

**COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
**Department of Religious Studies**

**RELS 117: History of Christianity 1**  
**Fall 2005**

Joanne M. Pierce, Ph.D.

Section 01: TR 2:00 – 3:15

Office: Smith 423

Office Hours: M 3:00-4:55; T 7:00-8:00 p.m.; R 1:00-1:50; and by appointment

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**Course Description:**

This course provides a survey of the origins and development of Christianity, both its theology and its structure, from the apostolic period to the eve of the Reformation. Special attention will be paid to the evolution of Christian doctrine and worship during the early and medieval periods of Christian history. The interplay between orthodoxy and heterodoxy will be stressed in a close examination of the heretical movements and their impact on the formation of the tradition. The interaction between Church and society will also be addressed.

Upon completion of this course, students should have: mastered a basic knowledge of the structure of Christian history (important figures, periods, dates, events, and geographical areas); gained an understanding of how Christian institutions and theology developed, and how both influenced the development of European/Western civilization; and developed an overall impression of the differing characteristics of each period of Christian history, especially in terms of culture, art, liturgy, and architecture.

**Course Requirements:**

- A. Each student will write one analytical essay (5-6 pages) on certain of the selections from the collections of primary sources covered in the Thursday discussion groups. Students may choose which one of the topics to analyze further. Essays are due in class the Thursday following the discussion groups. Each essay assignment will have its own guide sheet, made available to students in advance of the essay due date. Additional details will be given in class.
- B. Each student will be expected to write one paper (5-6 pages) on a worship service celebrated by one of the traditions under study during the course, e.g. a Jewish service, an Orthodox or Eastern Catholic service, a monastic service (non-eucharistic), or a medieval (Tridentine) Catholic service. Additional details will be given in class.
- C. Each student will take five (5) quizzes on the course material during the semester. Quizzes include **ALL** material (lectures, readings, discussion groups, and videos)

**covered since the last quiz.** Quizzes will be given, on average, every fifth class meeting. The best four (4) out of five (5) quizzes will be counted for the final grade: therefore, students may drop the lowest quiz grade, or choose to skip one of the five quizzes. **Since this is the case, under ordinary circumstances no make-up quizzes will be given.**

- D. Each student will take a final (essay) exam, which will be comprehensive (i.e. cover the entire course). A list of possible essay questions will be distributed at the end of the semester; the final exam essays will be selected from among those essay questions on the list. Additional details will be given in class.
  
- E. With a few exceptions, the bulk of Thursday classes will be reserved for small group discussions, or video presentations. **Discussions:** Students will be divided into small groups for the discussion class. The Placher and/or Harrington books **MUST** be brought to class for discussion assignments. Each discussion topic will have its own guide sheet: that guide sheet will note the specific readings for that day. One student will be chosen to be recorder in each discussion group: this student will take notes on the day's discussion and write up a summary of the group's thoughts. The recorder should post this summary on the appropriate Discussion Board Forum on Blackboard by the following Monday, so that all students may read it. Different students will act as recorder for each Thursday discussion. **Videos:** Videos will be shown on the class day assigned, and will also be left on reserve for students to view outside of class time. Each video will have its own guide sheet; it is strongly recommended that students bring this sheet to class to assist note-taking during the video. **Important:** Students are responsible for the material generated in discussion groups, and that presented in these videos.

#### **Policies:**

- A. **Class attendance is expected.** If at all possible, students are asked to please notify me ahead of time by email or by calling my office and leaving a message if they expect to be absent from a class. Students are responsible for making up work (class notes, hand-outs, etc.) if a class is missed. More than two unexcused absences may cause serious problems in the mastery of course material, and in class participation.
  
- B. Essays and papers are due on the day assigned; late work will receive grading penalties. All assignments are to be typed using standard margins and 11 point font. **Essays and papers must be handed in both in hard copy and by email as an attached electronic file.**
  
- C. Class material, a course calendar, a discussion board, and announcements will all be available on Blackboard. Further details will be given in class.

### **Grading/Evaluation:**

- 25% = Essay (on one discussion/analysis of primary sources)
- 25% = Paper (on worship service)
- 25% = Quiz average (4 out of 5)
- 25% = Final Exam
- 100% = Final Grade

Class participation will also have an influence on the final grade, especially in the case of borderline grades.

### **Required Texts:**

- ▶ Catherine Cory, David Landry, eds. *The Christian Theological Tradition* (2d ed.).
- ▶ Justo González. *The Story of Christianity*, Volume 1.
- ▶ Joel Harrington, ed. *A Cloud of Witnesses: Readings in the History of Western Christianity*.
- ▶ William Placher, ed. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, Volume 1.
- ▶ Timothy Fry, ed. *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*.

**All of these texts are available for purchase in the Bookstore; all except Harrington are/will be on reserve in the library.**

Other reserve or internet materials, as announced.

Video series used:

*Saints and Sinners: The History of the Popes*

*Testament: The Bible and History*

*Art of the Western World*

**Additional readings may be assigned: these may be web sites, handouts, or texts either on ERes or on reserve in the library.** Most course materials will also be available on Blackboard, and reminders or other announcements will be posted there as well.

### **The Bible: Best Versions On-Line**

[www.usccb.org/nab/bible/](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/) (New American Bible)

<http://etext.virginia.edu/rsv/browse.html> (Revised Standard Version)

<http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm> (New Revised Standard Version)

<http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible?version=NIV> (New International Version)

**The Bible: Also Available in Reference, Dinand Library (Main Reading Room, First Floor)**

The Holy Bible (New Revised Standard Version, 1989): Ref. BS 191.5 .A1 1989 N48

The Holy Bible (New International Version, 1984): Ref. BS 195 .N37 1984

**Note:** Materials on the internet are helpful, but these MUST be used with caution. ALWAYS check the source of a document (usually noted at the end of a document with a copyright). Remember that search engines will list all materials that refer to the search term(s), and some of these may be the sheer opinion of private individuals or groups (as opposed to encyclopedia articles, for example). NEVER reply or send comments to a person unknown to you, and be very wary of entering into chat room conversations.

**Note:** *Topic Readings* are assigned from the two textbooks for each topic covered in the syllabus. Students may read these readings before, during, or after the material is covered in class, depending on how they best integrate lecture material with readings. *Source Readings* are usually assigned from the two books of primary source readings (Placher and Harrington) and are designed to provide specific examples or writings from the periods and authors covered within the general topic. *Discussion Readings* are specific primary selections, usually from Placher and/or Harrington, assigned for each of the in-class small group discussions. Often some or all of the discussion readings will overlap with the source readings. Each discussion will follow a discussion guide sheet, made available in advance of the discussion day. That guide sheet will include the page numbers of the specific texts to be covered in the discussion class that day. Class meetings are 75 minutes long. Every class meeting will have a short break some 40 minutes into the class. Many class meetings will have two different “parts,” one before the break and one after. These are noted on the course outline.

### Course Outline:

Week of:

- 1) 9/01 (R)      Thursday: Topic: Introduction to course  
Text Readings: Cory, Chapter 1 and pp. 103-107; González, pp. xv-xviii

(Note: *General religious calendar*:

<http://campusministry.georgetown.edu/calendar/calendar.html>

Eastern Orthodox calendars:

Russian Orthodox: <http://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

Greek Orthodox: <http://www.goarch.org/en/chapel/calendar.asp> )

- 2) 9/06            Tuesday: Topic: The Early Church I  
Text Readings: C, Chapters 5-7; G, pp. 2-48  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 15-18; Harrington, Ch. 1, C. 1, E. 1

Thursday: Part 1: Continue Early Church I  
Part 2: Discussion 1: Martyrdom  
(Note: Thursday 9/08: Nativity of the Theotokos, for Greek Orthodox Christians)

3) 9/13 Tuesday: Topic: Continue Early Church I

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Early Church I (if needed)  
Part 2: **Video: Testament: Gospel Truth**  
(Note: Wednesday 9/14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross, for Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians)

4) 9/20 Tuesday: Part 1: **Quiz 1**  
Part 2: Topic: The Early Church II  
Text Readings: C, Chapter 8; G, pp. 49-108  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 11-12, 14-15; 24-29; 46-47; Harrington, Ch. 1, D. 3 and 5; E. 2.

Thursday: Part 1: Continue Early Church II  
Part 2: Discussion 2: Gnosticism. Focus: Gospel of Thomas and Great Seth

5) 9/27 Tuesday: Topic: Finish Early Church II  
Source Readings: Placher, 22-24; 31-40; Harrington, Ch. 1, A. 4 and 5, B.4, D.4.

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Early Church II (if needed)  
Part 2: **Video: Saints and Sinners I: Upon this Rock**

6) 10/04 Tuesday: Topic: The Imperial Church I  
Text Readings: C, Chapter 9; G, pp. 112-167  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 48-51, 53-62; Harrington Ch.2, B (all)

Thursday: Part 1: **Quiz 2**  
Part 2: Continue Imperial Church I

(Note: Tuesday, 10/04: Rosh Hashanah for Jews;  
<http://judaism.about.com/od/abcsofjudaism/a/calendar05.htm>  
and <http://judaism.about.com/od/highholidays/>

and First of Ramadan for Muslims;

[http://islam.about.com/cs/calendar/a/hijrah\\_calendar\\_3.htm](http://islam.about.com/cs/calendar/a/hijrah_calendar_3.htm)

and <http://islam.about.com/od/holidays/f/holidays.htm>)

7) 10/11

**[Columbus Day: No Class 10/11]**

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Imperial Church I

Part 2: Discussion 3: Trinitarian Theology

(Note on Thursday, 10/13: Yom Kippur, for Jews)

8) 10/18

Tuesday: Topic: The Imperial Church II

Text Readings: C, Chapter 10; G, pp. 168-219

Source Readings: Placher, pp. 101-103, 104 (intro paragraph only), 111-115; Harrington, Ch. 2, C (all).

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Imperial Church II

Part 2: Discussion 4: Augustine's Theology

(Note: Tuesday, 10/18: Succot, for Jews)

9) 10/25

Tuesday: Topic: The Medieval Church I

Text Readings: C, Chapters 11-13; G, pp. 231-276

Source Readings: Harrington, Ch. 2, A. 1 and 2; *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*

On-Line: [www.osb.org](http://www.osb.org) ; [www.spencerabbey.org](http://www.spencerabbey.org) ; [www.cistercian-usa.org](http://www.cistercian-usa.org)

Thursday: Part 1: **Quiz 3**

Part 2: Discussion 5: Monasticism and *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*

(Note: Wednesday, 10/26, is Simchat Torah, for Jews)

(Note: Sunday, 10/30, is Reformation Sunday for some Protestant Christian denominations; others celebrate Reformation Day on Monday, 10/31)

10) 11/01

Tuesday: Part 1: Topic: Finish Medieval Church I

Source Readings: Placher, 63-75; 139-143; Harrington, Ch. 2, E (all)

Part 2: **Guest Lecture: Prof. Mathew Schmalz: Audrey Santos, Relics, and Pilgrimage**

For this lecture: Readings: C, pp. 211-212; Harrington, Ch. 2, D (1, 2); Ch. 4, A.1; and one article on ERes (Schmalz, "The Silent Body of Audrey Santo," listed as Audrey 3)

Thursday: Part 1: Topic: The Medieval Church II

Text Readings: C, Chapters 14-15; G, pp. 277-323

Source Readings: Placher, pp. 153; Harrington, Ch. 3. A (all), B (all), E (all)

Part 2: **Video: *Saints and Sinners II: Between Two Empires***

(Note: 11/01 is All Saints' Day, for Catholics and some other Christian denominations;

<http://catholicism.about.com/od/calendar/a/cathcal05.htm> )

(Note: Wednesday, 11/02 is (Eid) al Fitr, for Muslims)

11) 11/08 Tuesday: Topic: Finish Medieval Church II  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 144-149, 157 (start at Question 2, Article 3)-164; Harrington, Ch. 3, D (all)

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Medieval Church II (if needed)

Thursday: Part 2: Discussion 6: Scholasticism: Anselm and Aquinas

12) 11/15 Tuesday: Part 1: **Quiz 4**  
Part 2: Topic: The Medieval Church III  
Text Readings: C, Chapter 16; G, pp. 324-361  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 171-175, 180; Harrington, Ch. 4, B.1, C (all)

Thursday: Part 1: Continue Medieval Church III

Part 2: **Video: *Saints and Sinners III: Set Over Nations*** (if time allows)

13) 11/22 Tuesday: **Video: Art of the Western World: A White Garment of Churches**  
[Romanesque and Gothic architecture]

[**Thanksgiving Vacation: no class 11/24**]

(Note: Sunday, 11/27, is the first Sunday of Advent, for most Christians)

14) 11/29 Tuesday: Part 1: Topic: Finish Medieval Church III  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 178-180; 185-193; Harrington, Ch. 4, D (all)  
Part 2: Begin Topic: The Renaissance Church

Text Readings: C, Chapter 17 and pp. 245-248; G, pp. 362-374  
Source Readings: Placher, pp. 193-196; Harrington, Ch. 4, A.2, B.2

Thursday: Part 1: Finish Renaissance Church  
Part 2: Discussion 7: Mysticism: Eckhart and Julian

(Note: Sunday, 12/04, is the Second Sunday of Advent)

15) 12/06

Tuesday: Part 1: **Quiz 5**  
Part 2: Discussion 8: Calls for Reform: Wyclif, Hus, Erasmus

(Note: Tuesday, 12/06: Feast of St. Nicholas for Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians)

Note: Thursday, 12/08: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, for Roman Catholics)

**Wednesday 12/07: Study Period Begins**

**Saturday, 12/10: Exam Period Begins**

**(Note: Sunday, 12/11, is the Third Sunday of Advent, called by Roman Catholics Gaudete Sunday; liturgical color ROSE is worn)**

**Final Exam for History of Christianity 1:**

**\*Monday, 12/12, at 2:30 p.m.\***

**(Note: Sunday, 12/18, is the Fourth Sunday of Advent)**

*NOTE: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*