

History of Christianity I
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This is an abbreviated course outline for a survey of the first half of a two-semester course taken by mostly by sophomore and junior religious studies majors and minors, and by a few students fulfilling a religious studies requirement at the University of Dayton, a Catholic school. Not all students took both halves of the two-semester course. The texts used in the first course were:

HC = Owen Chadwick, *A History of Christianity*

T&D = Karen Louise Jolly, *Tradition and Diversity: Christianity in World Context to 1500*

Web selections are indicated with a URL

Writing Assignments I and II and IV: These are 2-3 page papers (each) on a designated topic. Topics have included apologetics, link between asceticism and martyrdom, pilgrimage as a religious act, monastic rules, e.g., a comparison of Benedict and Caesarius to reveal gender issues.

Writing Assignment III: The thesis, outline and annotated bibliography of Writing Assignment V as envisioned thus far.

Writing Assignment V: In this assignment students explored a topic of interest which has been approved by the instructor. The paper was five to eight pages long.

Date	Topic	Questions of the day	<i>HC</i>	<i>T&D</i>	Other
W 1/3	Introduction	What is this course about? Do I really want to be here?			Send me an e-mail from the address at which you would like to receive any class-wide messages. My e-mail address is on page 1 of the syllabus.
F 1/5	The Early Church as Jewish Sect	How do the readings for today show Christianity as derivative from, but in conflict with, Judaism?	7-29 to "The Xtn way of Life"	3-18	From the Bible (your copy or the internet): read the Gospel of Matthew (written about the year 85) 1:1-2:17, 5:17-20, 9:1-17, 12:1-14 and 24:1-28:20 One Internet site for the Bible is: < http://www.gospelcom.net/bible >. Use internet RSV version. Bring your Bible or copies of the Bible readings to class.

M 1/8	Documents of Early Christianity I	How do these readings show Christianity as a non-Jewish religion?		19-22*	*This is from Galatians, written about 52-53 CE. From the Bible read the following passages. The numbers in parentheses are the approximate years in which the texts were written. (55) Paul's admonitions to Christians at Corinth 1 Corinthians 5:1-8:13, 10:1-13:13, 15:1-16:4. (60) Paul's explanation of salvation Romans 1:16-26, 5:1-14, 12:1-6
W 1/10	Documents of Early Christianity II	How do these documents reveal the inner workings of the early Christian communities?	29-34 to "Persecution"	22-26	Bible (= date of composition) (85) The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5:1-7:28 and (85) A sermon on internal church affairs Matthew 18:1-35 <i>Creed</i> handout and <i>The Didache</i> at < http://www.gty.org/~phil/didache.htm >, probably composed about the same time and place as the Gospel of Matt.
F 1/12	A Summary	What is distinctive about early Christianity?			Writing Assignment I due. Handout on research paper. Sign up for a time to meet with your professor regarding a term paper topic.
M 1/15	M.L. King Day	No classes			During this week, meet with your professor to decide on a term paper topic.
W 1/17	The Rise of Asceticism	What is asceticism and how is it Christian?		129-135	
F 1/19	The Church of the Martyrs and Catacombs I		55-57	96-98	Video presentation on the catacombs: history, art, and community Go to < http://www.catacombe.roma.it/en/presenta.html >. Reall all sections except "Inforamtion" and "Map".
M 1/22	The Church of the Martyrs and the Catacombs II	Consider the Bible-based spirituality of the early Christian communities.	34-45		Read whatever introductory material your Bible provides on the books of Daniel, 1 and 2 Maccabees and Acts. Then read Daniel 3:1-30; 2 Maccabees 6:1-7:42; and the story of Stephen, the first martyr in Acts 6:1-7:60. Maccabees will be found only in Catholic Bibles or Bibles with 'Apocrypha'.
W 1/24	The Church of the Martyrs and the Catacombs III .	What motivations for martyrdom can you discern?		27-34 73-84 171-177	Go to < http://www.catacombe.roma.it/en/ricerche/ricerche.html >. Find "Living in Eternity" in the sidebar. Read it for martyrs' motivation.

F 1/26	Christianity and Greco-Roman Culture	How did Christianity both reject and accept Greco-Roman culture?	45-55 to "The Canon"	27-28, 34-39, 99-115	
M 1/29	The Christian Empire	How does the change in legal status affect Christian communities?	58-70 to "Monks & Nuns"	39-51	Have you visited pilgrimages sites (Israel, Rome or elsewhere)? Contact the instructor regarding slides/photos/ videos or narratives they may wish to share with the class on 3/19 (Participation credit).
W 1/31	Disputes on Doctrine	How are God and the World Related? Who/What is Jesus?		52-72 178-183	Creed handout + On Electronic Reserve, Eric D. Perl ". . . That Man Might Become God: Central Themes in Byzantine Theology," in <i>Heaven on Earth: Art and the Church in Byzantium</i> , edited by Linda Safran (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998), pp. 39-57.
F 2/2	1st Unit Test				
M 2/5	The Flowering of Asceticism	How do these readings reveal early Christian attitudes toward the body?	70-76	84-96	Tonight (8-10pm) we will view and discuss "Simon of the Desert" in HM 119.
W 2/7	The Geography of Asceticism	What do the terrain and living arrangements of the ascetics tell us?		129-135 184-188	Make sure you get a handout for the slides in today's presentation by Rev. Mel Schlachter on the geography of asceticism.
F 2/9	Benedictine Monasticism	What was life like in a medieval monastery?	76-79 to "Saints"	135-136	Read <i>The Rule of Saint Benedict</i> . How does this life differ from that of the desert fathers. Make a list for class discussion.
M 2/12	The Middle Ages	What makes medieval life 'medieval'?			Writing Assignment II due today.
W 2/14	The Cult of the Saints	What's a saint really? Why did people pray to saints?	79-92 to "The Germans"		
F 2/16	Evangelization and Inculturation I	What did conversion mean in France and Germany?	92-94 101-105	184-185 205-212	
M 2/19	Presidents' Day	No class			
W 2/21	Evangelization and Inculturation II	What did conversion mean in England and Ireland?	94-100	185-188 263-269	

F 2/23	The New Religion and the Old Ones.	Why do old religions hang on so long?		288-292	Writing Assignment III due (see below).
M 2/26	Eastern Christianity	What are church-state relations? What are the characteristics of Eastern spiritual life and their differences with the West?	106-127	154-70, 504-09 526-30	Review your notes from the Eric Perl article on Electronic Reserve for 1/31.
W 2/28	Christian Society I	What role did the ruler play in the maintenance of order and diffusion of culture?		213-223 227-254 Begin at 9.3.	
F 3/2	Christian Society II	In what ways was medieval culture Christian?		255-260	
M 3/5	Judaism, Islam and Christianity in the Middle Ages	How do these monotheistic religions get along in the Middle Ages?	127-129	223-227 292-302 468-474	
W 3/7	Christians on the Move: Pilgrimage and Crusade	How do pilgrimage and crusade contribute to Christian spirituality?		317-321 531-538	
F 3/9	Images, Relics and Shrines	What does the fascination with relics and shrines tell us about medieval conceptions of space and the body?		147-159	Writing assignment IV due. Also bring to class a copy of what you have written so far on your term paper, even if it is just notes. Mark the copy with any questions you have about content or format. We will discuss documentation.
3/10-17	Spring Break	No classes			
M 3/19	The Rise of the Papacy I	What circumstances contributed to the formation of the medieval papacy?	130-135	303-317	How does the development of the State challenge church authority?
W 3/21	The Rise of the Papacy II	How is the papacy similar to /different from the modern papacy?		385-393 445-454 477-487	
F 3/23	Parish Life I	What was parish life like?	135-138 148-56	321-332 510-515	

M 3/26	Parish Life II	Have you been bad? What will happen?	156-62	260-263 393-395	Handouts (<i>Dies Irae</i> and <i>Stabat Mater</i>)
W 3/28	Christian Arts I: Architecture	How do space and worship styles relate to each other?	141-143 Picture on 150		Review materials on architecture in H&C by paging through the book, looking at worship spaces and noting the dates the spaces were built. Bring H&C to class today.
F 3/30	Christian Arts II: Music and Drama	How do plays and music communicate theology?		263-282 455-456 515-526	Notes especially the image of Christ in "The Dream of the Rood."
M 4/2	Christian Arts III: Painting	How do images of Jesus reflect Christological developments?			Review T&D 263-265, 515-526. Class handout on images of Jesus. Review materials on art in H&C by paging through the book, looking at the paintings, sculpture and other art forms and noting the dates they were created.
W 4/4	2ND UNIT TEST				
F 4/6	Parish Life III	What are miracles and why do they happen?		395-404 430-445	
M 4/9	Medieval Spirituality	What are the characteristics of medieval spirituality?	162-170	369-83 400-04 491-502	How do mystics use sensual language?
W 4/11	Medieval theology I	What is theology?			Writing Assignment V due (see below).
4/12-16	Easter Break	No classes			
W 4/18	Medieval theology II	How do medieval theologians use faith + reason?		350-356 405-411	
F 4/20	Encountering Others	How do 'Others' challenge Christianity?		457-468	
M 4/23	Late Medieval Reform and Dissent	What are the challenges of the 1300-1400s?		412-429 475-490	
W 4/25	The End of the Middle Ages	Why weren't things <i>medieval</i> any more?	170-177	538-554	

M 4/30	Final Exam	10:00-11:50am			
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