



Global Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: REL-250 Ancient and Medieval Christian Thought

Department: Humanities

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus

| Course Summary | | |
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| Course Code | Course Title | Recommended Credit Hours |
| REL-250 | Ancient and Medieval Christian Thought | 3 |
| Subject | Contact Hours | Prerequisites |
| Religion | 42-45 | None |
| Department | Level of Course | Language of Instruction |
| Humanities | Lower-Division | English |

Course Description

Early and medieval Christian Thought focuses upon the development of Christian thinking from the apostolic times to the eve of the Protestant Reformation. It centers on those individuals of the period who influenced thinking and practice in their as well as subsequent times. It also focuses upon important historical, social and political events that interacted with Christian doctrines throughout the centuries.

GLS students taking this course will have a chance to visit important Christian historical sites in Cyprus such as the St. Lazarus church, the St. Barnabas church and tomb, Salamina and Pafos where Sts. Paul and Barnabas preached Christianity, several UNESCO churches and at least one monastery. In addition, students will visit Athens, Rome, Rhodes (home of the Crusaders), the island of Patmos, where St. John wrote the book of the Apocalypse, and other religious and historical sites. The purpose of these visits is for the students to put their knowledge of Early Christianity in a real-life perspective.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

None

Instructor Information

Dr. Andreas Jacovides (Jakovljevic) holds a position in the Department of Liberal Arts. He is also the Director of the Kykko Monastic Research Center. He has a Ph.D. in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. He has published many historical books and collections of archived material and organized several conferences including the latest one on Inter-Cultural Religions. A native of Serbia, he is fluent in English, Greek, Serbian and Russian.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will understand Christianity in a historical perspective:

- a) starting with the birth of Jesus Christ
- b) followed by His teachings
- c) the early heretical movements
- d) the role of the Church Fathers in the formulation of the Christian faith
- e) Byzantine and Latin Christendom, and
- f) how different trends and movements have developed in Christianity.

Course Outline

Classroom Sessions:

- 1 Christian Theological Terminology
Intro to the History of Christian Theology
- 2 The Hope of Israel. The Tribes of Yahweh. Jesus in Context
- 3 The Mission to the Gentiles. The Second Coming. Jews and Greeks. Beginnings of Christology.
- 4 The Beginnings of Orthodoxy. The First Heresie
- 5 The Apologists, the "Defenders" of Christianity
- 6 The Means of Salvation. The Road to Nicaea. The Holy Trinity. Chalcedon
- 7 MID-TERM EXAM
- 8 Eastern Theology After Chalcedon. Emperors and Icons. Theology in the Eastern Byzantine Empire
- 9 St. Augustine
- 10 Early Middle Ages. The Path to Salvation. Monasticism. Sacraments and Saints. Popes and Emperors
- 11 High Middle Ages. The Introduction of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas into Western Europe
- 12 Late Middle Ages. The Absolute Power of God
- 13 Martin Luther. Radical Reformation
- 14 Calvin: The English Reformation
- 15 FINAL EXAM

Tasks and Assignments

In addition to a mid-term and a final exam, students on this course will have to submit a paper

The paper may be a library research paper or it may be a paper focusing on any of the sites visited. In any case, the paper should integrate material covered in the course and should be referenced.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading

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| Mid-Term Examination | 30 % |
| Final Examination | 40 % |
| Paper | 20 % |
| Attendance | 10 % |

Readings and Resources

Required Textbook

Placher, William C. A History of Christian Theology: An Introduction. Philadelphia, PA.: Westminster Press, 1983.

Recommended Additional Reading

Gonzalez, Justo L. The Story of Christianity: Volume 1: The Early Church to the Reformation. San Francisco: Harper, 1984.

Ferguson, Everett. Backgrounds of Early Christianity. W.B. Eerdmans, 2003.

Chadwick, Henry. The Early Church (Penguin History of the Church, 1). Penguin Books, 1990.

Jeffers, James S. The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament. Exploring the Background of Early Christianity. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Other published sources related to Christian iconography and art will also be used.

All additional material listed here are available in the close reserve section of the Intercollege Library under REL-250.

Other Academic Policies

Perfect attendance is encouraged. Students missing classes are still responsible for the material covered. If attendance falls below 80%, students will be withdrawn from the course. The attendance policy applies also to the site visits.

Materials and Supplies

No additional materials or supplies are required for this course.