

CH 2030 – History of Christianity I
Working Syllabus
Fall 2010

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Course Description

This survey course will cover the major social, cultural, and theological themes in Western Christianity from apostolic times (c. 33 C.E.) to the eve of the Reformation (c. 1517 C.E.). The course will examine core theological issues and doctrinal developments as reflected in the lives and struggles of women and men who have shaped the evolution of the faith. The course will also focus on the challenges and opportunities facing the church throughout the centuries.

Specific Learning Goals

- Obtain a general familiarity with key events, individuals, and ideas from the history of Western Christianity from apostolic times to the eve of the Reformation.
- Discover voices and perspectives that have been marginalized or silenced in the past.
- Research and critically assess primary source historical documents.
- This course will honor multicultural worldviews, respect the contributions by multiple voices, and be taught with a commitment to anti-racism.

Course Requirements

30% Attendance and active participation in class
30% Weekly posts on Blackboard
10% 10-minute class presentation
15% First paper (4-5 pages)
15% Second paper (4-5 pages)

Pass/Fail Option

Those who are taking this course on a pass/fail basis need to inform me by the end of class on Wednesday, November 3rd. The pass/fail grading system is:

Pass: B or better
Marginal Pass: B-
Fail: Lower than B-

D.Min. Students (Permission By Instructor Required)

Course work for all Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students must demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, and the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry. D.Min. students are encouraged to focus their course work on a particular subject germane to their anticipated thesis project.

Required Texts and Materials

The following required texts and materials are available for purchase through the EDS online bookstore or the Harvard Coop. They are also available on reserve at Sherrill Library.

Texts:

- Robert Bruce Mullin, *A Short World History of Christianity* (Mullin)
- Church Publishing, *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* (HWHM)
- Kenneth Curtis et al., *The 100 Most Important Events in Christian History* (Curtis)
- Tony Lane, *A Concise History of Christian Thought* (Lane)

Materials:

- John D. Hannah, *The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Church History, Vol. 2* (Hannah II)
- John D. Hannah, *The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Church History, Vol. 3* (Hannah III)
- Rose Publishing, *Christian History Time Line* (Timeline)

The other required readings for the course are marked with † in the course schedule below and are available on reserve and/or on Blackboard.

Extensions

Students who cannot finish their papers on time must send a petition for an extension to the Registrar, Penny Kohn, at pkohn@eds.edu.

Course Schedule

Below is the tentative course schedule, which is subject to change during the semester. Please note that the readings marked with † below are available on reserve and/or Blackboard.

Week 1 – September 8

Please read the following before our first class meeting:

Introduction

- † Richard A. Horsley, “Introduction,” in *A People’s History of Christianity*, vol. 1, 1-5
- Timeline (review AD 1 to 1400)
- Curtis 7-9 (focus on 64 to 1512 C.E.)
- † William M. Kondrath, *God’s Tapestry* 253-56 (focus on 60 to 1492 C.E.)

The first weekly post on Blackboard is due at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14th.

Week 2 – September 15

Class “show and tell” presentations start this week.

Life of Jesus; Daily Life in the Roman Empire

- Mullin, 3-13 (chapter 1)
- Timeline AD 1
- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany (HWHM 492-93)

- † Richard A. Horsley, “Introduction,” in *A People’s History of Christianity*, vol. 1, 5-10
- † Carolyn Osiek, “Family Matters,” in *A People’s History of Christianity*, vol. 1, 201-15
- † Steven J. Friesen, “Economic Inequality in the Roman Empire,” in *A People’s History of Christianity*, vol. 1, 240-44
- † Nancy Wilson, *Our Tribe* 134-48

Week 3 – September 22

Paul and the Early Church; Early Christian Women and Slaves

- Mullin 14-25 (chapter 2)
- Timeline AD 1; Hannah II 4-6
- St. Paul (HWHM 188-89)
- Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe (HWHM 192-93)
- † Mary T. Malone, “Early Christian Women,” in *Women & Christianity*, vol. 1, 64-85
- † Barbara J. MacHaffie, “Ministries of Women in the Early Churches,” in *Her Story* 9-20
- † Carolyn Osiek and Margaret Macdonald, “Female Slaves: Twice Vulnerable,” *A Woman’s Place* 95-117

Week 4 – September 29

Apologists; Heretics

- Mullin 26-37 (chapter 3)
- Timeline 100; Hannah II 10-16
- Justin Martyr (HWHM 400-01, Curtis 17-19, Lane 10-11)
- Irenaeus (HWHM 444-45, Curtis 22-23, Lane 12-14)
- Tertullian (Curtis 24-25, Lane 14-18)
- † Barbara R. Rossing, “New Prophecy,” in *A People’s History of Christianity*, vol. 1, 280-86

Week 5 – October 6

Martyrs; Theologians

- Mullin 38-49 (chapter 4)
- Timeline 200
- Fire in Rome (Curtis 13-15)
- Polycarp (HWHM 238-39, Curtis 19-21)
- Perpetua and Companions (HWHM 262-63)
- Clement of Alexandria (HWHM 582-83, Lane 18-20)
- Origen (Curtis 26-28, Lane 20-23)
- Cyprian (HWHM 582-83, Curtis 28-29, Lane 24-27)
- † “The Martyrdom of Perpetua,” in *Her Story* 33-36.

Week 6 – October 13

Constantine; Monasticism

- Mullin 53-63 (chapter 5)
- Timeline 300; Hannah II 17, 28-29
- Antony (HWHM 172-73, Curtis 30-31)
- Constantine (Curtis 32-34)
- Holy Cross Day and Helena (HWHM 580-81)
- Jerome (HWHM 614-15, Curtis 45-47, Lane 45-47)

- † Laura Swan, *The Forgotten Desert Mothers* 20-34, 40-63 (Amma Syncletica)

Week 7 – October 20

Councils and Creeds

- Mullin 64-72 (chapter 6)
- Timeline 400; Hannah II 17-25
- Councils of Nicea and Constantinople (Curtis 34-36, Lane 28-31, 39-41)
- Athanasius (HWHM 356-57, Curtis 36-38, Lane 31-34)
- John Chrysostom (HWHM 578-79, Curtis 43-45, Lane 44-45)
- Council of Chalcedon (Curtis 49-50, Lane 60-62, Curtis 49-50)
- Apostles' Creed (Lane 62-63)
- † Ute E. Eisen, *Women Officeholders in Early Christianity*, 199-216 (bishops)

No classes October 27

Week 8 – November 3

First paper due by 5:00 p.m. (text from weeks 1-7).

Augustine; Christianity in Africa

- Mullin 72-76 (chapter 6)
- Timeline 400; Hannah II 25-28
- Ambrose (HWHM 106-07, Curtis 38-40, Lane 42-43)
- Monnica (HWHM 358-59)
- Augustine (HWHM 544-45, Curtis 41-43, Lane 47-53)
- † Thomas C. Oden, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind* 42-61
- † Shelley P. Haley, "Be Not Afraid of the Dark: Critical Race Theory and Classical Studies," in *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings*, 27-34, 41-49

Week 9 – November 10

Christianity in the British Isles; Missionaries; Benedict's Rule

- Mullin 85-87 (chapter 7)
- Timeline 500; Hannah II 29-31; Hannah III 4-7
- Patrick (HWHM 272-73, Curtis 47-48)
- Benedict of Nursia (HWHM 456-57, Curtis 50-52, Lane 97-100)
- Columba (HWHM 416-17, Curtis 52-53)
- Gregory the Great (HWHM 268-69, Curtis 54-55, Lane 100-03)
- Augustine of Canterbury (HWHM 388-89)
- Hilda (HWHM 686-87, Curtis 56-57)
- Venerable Bede (HWHM 386-87, Curtis 60-62)
- Boniface (HWHM 408-09, Curtis 58-60)
- † S.M. Houghton, *Sketches From Church History* 39-46

- Week 10 – November 17
- Rise of Islam; Holy Roman Empire; Christianity in Asia
- Mullin 77-85, 87-90 (chapter 7), 93-97 (chapter 8)
 - Timeline 600-900; Hannah III 8-13
 - Tours (Curtis 62-64)
 - Charlemagne (Curtis 64-66)
 - † Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, “Expansion of the Christian Movement in India, Central Asia, and China,” in *History of the World Christian Movement*, vol. 1, 305-22
 - † “Church of the East Inscription at Xian” and “Chinese Christian Sutras,” in John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk, *Readings in World Christian History*, vol. 1, 243-51

No classes November 24

- Week 11 – December 1
- Great Schism; Medieval Reformation; Crusades
- Mullin 97-105 (chapter 8)
 - Timeline 1000-1110; Hannah III 14-21
 - Great Schism (Curtis 70-71)
 - Anselm of Canterbury (HWHM 334-35, Curtis 71-72, Lane 105-07)
 - Peter Abelard (Lane 108-10)
 - First Crusade (Curtis 73-74)
 - Aelred (HWHM 166-67)
 - Hildegard (HWHM 588-89)
 - † Hildegard, “The Visions of St. Hildegard” in *In Her Words* 107-13
 - † John Boswell, *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe* 180-98

- Week 12 – December 8
- Scholastics; Mystics
- Mullin 106-18 (chapter 9)
 - Timeline 1200-1300; Hannah III 22-27
 - Francis of Assisi (HWHM 622-23, Curtis 79-80, Lane 118-20)
 - Fourth Lateran Council (Curtis 80-81, Lane 116-20)
 - Thomas Aquinas (HWHM 194-95, Curtis 82-83, Lane 122-27)
 - Catherine of Siena (HWHM 350-51, Curtis 84-85, Lane 134-35)
 - Julian of Norwich (HWHM 362-63)
 - † Catherine of Siena, “To Gregory XI,” in *Her Story* 86-88
 - † Julian of Norwich, “Jesus As Mother,” in *Her Story* 84-86

- Week 13 – December 15
- Eve of the Protestant Reformation; Conclusion
- Timeline 1400; Hannah III 28-32

- John Wyclif (HWHM 658-59, Curtis 86-87, Lane 135-38)
- John Hus (HWHM 454-55, Curtis 87-89, Lane 138-40)
- Gutenberg (Curtis 89-90)
- Inquisition (Curtis 91-92)
- Savonarola (Curtis 93-94)
- Michelangelo (Curtis 94-95)
- Jeanne D'Arc (HWHM 394-95)
- † Paul Spickard and Kevin M. Cragg, "Transformation and Renaissance," in *A Global History of Christians* 146-70

December 21

Second paper due by 5:00 p.m. (text from weeks 8-13).

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Appendix A

The additional required readings for this course (marked with † above) are available on reserve and/or Blackboard. They are taken from the following books:

- John Boswell, *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe* (1994).
- John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk, eds., *Readings in World Christian History*, vol. 1 (2004).
- Ute E. Eisen, *Women Officeholders in Early Christianity* (2000).
- Richard A. Horsley, *A People's History of Christianity*, vol. 1 (2005).
- S.M. Houghton, *Sketches From Church History: An Illustrated Account of 20 Centuries of Christ's Power* (1980).
- Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement*, vol. 1 (2001).
- William M. Kondrath, *God's Tapestry: Understanding and Celebrating Differences* (2008).
- Barbara J. MacHaffie, ed., *Her Story: Women in Christian Tradition*, 2nd ed. (2006).
- Mary T. Malone, *Women & Christianity*, vol. 1 (2000).
- Laura Nasrallah and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, eds., *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings: Investigating Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Early Christian Studies* (2009).
- Amy Oden, ed., *In Her Words: Women's Writings in the History of Christian Thought* (1994).
- Thomas Oden, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity* (2007).
- Carolyn Osiek et al., *A Woman's Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity* (2006).
- Paul R. Spickard and Kevin M. Cragg, *A Global History of Christians: How Everyday Believers Experienced Their World* (1994).
- Laura Swan, *The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women* (2001).
- Nancy Wilson, *Our Tribe: Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Bible* (1995).