

RS ###: Patristics



CATECHIST EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT
EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCH

RS ###: Patristics

Academic Course Syllabus

- Course Instructor:** Steven Puluka, MA Theology Duquesne University
spuluka@manor.edu
On-line office hrs Tuesday & Thursday 7:00-9:30 PM Eastern
Via Instant Message on MSN, Yahoo or AOL spuluka
- Course Delivery:** Online, Independent Study on-line at
<http://manor.webstudy.com>
Online courses are designed for independent study at the convenience of the student. Courses must be completed within the academic term or extensions as outlined in Manor college policies.
Instruction is delivered through combination of on-line lecture and assignments and on-line (e-mail) communication.
- Registration:** Online, Manor College at www.manor.edu/coned/eastern.htm

Course Description

Patristics is the study of the early church fathers and their writings. They are responsible for the development of the early churches understanding of the nature of Christ and the Trinity. They show Christians how to read the Old and New Testament. The fathers are the benchmark against which theological debate among Christians today can still be measured. They remain the common ground between Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant theologians. We survey the patristic authors by region, period and language. There is a wide range of material from the patristic era. We will focus on select authors as representative of the general trends.

Goals of the Course

- To understand the development of scriptural exegesis & doctrine in the patristic age
- To explore the major categorizations of the fathers by region, period & language
- Understand the differences in approach from these various categories
- To understand the major theological controversies and the arguments of the fathers
- To explore how the controversies and methods of the fathers apply to issues today

Course Texts and Resources

Required Material

Melito, of Sardis. *On Pascha with the fragments of Melito and other material related to the quartodecimans*, Popular Patristic Series. Vol. 20. Crestwood, N.Y.: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2001.

Melito's On Pascha is short and we will be reading the entire homily. The rest of the required reading articles and documents are short selections available in electronic reserve on-line at <http://manor.webstudy.com>

Course Requirements

1. **Reflection Questions (25%)**—each weeks lessons include reflection questions that should be answered in the assignment. These are designed for the student to critically engage with the weeks lessons on key points or sections. They should be done immediately following their associated lecture and are meant to be a immediate short reflection that should take just 10 minutes to compose. Time is reserved from the lecture period specifically for this response and should be considered the equivalent of a classroom discussion. These are NOT researched papers or responses but an alternative to Q&A in a live class. The question for each lecture is labeled and in the class forum. Post your response there.
2. **Attendance & Participation (15%)**—on-line classes provide a different experience as a class group. Attendance to the lectures provides equal access to the material but lacks an interactive element with our classmates. We will use the forum feature to provide some of this interaction. By engaging in a open dialog we can explore our individual reactions to the issues under review.
 - a) Create a thread posting (One required each week per student). This is in ADDITION to answering the reflection questions directly yourself.
 1. *Reaction or commentary*—react to a major theme, event, claim or issue raised by the topics covered in this class session.

OR
 2. *Question or Issue*—provide an insightful follow-up question or issue raised by the topics covered in this class session.

OR
 3. Respond and interact with others threads or the weekly discussion questions.
3. **Written assignments (30%)**—students will submit two written assignments that are 3-5 pages double-spaced. These should show a critical engagement with the material and support the learning goals of the student. The *exact topic for each is determined in consultation with the instructor* via either e-mail or IM. These are intended to allow students to connect the material presented with their personal learning goals and needs of their ministry.
 - a) **Topic**—choose a theme, event, personality or topic from the first four centuries of the Patristic

RS ###: Patristics

age. This paper must be submitted by *the week after the midterm*.

- b) **Topic**—take a particular father or work in the later patristic period. Or choose a theme in current theological discussion or pastoral application and apply a patristic perspective to the issue. This paper is due on *the day of the final examination*.
- 4. **Examinations**—there are two multiple choice exams that cover the two sections of the class. These are not cumulative. They permit the use of notes and books but are a timed examination.
 - a) Mid-term (15%)
 - b) Final (15%)

Course Outline

- 1. Introduction to Patristic Studies
 - a) Requirements & Bibliography review
 - b) Who are the Fathers?
 - c) New Testament Canon
 - d) The Seven Ecumenical Councils
- 2. Theological Controversies
 - Readings:** Letter of Arius; Letter of Eusebius of Nicodema; Tome of Leo; & Chalcedonian decree in Hardy, Edward Rochie. *Christology of the Later Fathers*. Vol. 3 The Library of Christian Classics. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954, pp 329-340 & 359-374.
 - a) Christology
 - b) The Holy Spirit
 - c) The Trinity
- 3. The Apostolic Fathers
 - Readings:** Ignatius letter to the Smyrnaeans in Lightfoot, John. *The Apostolic Fathers*. New York: Macmillan, 1891, pp 156-159.
 - Dionysius, *Celestial Hierarchy* in Pseudo, Dionysius, Colm Luibhéid, and Paul Rorem. *Pseudo-Dionysius : the complete works*. The Classics of Western spirituality, ed. John Farina. New York: Paulist Press, 1987, pp 160-173.
- 4. The Apologists
 - a) The Post Apostolic Age
 - b) Ignatius of Antioch
 - c) Pseudo Dionysis
 - Readings:** Justin Martyr. *Dialogue with Trypho* chapters XL to XLVII in Ante-Nicene Christian Library Vol. 2. Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 1868, pp 137-148.
 - Melito, of Sardis. "On Pascha." In *On Pascha with the fragments of Melito and other material related to the quartodecimans*, Popular Patristic Series. Vol. 20, 37-67. Crestwood, N.Y.: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2001.
 - a) The Greek Apologists & Rhetoric
 - b) Justin Martyr
 - c) Melito of Sardis
- 5. Alexandria
 - Readings:** Athanasius, of Alexandria. *On the incarnation*. Translated by Archibald Robertson. London: D. Nutt, 1885, pp 1-30.

RS ###: Patristics

Chapters I-XIX.

- a) The Alexandrian Fathers
- b) Nicene Orthodoxy
- c) Athanasius

6. Antioch

Reading: Chrysostom, John. "Instructions to catechumens." In *Saint Chrysostom, Nicene and post-Nicene Fathers*. Vol. IX, 157-171. New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1889.

- a) Antiochian Fathers
- b) Chrysostom

7. Capadocia

Readings: Basil. "On the Holy Spirit: Chapters 16-18" in *Basil: letters & select works*. Translated by Blomfield Jackson. Vol. 8. 14 vols. Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers Second Series, ed. Philip Schaeff and Henry Wace. 23-30 Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

Nazianzen, Gregory. "Second Theological Oration: On the Son." In *Cyril of Jerusalem and Gregory Nazianzen*, ed. Charles Gordon Browne and James Edward Swallow, Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers Second Series. Vol. 7, 288-301. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

Gregory, of Nyssa. "On not three gods." In *Gregory of Nyssa: Dogmatic treatises*, ed. William Moore and Henry Austin Wilson, Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers Second Series. Vol. 5, 331-336. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

- a) Capadocian Fathers
- b) Basil the Great
- c) Gregory Nazianzus

- d) Gregory of Nyssa

Mid-term Examination

8. Patristic Age

Readings: Origen. "Commentary on Matthew: Book X Chap. 1-16." In *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, ed. Philip Schaeff. Vol. 9, 414-424. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

Jerome. "On the perpetual virginity of Mary." In *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, ed. Philip Schaeff. Vol. 6, 334-345. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

- a) 4th - 6th Century
- b) Origen
- c) Jerome

9. Desert Spirituality

Reading: Athanasius. "Life of Anthony." in *The Paradise Or Garden of the Holy Fathers: Being Histories of the Anchorites, Recluses, Monks, Coenobites, and Ascetic Fathers of the Deserts of Egypt Between A.D. CCL and A.D. CCCC*. Translated by Ernest Budge. Vol. 1. 3-32. London: Chatto & Windus, 1907.

- a) Desert Fathers
- b) Antony & Pachomius

10. Syriac East

Readings: Ephrem, "Hymns on the Nativity: I-X" In *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, ed. Philip Schaeff. Vol. 13, 223-245. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

- a) Syriac Fathers
- b) Ephrem
- c) Isaac of Nineveh & Jacob of Sarug

11. North Africa

RS ###: Patristics

Readings: Tertullian. "Against Marcion: Book IV: Chap xxxv to xxxvii" In *Tertullian*, ed. A. Cleveland Coxe, Ante-Nicene Fathers. Vol. 3, 407-412. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.

Augustine. "The City of God: Book XIV: Questions 1-8" *The city of God: Books XIV - XXII*. Translated by Marcus Dods. Vol. 2. 1-15 Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1871.

Cyprian. "Treatise VII on works and alms" In *The writings of Cyprian*, trans. Ernest Wallis, Ante-Nicene Christian Library. Vol. 2, 1-20. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1869.

- a) North African Fathers
- b) Tertullian
- c) Augustine
- d) Cyprian of Carthage

12. Rome & the West

Readings: Ambrose. "On the belief in the resurrection." In *Ambrose: select works and letters*, ed. H. De Romestin, E. De Romestin and H. T. F. Duckworth, Nicene And Post-Nicene Fathers. Vol. 10, 174-199. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.

Irenaeus. *Five books of Saint Irenaeus bishop of Lyons against heresies*. Translated by John Keble. A library of fathers of the holy Catholic church anterior to the division of the east and west. Book III chapter 1-11 - 203-238 Oxford: James Parker & Co., 1872.

Poitiers, Hillary of. "On the trinity: Book II." In *Hillary of Poitiers & John of Damascus*, ed. Wilfred G. E. Watson and L. Pullan, Nicene And Post-Nicene Fathers. Vol. 9, 52-61. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995. **Final Examination**

- a) Latin Fathers
- b) Ambrose

- c) Irenaeus of Lyons
- d) Hillary of Poitiers

13. Late Patristic Age

Readings: Confessor, Maximus the. "On the Lord's prayer." In *The Philokalia the Complete Text compiled by St. Nikodimos of the Holy Mountain and St. Makarios of Corinth*, ed. Nikodimos and Makarios. Vol. 2, 285-305. London: Farber & Farber, 1990. Reprint, 1984.

Damascus, John of. "Exposition of the Orthodox faith: Book 1." In *Hillary of Poitiers & John of Damascus*, ed. S. D. F. Salmond, Nicene And Post-Nicene Fathers. Vol. 9, 1-17. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.

- a) 7th to 9th Century
- b) Maximos the Confessor
- c) John Damascene

14. Patristic Legacy

Reading: Palamas, Gregory. "Deification in Christ." In *The Triads*, ed. Richard J. Payne and John Meyendorff, Classics of Western Spirituality, 57-70. New York: Paulist Press, 1983.

- a) End of the Patristic age?
- b) Gregory Palamas
- c) Philokalia

15. Study of the Fathers

- a) Original Sources & Research
- b) The Fathers in the church today