

**COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**RELS 119: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY 2
Spring 2006**

Joanne Pierce, Ph.D.

Section 01: Stein 220
WF 2:00-3:15 pm

Office: Smith 423

Office Hours: W 3:30-4:30 pm;
R 5:30-6:30 pm;
F 11:00-11:50 am; and by appointment

Office Phone: (508) 793-3452

E-Mail: jpierce@holycross.edu

Course Description:

This course provides a survey of the development of Christianity, both its theology and its structures, from the Reformation period to today. Special attention will be paid to the development of the various Protestant traditions, their doctrines and worship. The interplay between Roman Catholicism and the Protestant churches will be discussed. The impact of these Christian traditions on American society will also be addressed.

Upon completion of this course, students should have a basic knowledge of the structure of modern Christian history: important figures, periods, dates, events, and geographical areas, and should gain an understanding of how Christian denominations, with their various institutions and theologies, developed during the last 500 years, and how these both influenced, and were influenced by, the development of European/Western civilization. Students should also be left with an overall impression of the differing characteristics of each period of later Christian theology, especially in terms of culture, art, liturgy, and architecture.

Course Requirements:

- A. Each student will be expected to write one essay on certain primary sources discussed in class. The process of examining and analyzing these sources will be done in two parts; First, each student will participate in seven small group discussions, held regularly during the course. For every discussion: the group must choose one student to act as recorder. He/she should write down the names of the students participating in the group, and copy out a summary of the main ideas brought up during the course of the discussion. Then, he or she **MUST** type out this discussion summary (including the names of the students in the group), and **post it** on the Discussion Board on Blackboard, under the appropriate discussion thread. For a Wednesday discussion, the summary should be posted by that

Saturday; for a Friday discussion, the summary should be posted by the following Tuesday. I will review the summaries and make any comments necessary. Each student MUST take a turn as recorder before any student is asked to do so twice.

Note: Be sure to take your own notes on the small group discussion, and on the full-class sharing of ideas that may follow. **AND:** Students are expected to read the primary selections ahead of time. Be sure to bring the Placher and Harrington books to class that day. Discussion will center on the actual primary source texts themselves.

Second, during the semester, each student will write one analytical reflection essay (5-6 pages) on a topic covered in any ONE of these seven small group discussions. Students may choose WHICH one of the topics to analyze further. Each essay assignment will have its individual due date, staggered through the semester. Each essay assignment will also have its own guide sheet, made available to students on **Blackboard** under **Course Materials**. Additional details will be given in class

B. Each student will be expected to write one longer paper (5-6 pages) on a worship service celebrated by one of the traditions under study during the course, e.g. a Lutheran service, a Congregational service, a Baptist service. A guide sheet for this paper will be available on **Blackboard** under **Course Materials**. Additional details will be given in class.

C. Each student will take five (5) quizzes on the course material during the semester. Quizzes cover ALL material: lectures, readings, discussion groups, and videos. The best four of the five quiz scores will be averaged and included in the final grade (see below): therefore a student 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.

NOTE: Videos will also be left on reserve (in the Multi Media Resource Center, 3d floor of Stein) for students to view outside of class time. Students are responsible for the material presented in these videos; guide sheets for each video can be found on **Blackboard** in a folder under **Course Materials**. It is a good idea to look the guide sheet over ahead of time; the guide sheet should also be used in class to assist students in taking notes on the video.

Class Policies:

- A. Class attendance is expected. If at all possible, please call my office and leave a message if you expect to be absent from a class. The student is 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 understanding course material.
- B. Summaries and papers are due on the day assigned; unexcused late work will receive grading penalties. All assignments are to be typed using standard margins and an 11 or 12 point font. Summaries must be posted in the appropriate folder under **Discussion Board** on **Blackboard**. Papers must be turned in under two forms: a printed hard copy and an e-file as an email attachment.
- C. Most class material will be available on **Blackboard**. This includes many handouts, discussion guide sheets, video guide sheets, a guide sheet for the worship service visit, and a review list for the entire course.

Grading/Evaluation:

25%	= Quiz Average (4 out of 5)
25%	= Essay (on primary source readings)
25%	= Paper (on worship service visit)
<u>25%</u>	<u>= Final Exam</u>
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, *et. al.* *The Christian Theological Tradition* (2d ed.).

Justo González. *The Story of Christianity*. Volume 2: *The Reformation to the Present Day*.

Joel Harrington, *Cloud of Witnesses: Readings in the History of Western Christianity*.

William Placher, ed. *Readings in the History of Christian Theology*, Volume 2.

Martin Luther. *Christian Liberty*.

All of these texts are available for purchase in the Bookstore. Additional readings may be assigned: these may include web sites, handouts, or other materials available on ERes or on **Blackboard**.

Video series or individual documentaries used:

Art of the Western World (Episode: The Baroque)
The Shakers: Hands to Work, Hearts to God (dir. Ken Burns)
Saints and Sinners: The Papacy (Episodes IV, V, VI)

Class Reading:

Topic Readings are assigned 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. *Discussion Readings* are specific primary selections, usually from Placher and/or Harrington, assigned for each of the in-class small group discussions. The specific selections to be read for each discussion can be found on the discussion guide sheet for that topic. As mentioned above, these can be found on **Blackboard** under **Course Materials**. Please review these readings ahead of time, before the day of the class discussion.

Course Outline

Week of:

- 1) Jan. 18 Introduction: The Eve of the Reformation
Topic Readings: González, pp. 6-13, Cory, pp. 241-244; and Ch. 17; Ch. 16 recommended; Harrington Ch. 4 A.1, and Ch. 5 A.1

- 2) Jan. 25 The Reformation: Martin Luther
Topic Readings: G, pp. 14-46; C, Ch. 18; Placher, pp. 11-19, 23-26;
Harrington, Ch. 5 A.2, B.1
Friday 1/27: Discussion 1: Luther: *Christian Liberty*

- 3) Feb. 1 The Reformation: Zwingli and Calvin, Anabaptists
Topic Readings: G, pp. 46-70; C, Ch. 19 to p. 283; P, rest of Ch. 1 and pp. 59-69; H, Ch. 5 B.2, C.1, C.2, C3
Quiz 1 on 2/03
Friday 2/03: Discussion 2: Zwingli and the Radical Reformation

- 4) Feb. 8 Finish: Calvin (if necessary)
 Begin: The Reformation: England and Europe
 Topic Readings: G, pp. 70-110; C, pp. 283-290; P, pp. 69-71; H, Ch. 5
 A.3, E.1
 Friday 2/10: TBA
- 5) Feb. 15 The Catholic Reformation
 Topic Readings: G, pp. 110-125; C, Ch. 20; P, pp. 38-49; H, Ch. 5 B.3,
 D.1, 2 and 5
 Friday 2/17: Video: *Saints and Sinners IV: Protest and Division*
- 6) Feb. 22 The Thirty Years' War/Puritanism
 Topic Readings: G, pp. 128-163; P, pp. 75-79; H, Ch. 6 A.1 and 2
 Quiz 2 on 2/24
 Friday 2/24: Discussion 3: Calvinism in England
- 7) Mar. 1 Finish Puritanism
 Friday 3/03: No Class
 View on Reserve: Video: *Art of the Western World: Realms of Light:
 The Baroque*
- 8) Mar. 8 **[Spring Break Week: No Classes]**
- 9) Mar. 15 Catholic and Protestant "Orthodoxy"
 Topic Readings: G, pp. 164-185; C, Ch. 21; P, pp. 34-37, 66-69, 52-57;
 H, Ch. 6 B.1 and 2
 Friday 3/17: Video: *Saints and Sinners V: The Pope and the People*
- 10) Mar. 22 **Quiz 3 on 3/22**
 Options: Rationalist, Spiritualist, Pietist

Topic Readings: G, pp. 185-216; C, Ch. 22, to p. 329; P, pp. 79-106; H
Ch. 6, A.3; C.2; D.1 and 2

Friday 3/24: Discussion 4: Pietist and Spiritualist Reactions

11) Mar. 29

The Thirteen Colonies

Topic Readings: G, pp. 217-231; C, Ch. 23 to p. 353; P, 107-113; H, Ch.
6 B.3, Ch. 7 B.1

19th Century Summary: U.S., England

Topic Readings: G, pp. 234-261, 271-273; C, pp. 329-339; P, pp. 115-
126; H, Ch. 7 C, D.2 and 3

Friday 3/31: No Class

View on Reserve: Video: *The Shakers: Hands to Work, Hearts to God*

12) Apr. 5

19th Century: Protestant and Catholic Theology

Topic Readings: G, pp. 282-302; C, Ch. 22, to p. 329, pp. 353-359; P,
pp. 139-145, 149-155, 165-167; H, Ch. 8 A.1 and 2, B.2, and 3, C.1 and
2

Friday 4/07: Discussion 5: American Theology Sampler

13) Apr. 12

20th Century: Roman Catholicism

Topic Readings: G, pp. 345-355; C, Ch. 24, to p. 367; P, pp. 176-181

Quiz 4 on 4/12

Friday 4/14: No Class [Easter Break]

View on Reserve: Video: *Saints and Sinners VI: The Oracles of God*

14) Apr. 19

20th Century: Protestantism

Topic Readings: G, pp. 360-387; P, pp. 156-164, 167-176; H, Ch. 9 A.2
and 3, D.1, 2 and 4

Wednesday 4/19: Discussion 6: Trends in Nineteenth-Century
Theology

15) Apr. 26

Finish 20th Century, if necessary; then:
Ecumenism and Liberation Theology

Topic Readings: G, pp. 388-398; C, pp. 367-378; P, pp. 190-195, 197-200; H, Ch. 9 E.1 and 2; Ch. 10 A.1, 2 and 3; B. 1 and 2

Quiz 5 on 4/28

Friday 4/28: Discussion 7: Trends in Twentieth-Century Theology

16) 5/03: **No Class [Study Days Begin 5/03]**

17) **Final Exam: Tuesday, May 9 at 8:30 am
Stein 220**

Note: Saturday, 5/06: Final Exams Begin
Saturday, 5/13: Final Exams End

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