

HIST 328: THE EARLY CHURCH TO 395
SYLLABUS FOR FALL 2007
TTH 12:35-1:50 BUS 111

INSTRUCTOR:

Prof. Megan Williams
Office: Science 267B
Office hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm and by appointment
Contact: mhw@sfsu.edu

DESCRIPTION: Christian Church from its beginnings to the death of Theodosius I. Christian origins; orthodoxy and “Gnosticism”; the phenomenon of martyrdom; origins of monasticism; Trinitarian controversies; Church and Empire in the East.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/mwilliams/hist328>

BOOKS ORDERED:

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. 3rd ed. Eerdmans, 2003.
Rousseau, Philip. *The Early Christian Centuries*. Longman, 2002.
The HarperCollins Study Bible: Revised and Expanded. HarperCollins, 2006.
Bart Ehrman, ed. *After the New Testament: A Reader in Early Christianity*. OUP, 1998.
Eusebius. *History of the Church*. Penguin: 1999.
Rusch, William, ed. *The Trinitarian Controversy*. Augsburg Fortress, 1980.
Athanasius. *Life of Anthony and Letter to Marcellinus*. Tr. Robert Gregg. Paulist, 1979.

COURSE POLICIES:

WEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE FINAL GRADE:

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| Participation (attendance and participation in discussions) | 5% |
| Quizzes (5 at 5% each) | 25% |
| Abstract (150 words) | 5% |
| Research proposal (5 pages) | 15% |
| Research paper (10-15 pages; graduate students: 20-25 pages) | 50% |

MISSED EXAMS, LATE PAPERS, ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES:

Written assignments are to be submitted either in class or on iLearn, as specified in the syllabus, at 12:35 pm on the due date. Late papers will be penalized one full grade for every 24 hours late or fraction thereof, beginning at 1:00 pm on the due date. Papers submitted four or more days after the deadline will receive a grade of F.

One missed quiz may be made up with a 5-page paper summarizing the material covered by that quiz, due the class meeting immediately after the quiz. Other make-up tests will be given, late papers and absences excused, only in the case of **emergencies (written documentation required)** and **at the instructor’s discretion**.

BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM:

Students who engage in **disruptive behavior** (e.g., talking or making noise during lecture, leaving cell phones on during class, interrupting the instructor or other students, speaking at great length during discussions, etc.) will be asked to **leave the room** for the remainder of the class meeting.

Do not make a habit of coming to class late or leaving early as it is distracting to the instructor and to other students. Please arrange your schedule so that this will not be necessary except under exceptional circumstances.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Dishonesty in the form of cheating or plagiarism is unfair to your fellow students and is **prohibited** by the San Francisco State University Student Code of Conduct.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying other students' work and helping other students to cheat. **All exams in this course will be closed-book; you may have only blank blue books and pens or pencils during the exam.**

Plagiarism means using someone else's work without proper acknowledgment (see http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html for further discussion of the concept, and more resources).

Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from a failing grade on the specific assignment to expulsion from the University. **All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported** to the Department Chair and College Dean.

Students are responsible for knowing the SFSU regulations on cheating and plagiarism: see <http://www.sfsu.edu/~helpdesk/docs/rules/conduct.htm>.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ACCOMMODATION:

The Disability Programs and Resources Center (DPRC) provides academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. In order to receive accommodation through the ADA, you must make a formal request through the DPRC in SSB 110 (415-338-2472). If you are registered with the DPRC, **please let me know immediately** so that I can be prepared to accommodate you.

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Please speak with me after the first class regarding alternative assignments if you are taking HIST 325 for graduate credit.

WEEK 1 Background

Tuesday (8/27)

Introduction; geography and climate; the Roman empire

Thursday (8/30)

Video: *From Jesus to Christ*, episode 1

Reading: Ferguson, 48-136

WEEK 2

Tuesday (9/4)

Mediterranean religions

Reading: Ferguson, 161-234; Apuleius, *Golden Ass*, book 11 (e-reserve)

Thursday (9/6)

Early Judaism

Reading: Ferguson, 373-405, 480-501; HCSB, 4 Ezra

WEEK 3 30-65

Tuesday (9/11)

Quiz 1

The New Testament as historical evidence

Reading: Ferguson, 502-532, 538-546; Rousseau, 7-22

Thursday (9/13)

Paul's career and the first Jesus followers

Reading: Rousseau, 23-46; HCSB, Galatians

WEEK 4 65-70

Tuesday (9/18)

Discussion 1: Paul

Reading: HCSB, 1 Corinthians

Thursday (9/20)

The Gospels

Reading: Rousseau, 47-64; HCSB, Gospel of Mark

WEEK 5 75-100

Tuesday (9/25)

Jesus and the Jesus movements to 100 CE

Reading: HCSB, Matthew 1-2, 5-7, 13, 21.1-11, 24-25, 26.47-56, 27.45-end;

Luke 1-2, 6.17-49, 9.57-62, 10.25-42, 15.1-7, 19.28-44, 22.47-53, 23.39-end

(Bible); compare parallel passages between Mt, Lk, and Mk

Thursday (9/27)

Library research session (MANDATORY)

Meet at the library

WEEK 6 100-140

Tuesday (10/2)

Quiz 2

Video: *From Jesus to Christ*, episode 2

Reading: HCSB: Gen. 1-3; John 1.1-18, 2.13-25 (cf. parallels in Mt, Mk, Lk), 4.1-26, 12.12-19, 14-17, 19.28-end; Acts 1-2, 5.1-11, 9.1-22, 10-11.18, 14-15

Thursday (10/4)

Social structure and dynamics of early Christian groups; “Gnosticism”

Reading: Hopkins, “Christian Number” (e-reserve); Ferguson, 300-315, 319-325; Ehrman, 237-244: Gospel of Thomas

WEEK 7 140-180

Tuesday (10/9)

Discussion 2: Acts of Thecla; Eusebius as historian

Reading: Ehrman, 278-284: Acts of Thecla; Eusebius, books 1 and 2

Thursday (10/11)

Abstracts due on iLearn

“Orthodoxy” and the episcopal model; rise of the bishop

Reading: Rousseau, 84-103, 124-136; Ehrman, 325-328: Ignatius; HCSB: 1 Timothy; Eusebius, book 3

WEEK 8 180-220

Tuesday (10/16)

Church, gender, and society

Reading: Rousseau, 103-123; Ehrman, 387-399: Clement, The Instructor, selection; Eusebius, books 4 and 5

Thursday (10/18)

Discussion 3: Acts of Perpetua

Reading: Ehrman, 42-50: Martyrdom of Perpetua

WEEK 9 220-313

Tuesday (10/23)

Quiz 3

Origen and “Alexandrian Christianity”

Reading: Rousseau, 136-152; Ehrman, 369-382: Origen, Homilies on Luke and Genesis; Ehrman, 413-430: selections from *On First Principles*; Eusebius, book 6

Thursday (10/25)

Martyrdom and the consequences of persecution

Reading: Ferguson, 97-108, 360-369, 547-549, 556-571; Rousseau, 153-167; Ehrman, 82-94: Origen, selections from *Against Celsus*; Ehrman, 430-435: Novatian, *On the Trinity*; Eusebius, books 7 and 8

WEEK 10 313-325

Tuesday (10/30)

Constantine and the Church

Reading: Rousseau, 214-220; Eusebius, books 9 and 10

Thursday (11/1)

Discussion 2: Eusebius as church historian

No reading; prepare Eusebius, *Church History*

WEEK 11 313-325 II

Tuesday (11/6)

Quiz 4

Early Arianism

Reading: Rousseau, 220-224; Trinitarian Controversy, 29-44

Thursday (11/8)

No class

Research paper conferences

WEEK 12

Tuesday (11/13)

No class

Research paper conferences

Thursday (11/15)

No class

Research proposals due on iLearn

Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 13

Tuesday (11/27) 325-379

The Council of Nicea and its aftermath

Reading: Rousseau, 224-231; Trinitarian Controversy, 51-62

Thursday (11/29)

Asceticism and monasticism

Reading: start Life of Anthony; Anthony, Letters (e-reserve)

WEEK 14

Tuesday (12/4)

Discussion 4: Life of Anthony

Reading: finish Life of Anthony; Pachomian Rule (e-reserve)

Thursday (12/6)

Eastern Christian thought: Athanasius and the Cappadocians

Reading: Trinitarian Controversy, 63-130

WEEK 15 379-395

Tuesday (12/11)

Quiz 5 (20 minutes)

Theodosius I and the triumph of Nicea

Reading: Trinitarian Controversy, 131-147; Canons of Constantinople I

Thursday (12/13)

Research papers due in class

Conclusion: church and emperor after Theodosius I

Reading: Ambrose, text TBD