



Course Description: What is Christianity? How has Christianity developed over time? This course is a historical survey of the different ways in which Christians professed, defined, explained, and demarcated Christianity during the pivotal period between 1300 and 1800. The course especially focuses on the new ways of conceptualizing and practicing Christianity that were developed by the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Reformation; and on global forms of Christianity that developed as a result of Christianity's encounters with non-Christians. Ultimately, this course encourages students to reflect on the way that contemporary Christianity and contemporary Christian practices are contextualized by these historical processes.

Course Meets: Monday-Friday, 9:30am-10:45am, in Keene-Flint 0117 (3 credits)

Instructor Contact Information: I am accessible and responsive to any student needs, concerns, or questions. You can reach me by email at young.zachary@ufl.edu. I will hold office hours at (time TBA); if you would like to arrange a meeting at a different time, please email me or talk to me after class.

Course Objectives: Students in this class will develop their knowledge and skills in terms of:

- Understanding the main themes, developments and narratives of Christianity from 1300-1800;
- Reading primary and secondary sources and engaging with their perspectives;
- Learning how to ask good questions;
- Conducting independent research; and
- Thinking with history and historicizing contemporary practices.

Grading and Assignments: My grading rubric for this course is as follows.

Attendance (20%). I will take attendance in class! I will drop one absence. To be excused, subsequent absences require a doctor's note. Please make every effort to be on time to class.

Participation (20%). This is a discussion-based class. To earn full points, you should aim to contribute at least once in each class. To fully participate in discussions, please complete the brief secondary source readings (underlined in the following schedule) in advance of each class. We will read the primary source selections together in class.

Written assignments (60%). The majority of your grade will come from three written assignments. For each of these assignments, I will ask you to reflect on the ways that the topics we are discussing in class are reflected in contemporary Christian practice. I will be asking you to look at contemporary practice as a **historian**, not as a worshiper or as an anthropologist. How did these contemporary practices evolve as a result of the historical processes that we are discussing? To what extent are the conflicts and tensions that we are discussing still reflected in contemporary practices? What are the continuities and changes that you observe between historic and contemporary Christianity? Why have these elements either changed or remained the same?

For each written assignment, please complete the following steps:

1. Pick a local church and attend a service at that church. You should pick a different type of church for each of the three assignments. At least two of these churches should be unfamiliar (i.e. not a tradition that you practice or have practiced). If you need help identifying a local church, please consult with me. You can also do this part of the assignment with your classmates. **NB: When you attend each service, remember to gather a proof-of-attendance (selfie, copy of worship aid, etc.) that you will submit with your assignment.**
2. Reflect on your experience and identify at least three characteristics of the service that you can connect to our discussions in class. You can collaborate with your classmates for this part of the assignment.
3. Research the historical evolution of the characteristics that you have identified (i.e. historicize them). Some starting places might include denominational websites; religious encyclopedias; etc. If you need help finding research resources, please consult with me. This research should be your own work. For extra points, have an informal conversation with pastoral leadership in that church (i.e. after the service, or scheduled) to engage their perspective on the historical evolution of the characteristics that you have identified.
4. Write a 1000-word summary of the characteristics you have identified, the historical evolution of those characteristics, and the broader historical questions that are engaged by your insights. Submit this to Canvas along with your proof of attendance. I will grade for engagement with course themes, for depth of research, and for writing style. These assignments will be due on **Friday, July 18**; on **Friday, August 1**; and on **Wednesday, August 6**.

A course grade > 93% will earn an A. A course grade between 90% and 93% will earn an A-. Between 87% and 90% will earn a B+. Between 83% and 87% will earn a B, and so on. Here are the current UF grading policies for converting grades into grade points: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

Course Materials: All required readings will be posted on Canvas. For those who would like to complete additional background reading, I recommend the following books:

Week 1: Oakley, Francis. *The Western Church in the Later Middle Ages*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985.

Week 2: Howard Louthan and Graeme Murdock, eds., *A Companion to the Reformation in Central Europe* (Leiden: Brill, 2015).

Weeks 3-4: R. Po-Chia Hsia, *The World of Catholic Renewal, 1540-1770*, 1st ed., New Approaches to European History 30 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993) AND R. Po-Chia Hsia, ed., *A Companion to the Early Modern Catholic Global Missions* (Leiden: Brill, 2018).

Weeks 5-6: Given the number of special topics covered in these weeks, there is no one book to recommend. If you would like additional reading recommendations for a specific topic, please reach out to me.

Schedule for Readings and Discussions: Please see the following table. Underlined readings are secondary sources you should read before class. We will analyze the primary sources in class; feel free to review them before class.

Week 1: Medieval Christianity

	Topic	Central Questions	Readings
Monday 6/30	Syllabus and Introduction	<i>What is Christianity?</i> <i>How do we study Christianity specifically as historians?</i>	
Tuesday 7/1	The High Middle Ages and the Development of Papal Authority	<i>To what extent was medieval Christendom a juridical entity? How did the development of the idea of canon law relate to the development of papal authority?</i>	Boniface VIII, <i>Unam Sanctam</i> <i>Decretals</i> (excerpts) <u>Berman, Harold. <i>Law and Revolution: The Formation of the Western Legal Tradition</i> (excerpts)</u>
Wednesday 7/2	Conciliarity, the Great Western Schism, and emerging visions of Christendom	<i>What is at stake in the Great Western Schism?</i> <i>What are the different visions for Christendom in the Late Middle Ages?</i> <i>How and why do these visions diverge from those of the High Middle Ages?</i>	Catherine of Siena, <i>Letter to Gregory XI</i> University of Paris, <i>On the Schism</i> Council of Constance, <i>Frequens</i> <u>Oakley, Francis. <i>The Western Church in the Later Middle Ages</i> (excerpts)</u>
Thursday 7/3	Late Medieval Devotional Life	<i>What was the nature of medieval popular piety?</i> <i>What sort of history do sources about popular piety enable us to tell? To what extent is popular piety constitutive/definitive of Christianity? How was popular piety intertwined with circumstances?</i>	Images of Medieval Devotional Objects (handout) The Florentine Chronicle, <i>On the Plague</i> Thomas a Kempis, <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> (excerpts) <u>Duffy, Eamon. <i>The Stripping of the Altars</i> (excerpts)</u>
Friday 7/4	No Class – Enjoy the Holiday		

Week 2: The Protestant Reformation

	Topic	Central Questions	Readings
Monday 7/7	Medieval Heresy and Authority	<i>What is "heresy?" What are the differences of belief that become defined as heresy? What is the role of authority in the spread of dissident movements?</i>	Ladurie, Emmanuel Le Roy. <i>Montaillou</i> (excerpts) Jan Hus, <i>De Ecclesia</i> (excerpts) <u>Moore, R. I. <i>The Formation of a Persecuting Society</i> (excerpts)</u>
Tuesday 7/8	Martin Luther and Lutheranism	<i>What was Luther's core difference with the Catholicism of his time? How was Lutheranism related to earlier dissident movements? Why did Lutheranism take root?</i>	Martin Luther, 95 Theses Martin Luther, <i>The German Mass and Order of Divine Service</i> <u>Roper, Lyndal. <i>Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet</i> (excerpts)</u>
Wednesday 7/9	John Calvin and Calvinism	<i>What were the core contentions of early Calvinism? What was at the root of Calvinist opposition to images? How did Calvinism theorize Christianity and the state?</i>	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> (excerpts) <u>Wandel, Lee Palmer. <i>Voracious Idols and Violent Hands</i> (excerpts)</u>
Thursday 7/10	Anabaptism and the Radical Reformation	<i>Was the Radical Reformation the real heir to Luther's ideas, or was it a betrayal of Luther's principles?</i>	<i>The Twelve Articles of the Swabian Peasantry</i> <u>Williams, <i>The Radical Reformation</i> (excerpts)</u>
Friday 7/11	Anglicanism	<i>Was Anglicanism really about King Henry's divorce? To what extent was Anglicanism aligned with other Protestant movements?</i>	Church of England, <i>Thirty-Nine Articles</i> <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> (excerpts)

Week 3: The Catholic Reformation

	Topic	Central Questions	Readings
Monday 7/14	Early Catholic Responses to the Reformation: Humanism and Erasmus	<i>Was a split between Protestantism and Catholicism inevitable? How were both Protestantism and early modern Catholicism affected by humanism?</i>	Erasmus, <i>In Praise of Folly</i> <u>O'Malley, John. <i>Trent: What Happened at the Council</i> (excerpts)</u>
Tuesday 7/15	The Council of Trent	<i>Was it a Counter-Reformation? A Catholic Reformation?</i>	<i>The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent</i> <u>O'Malley, John. <i>Trent and All That</i> (excerpts)</u>

Wednesday 7/16	Catechesis and Missionization in Catholic Europe	<i>How did Catholic piety change? Who were the agents of that change?</i>	<i>Catechism of the Council of Trent</i> <u>Johnson, Trevor. <i>Magistrates, Madonnas, and Miracles</i> (excerpts)</u>
Thursday 7/17	Liturgy and Piety of the Catholic Reformation	<i>To what extent was the Council of Trent constitutive of the new Catholicism? How were the arts used as tools of Catholicization?</i>	Images of Baroque Devotion (handout) <u>Lev, Elizabeth. <i>How Catholic Art Saved the Faith</i> (excerpts)</u>
Friday 7/18	Eastern Orthodox Christianity in the 16 th Century	<i>(How) was Eastern Orthodoxy affected by changes happening in the Latin West? How and why did Eastern Catholicism emerge?</i>	<i>Epistle of the Patriarch Jeremiah to the Lutherans</i> First Paper Due

Week 4: Global Catholicism

	Topic	Central Questions	Readings
Monday 7/21	Global Christianity before the 16 th Century	<i>To what extent is Christianity a European phenomenon? To what extent is it a global phenomenon?</i>	<i>Letters of John of Monte Corvino</i> <u>R. Po-Chia Hsia, ed., <i>A Companion to the Early Modern Catholic Global Missions</i> (excerpts)</u>
Tuesday 7/22	<i>Conversos</i> and Moriscos	<i>Were inculturational methods of missionization pioneered in 15th century Spain?</i>	<i>The Lead Books of Granada</i> (Arabic Mass Section) <u>Pereda, Felipe. <i>Images of Discord</i> (excerpts)</u>
Wednesday 7/23	Christianity in Africa	<i>How did Kongo Christianity develop? How did European Christians relate to it? How about Ethiopian Christianity?</i>	Art of Kongo Christianity (handout) <u>Fromont, Cecile. <i>The Art of Conversion</i> (excerpts)</u>
Thursday 7/24	Catholic Missions in the Americas	<i>Why did Catholics pursue missions? How did mission Christianity compare to European Christianity?</i>	Timucua Catechism <u>Phelan, John Leddy. <i>The Millennial Kingdom of the Franciscans in the New World</i> (excerpts)</u> Extra Credit: Visit the Timucua Stations of the Cross in High Springs. Details to follow in class.
Friday 7/25	The Jesuits and Catholic Missions in Asia	<i>What was so distinctive about Jesuit missions?</i>	<i>The True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven</i> by Matteo Ricci (excerpts) <u>O'Malley, John, <i>The First Jesuits</i> (excerpts)</u>

Week 5: Christianity in Global Perspective

	Topic	Central Questions	Readings
Monday 7/28	Protestant Missions	<i>How was Protestant missiology different from Catholic missiology? What caused the upswing in Protestant missionary activity? How was this reflective of global political and economic trends?</i>	Carey, <i>Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians</i>
Tuesday 7/29	Unsanctioned Christianities	<i>How did native peoples adapt Christian ideas? Did these adaptations constitute forms of Christianity – or Christianities?</i>	Story of St. Paul and St. Sebastian (from Christensen) <u>Christensen, Mark. <i>Translated Christianities</i> (excerpts)</u>
Wednesday 7/30	Christianity and Judaism	<i>How was the idea of “Judaism” used to define and refine what it meant to be Christian? How did the idea of “Judaism” influence Christian engagement with real Jewish communities?</i>	Luther on Judaism <u>Nirenberg, David. <i>Anti-Judaism</i> (excerpts)</u>
Thursday 7/31	Christianity and other religions	<i>What was at stake in the Rites Controversies?</i>	Decrees of Kangshi, Clement XI, and Kangxi Ticozzi, <i>The Official End of the Chinese Rites Controversy</i> <u>Gianamar Giovanetti-Singh, “Rethinking the Rites Controversy”</u>
Friday 8/1	Christianity and the telling of history	<i>What was the role of history in emergent Christian arguments? How did early modern Christianity change the telling of history? How has Christian telling of history influenced the way we think about history?</i>	Second Paper Due <u>Van Liere, et al. <i>Sacred History</i>.</u>

Week 6: Christianity in the 17th and 18th Centuries

	Topic	Central Questions	Readings
Monday 8/4	European Wars of Religion	<i>(Why) did people stop fighting over religion? How are wars a locus for the changing role of religion in society?</i>	Foxe’s <i>Book of Martyrs</i> <u>Gregory, Brad. <i>Salvation at Stake</i> (excerpts)</u>
Tuesday 8/5	Jansenism and intra-Catholic disputes of the 17 th century	<i>Was Jansenism a reflection of Protestant influence in society? To</i>	Jansen, <i>Augustinus</i> Clement XI, <i>Unigenitus</i>

		<i>what extent was early modern Catholicism unified? Why was predestination such an attractive theological debate?</i>	<u>Doyle, Jansenism (excerpts)</u>
Wednesday 8/6	Pietism and new Protestant movements	<i>Was pietism a rejection of the principles of the Protestant Reformation? Was there a middle ground between Protestantism and Catholicism?</i>	Letters of John Wesley Spener, <i>Pia Desideria</i> Third Paper Due
Thursday 8/7	Christianity and Enlightenment	<i>How did the Enlightenment change the definition of Christianity?</i>	<i>Meditations</i> (Descartes) <i>Reasonableness of Christianity</i> (Locke)
Friday 8/8	Conclusions	<i>What is Christianity as a historical entity? How is contemporary Christianity grounded in the themes and debates of this course?</i>	

Course Disclaimer: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

For students with disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. 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. Students can complete evaluations in three ways: 1. The email they receive from GatorEvals, 2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or 3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>. Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources: U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress. Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website. University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website. GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273- 4450.