

Martyrs, Monks, and Missionaries: World Christian History c. 100-1300

WOH 3233 Summer A, 2023—Monday-Friday 2:00-3:15 PM Flint 0117



Instructor Information

Instructor

Ethan Williamson

Email

ethanjwilliamson@ufl.edu

Office Location & Hours

Flint 009, 3:30-4:30, Tuesday and
Thursday

General Information

Description

This course surveys the history of world Christianity from its status as a persecuted minority religion of the Roman Empire to its position of dominance in the civilizations of medieval Europe and Byzantium. We will study not only the emerging western (Latin) tradition but Christian traditions in Asia and Africa as well reflecting the wide geographical and cultural scope of ancient and medieval Christianity. In addition to examining major figures, institutions, and ideas, we will pay special attention to issues of unity and diversity within the Christian movement; the relationship between Christianity and culture; the "losers" as well as the "winners" in theological debates; Christian encounters with pagans, Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists; the roles of women in the church; and various expressions of spirituality which flourished in the Middle Ages.

Course Outcomes

Students who take this class will:

- Learn how Christian narratives and practices developed that connected people across time and space.
- Be able to engage critically with both primary and secondary sources in history.
- Gain insight into how people, places, and events exist in context of global pasts.
- Have a broad understanding of Christian history as world history and the variety of historical skills necessary to think critically with the past.
- Improve their abilities to articulate ideas clearly and concisely through assignments, discussions, and readings.

Requirements and Assignments

Grade Breakdown

Reading Journals, Attendance, and Discussion Participation (20%)

Primary Source Analysis 1 (20%)

Primary Source Analysis 2 (20%)

Midterm (20%)

Final (20%)

Reading Journals, Attendance, and Discussion Participation (60 points)

This is a reading intensive summer course. Since we have a lot to cover in a short period of time, your attendance and participation in the class discussions will be essential. Every class we will discuss primary sources, with Fridays dedicated to special discussion topics. **Please complete the readings assigned for each date before we meet.** Readings that are not in either the text or the reader will either be posted on Canvas or hyperlinked here in the syllabus. Each week you will write a brief, one page reflection over the readings and content you covered in the unit. Draw from your discussion to identify what you believe are the key takeaways. You may want to explain what you found most interesting or ask questions about material that you found confusing. I will read these address any common questions or concerns the following week.

Primary Source Analysis Papers (120 points)

Students will be required to write two short papers (3 pages each) analyzing a primary source from the course. This is an opportunity to really dig into sources that interest you. Further details about these assignments will be posted to Canvas.

Midterm and Final Exams (120 points)

The mid-term and final exams will include a combination of objective questions (multiple choice/short-answer/identifications) and essays. These exams will be designed to test both mastery of significant details (who, what, when, where) of the history the course covers and students' ability to synthesize details and themes in support of a coherent argument. **Please bring your own blue books to class for the exams.**

Course Materials

Required Texts

Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement*, Volume 1 [TEXT]

John W. Coakley & Andrea Sterk, eds., *Readings in World Christian History* [READER]

Recommended Text

St. Augustine, *Confessions* (Penguin edition)

Grading Scale

A	4.0	100-93	Exceptional	C	2.0	76-73	Serious errors
A-	3.67	92-90	Very good	C-	1.67	72-70	Near failing
B+	3.33	89-87	Better than good	D+	1.33	69-67	
B	3.0	86-83	Competent	D	1.0	66-63	
B-	2.67	82-80	Almost good	D-	0.67	62-60	
C+	2.33	79-77	Below standard	E	0.00	59-0	

Resources and References

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Writing Studio

The University Writing Studio is located in Turlington 2215 and is available to all UF students. Free appointments can be made up to twice a week. They are currently offering online appointments. See <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> to learn more.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits plagiarism and defines it as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code, which can be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>.

Students in Distress

For guidance during distressing situations, please contact U Matter We Care or the Dean of Students Office. They can help students navigate resources and academic procedures for personal, medical, and academic issues.

U Matter We Care: <http://umatter.ufl.edu>, umatter@ufl.edu, 352-294-2273 (CARE)

Dean of Students: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 3190 Radio Road, (352) 392-1575

Field and Fork Pantry: <https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>, located near McCarty B, 352-294-2208

Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, multiple locations, (352) 392-1161

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Christian Beginnings and Early Challenges

	Class	Readings and Assignments Due
Monday May 15th	Syllabus and Introduction The Rise of the Christian Movement	
Tuesday May 16th	Early Christianity: Jewish, Hellenistic, & Roman Contexts	CANVAS: "How to Read a Document" A Guide to Primary Source Analysis Papers TEXT: Ch. 1-3, p. 1-47. READER: " Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan ," 23-24.
Wednesday May 17th	Internal Developments, External Expansion, and the Roman Response	READER: Didache, 12-16. Ignatius of Antioch, "Letters to the Magnesians," 3-5.
Thursday May 18th	Heresy, Orthodoxy, and The Bible: The Gnostic Challenge	ONLINE: Apostles' Creed TEXT: 50-56; 102-109. READER: Irenaeus, <i>Against Heresies</i> , Book III, 58-66.
Friday May 19th	Discussion: Martyrdom	READER: "The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity," 30-37. Justin Martyr, <i>Second Apology</i> , 37-43. DUE: READING JOURNAL 1

Unit 2: The Imperial Church and the Rise of Monasticism

	Class	Readings and Assignments Due
Monday May 22nd	Christianity and Pagan Culture: Confrontation and Integration	TEXT: 115-128 READER: Origen of Alexandria, <i>On First Principles</i> , 68-76. ONLINE: Porphyry, Against the Christians

Tuesday May 23rd	Constantine, Christianity, and Culture/ Theology and Politics in the Roman Empire	TEXT: 160-183. READER: Eusebius, <i>Life of Constantine</i> , 87-97. The Nicene Creed, 101-102.
Wednesday May 24th	Mothers & Fathers of the Desert: The Rise of the Monastic Movement	READER: Athanasius of Alexandria, <i>Life of Anthony of Egypt</i> , 131-144. Palladius, <i>Lausiac History</i> , 155-158. TEXT: 209-219.
Thursday May 25th	NO CLASS—Writing Day	
Friday May 26th	Discussion: Monasticism	READER: Basil of Caesarea, <i>Longer Rule</i> , 144-146. Gregory of Nyssa, <i>Life of Macrina</i> , 147-155. DUE: READING JOURNAL 2 PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 1

Unit 3: Christianity on the Frontiers and the Drifting Apart of East and West

	Class	Readings and Assignments Due
Monday May 29th	NO CLASS—MEMORIAL DAY	
Tuesday May 30th	Christology and Churches Beyond the Roman Frontiers	READER: “The Martyrdom of Martha, Daughter of Posi, Who was a Daughter of the Covenant,” 110-112. Auxentius of Durostorum, <i>Letter on the Life and Work of Ulfila, Apostle of the Goths</i> , 102-105. “Definition of Faith of the Council of Chalcedon,” 175-176. “Inscription of the Monument at Xian,” 243-247. TEXT: 184-194.

Wednesday May 31st	Augustine of Hippo and Western Christianity	Start reading Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> , skim book 5 and read books 6-8
Thursday June 1st	Justinian, Byzantine Christianity, and Developments in the West Review	Continue reading Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> , skim book 5 and read 6-8 TEXT: 220-224, 237-239 ("Clovis and the Conversion of the Franks"), and 240-255.
Friday June 2nd	Midterm Exam	DUE: READING JOURNAL 3

Unit 4: The Rise of Islam and the Making of Western Christendom

	Class	Readings and Assignments Due
Monday June 5th	The Rise and Impact of Islam	READER: "Apology of Patriarch Timothy of Baghdad before the Caliph Mahdi," 231-242.
Tuesday June 6th	Monks and the Missions: The Christianization of Northern Europe	TEXT: 323-334 and 343-350. READER: "Rudolf of Fulda's <i>Life of Leoba</i> , 264-270.
Wednesday June 7th	Charlemagne & the Carolingian Church: Consolidation of Roman Catholic Christianity	TEXT: 334-342.
Thursday June 8th	NO CLASS—WRITING DAY	
Friday June 9th	Discussion: Mission	READER: Bede, <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> , 258-264. <i>The Heliand</i> , 271-280. DUE: READING JOURNAL 4 PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 2

Unit 5: Reform and Defense

	Class	Readings and Assignments Due
Monday June 12th	Byzantine Christianity and Missionary Efforts	TEXT: 354-371. READER: John of Damascus, <i>On the Divine Images</i> , 289-297
Tuesday June 13th	Monks, Popes, and Emperors: Movements of Reform	TEXT: 383-390. READER: Pope Gregory VII, <i>Letter to Hermann of Metz</i> , 319-324.
Wednesday June 14th	The Crusading Movement: Between Tolerance and Persecution	ONLINE: Pope Urban II's Speech at the Council of Clermont (1095) according to Fulcher of Chartres TEXT: 395-405.
Thursday June 15th	Learning, Culture, and Spiritual Ideals in the 12 th century	ONLINE: Peter Abelard, <i>Historia Calamitatum</i>, Chapter I-XII and XV TEXT: 423-439.
Friday June 16th	Discussion: Crusades	Perspectives on the First Crusade: READER: Latin: Guibert of Nogent, <i>The Deeds of God through the Franks</i> , 323-334 ONLINE: Byzantine: Anna Comnena, excerpts from <i>The Alexiad</i> Jewish: The Account of Solomon Bar Samson DUE: READING JOURNAL 5

Unit 6: Piety, Spirituality, and Heresy in the High Middle Ages

	Class	Readings and Assignments Due
Monday June 19th	Papal Power and Popular Piety: The Pontificate of Innocent III	
Tuesday June 20th	Mendicants, Heretics, and Women: Renewal and Dissent	TEXT: 406-422. READER: "Letters and Visions of Hadewijch of Brabant," 362-371.

Wednesday June 21st	Things Fall Apart: Christianity in the West and the World after 1300 Review	
Thursday June 22nd	Final Exam	
Friday June 23rd	NO CLASS—Enjoy the rest of your summer!	DUE: READING JOURNAL 6