to the present* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995)
Moffett, Samuel H., *A History of Christianity in Asia*, vols 1--2 (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998—2005))

Lynch, J.H., *The Medieval Church: A Brief History* (London: Longman, 1992)
Thompson, John A.F., *The Western Church in the Middle Ages* (London: Arnold, 1998)

Daniel, Norman, *Islam and the West: The Making of an Image* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1960)
Hillebrand, Carole, *The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999)
Hoyland, Robert, *Seeing Islam as Others Saw It: A Survey and Evaluation of Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian Writings on Early Islam* (Princeton: Darwin Press, 1997)
Southern, R.W., *Western Views of Islam in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1962)

Some general introductions to Christian history:

Chadwick, Owen, *A History of Christianity* (London: Phoenix Illustrated, 1997)
Comby, Jean, *How to Read Church History*, vol. 1, *From the Beginnings to the Fifteenth Century* (London: SCM, 1985)
Hastings, Adrian, ed, *A World History of Christianity* (London: Cassell, 1999)
MacCulloch, Diarmid, *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* (London: Allen Lane, 2009)
_____, *Groundwork of Christian History* (London: Epworth, 1987)
McManners, John, ed., *The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990)

A nice, clear primer for the confused / terrified:

Dowley, Tim, *et al.*, eds, *The History of Christianity*, A Lion Handbook, revised edn (Oxford: Lion, 1990)