

COURSE OUTLINE
**THEO 2221 / THEO 5321 Early and Medieval Church History
(Church History I)**

Teacher: Jason Lam
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Venue: CCT T41

Description: The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the historical and theological developments in the early and medieval church from Jesus to the dawn of the Protestant Reformation.

Expected Outcome

- The students will gain a general knowledge of the theological and ecclesial development during the covered period.
- The students will get acquainted with different perspectives on church history and with issues that are still debated.
- The students will develop sensitivity regarding the diversity of Christian faith expressions.

Further expectations:

- The students will gain historical depth in their theological reflection.
- The students learn about historical forms of contextualization.
- The critical study of church history helps the students to recover the voices of those who have been condemned as heresy.
- Students will learn about how the Christian belief and Christian institutions caused social, political, and cultural change.

Structure of the course

- a) 1 hour tutorial in groups with student-led discussions
- b) 2 hours lecturing

Textbooks

- Tobias Brandner, *A Concise History of Western Christianity. A Workbook for the Early and Medieval Period* (book manuscript in English and Chinese; the Chinese version is expected to appear in Oct 2016 as 《分久必合，合久必分：從耶穌時代到改革前夕的西方基督教批判史》(香港: 道風書社, 2016))
- Primary texts and other materials on a special website
- Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity. Volume 1. The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (San Francisco: Harper, 1984, 2010) / 胡斯托. L. 岡薩雷斯著, 趙城藝譯, 《基督教史 (上卷): 初期教會到宗教改革前夕》(上海: 三聯, 2016)

Study literature

- Brockwell, Charles W., Jr., and Timothy J. Wengert (ed.), *Telling the Churches' Stories. Ecumenical Perspectives on Writing Christian History* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 1995)
- Burrus, Virginia (ed.): *Late Ancient Christianity. A People's History of Christianity. Volume 2*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010

- Butler Bass, Diana: *A People's History of Christianity. The Other Side of the Story*, New York: HarperOne, 2009
- Coakley, John W. and Andrea Sterk, *Reading in World Christian History. Volume I. Earliest Christianity to 1453*, Orbis Maryknoll, 2004 (text book with useful collection of documents from the history of the church)
- Dunn, James: *The Partings of the Ways: Between Christianity and Judaism and their Significance for the Character of Christianity*. London: SCM / Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1991. 鄧雅各著, 楊慧譯, 《分道揚鑣——基督教與猶太教的分離及其對基督教特性的意義》(香港: 道風書社, 2014)
- Ellingsen, Mark: *Reclaiming our Roots: An Inclusive Introduction to Church History, Volume 1. The Late First Century to the Eve of the Reformation*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1999 (275pp.; with a table in the appendix on the significant events; 15 chapters, mostly between 15 and 25 pages; good structure; end of chapters sometimes with questions for further reflection)
- Glenn, Hinson E.: *The Church Triumphant. A History of Christianity up to 1300*. Macon: Mercer U. P., 1995 (470 pp.; can be used as general textbook; well structured; with a few maps)
- Horsley, Richard A. (ed.): *Christian Origins. A People's History of Christianity. Volume 1*, Fortress Press Minneapolis, 2005 (280 pp.; collection of essays by different historians; a history from below, turning the usual historiography upside down and focusing on what Christianity meant for simple people, the poor, the slaves, and women; focusing on the earliest time)
- Jenkins, Philip: *Jesus Wars: How Four Patriarchs, Three Queens, and Two Emperors Decided what Christians Would Believe for the next 1,500 Years*, New York: HarperOne, 2010
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid: *Groundwork of Christian History*, Epworth Press, 1987

Topics of special interest:

- Jenkins, Philip: *The Lost History of Christianity. The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia – And How It Died*, New York: Harper, 2008
- Louth, Andrew: *The Origins of the Christian Mystical Tradition: From Plato to Denys*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981
- Moffett, Samuel Hugh: *A History of Christianity in Asia. Vol. 1. Beginnings to 1500*, Harper Collins, 1992
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid: *A History of Christianity. The First Three Thousand Years*, Allen Lane, 2009 (overall over 1,000 pp., of which around 700 pp about early and medieval Christianity;
- Roukema, Riemer: *Gnosis and Faith in Early Christianity* (Harrisburg, Pa. : Trinity Press International, 1999)
- Trevett, Christine: *Montanism. Gender, authority, and the new prophecy* (Cambridge UP 1996)

In Chinese:

- Walker, Williston (and Richard A. Norris, David W. Lotz, Robert T. Handy): *A History of the Christian Church*. Edinburgh : T. & T. Clark, 1986 (classical textbook; rewritten by Norris, Lotz and Handy; 405 pp on the pre-reformation part; translated into Chinese as 華爾克, 《基督教會史》(香港: 基督教文藝出版社, 2016))
- Robert Fossier (ed.), 剑桥插图中世纪史_3 vols: vol. 1 350-950; vol. 2 950-1250; vol. 3 1250-1520 (Shandong hua bao chu ban she, 2006) (more focusing on secular history; with a

- lot of illustrations; vol. 2 around 500 pages)
- Mark A. Noll: *Turning points. Decisive moments in the history of Christianity*, translated by Cecilia Yau (CCM, 2002) (360 pages, short and concise, covering the whole history of the church)
- Bihlmeyer, *Early Church History*, translated by L. Leeb (毕尔麦尔著, 雷立柏译, 《古代教會史》、《中世紀教會史》、《近代教會史》(北京: 宗教文化出版社, 2009)) (covering the church history until 5th century; around 350 pages; with Western-Chinese and Chinese Western indexes, useful)
- Mary Cunningham, *Faith in the Byzantine World*, translated by Li Zhi Yu (北京大学出版社, 2005 (small booklet, around 150 pages, with many illustrations)
- Judith M. Bennett, C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe. A Short History* (上海社会科学院出版社, 2008) (430 pages; mainly starting from the 4th century on; with useful graphs, illustrations, and maps)
- 唐逸, 理性与信仰 — 西方中世纪哲学思想 (广西师范大学出版社, 2005) (430 pages; on medieval philosophy in all its aspects)
- 基督教二千年史。第一世纪至当代, 主编陶理博士 (海天书楼, 2001) (translation of Oxford History of Christianity; around 670 pages, covering the whole history of the church until the present)
- John D. Hannah, *Charts of Ancient and Medieval Church History* (Taipei, Taiwan: China Evangelical Seminary Press, 2003) (158 pages of charts and maps; a bit simplistic, but quite useful)
- 吳國桀, 奠基立柱——初期教會縱橫談 [*Dian ji li zhu: Chu qi jiao hui zong heng tan*] (*The Foundation and Pillars of Christianity: Key Developments of the Early Church*), Hong Kong: Logos, 2006
- 吳國桀, 築樓蓋頂——中世紀教會縱橫談 [*Zhu lou gai ding: Zong shi ji jiao hui zong heng tan*] (*Constructing the Church: Key Developments of the Medieval Church*), Hong Kong: Logos, 2011.

Assessment

20% Tutorial and Class Participation; 2 X 40% take-home exam

Assessment criteria for THEO 2221 and THEO 5321 are different

1. Tutorials

- Every week a different student (from THEO 5321) is in charge of leading the tutorial; and another student(s) [depending on the number of students enrolled in the course] is responsible of writing minutes for the tutorial.
- Goals of the tutorial:
 - i. to make all the students involved in a meaningful discussion
 - ii. to think what has been learnt in the last lesson
 - iii. to preview the main issues before next lecture
 - iv. to reflect and critically discuss the past
 - iv. to apply and to relate the past to the present
- Responsibility of the **tutorial leader**:

The role of the tutorial leader is **not** to teach or to give an oral presentation or so.
The most important role is to keep the discussion going and to make sure that everybody finds equal opportunity to participate.
- Responsibility of **the one writing minutes**:

Summarize the discussion and some of the important findings.
For THEO 2221 students: you may compare your expected answers before the tutorial (and

lecture) to the questions discussed and the findings in the process. In addition, you may write about your reflections in relation to your own experiences. (within 3000 words)
For THEO5321 students: same as THEO2221 students; plus a critical analysis after synthesizing the lecture and reading relevant materials to form a short reflection essay. (within 5000 words)

- Date of submission: within 1 week after the tutorial
- Assessment of Tutorial and Class participation:
 - Regularity of attendance
 - Balanced communicative behavior
 - Quality of oral contributions
 - Originality of thought
 - Leading of tutorial (THEO 5321 students)

2. Take-home Exams

The exams provide an opportunity to revise the historical events learned.

- Provisional time: 19 Oct and 7 Dec 2016
 - The exams consist mainly of short questions and expected short answers; you may also be asked to write short essays of introducing some theologians or historical events.
 - The questions set for THEO2221 and THEO5321 may be different.
 - Date of submission: within 2 weeks after the exam paper is posted on the website.
- Assessment Criteria:
- Content: do the answers reflect a good understanding of the materials read?
 - Thought: Does the student critically engage with the thoughts expressed?
 - Form: Neatness of the paper, good structuring, concise writing, mastering of language and proper use of source materials
 - Creativity: Does the form of the presentation show creative dialogue with the historical events or thoughts? (Additional resource materials, creative presentation)

Course assignments: please follow the following rules concerning submission:

1. Each student must upload an electronic file by 11.55 pm of the due date on the blackboard platform. Please note: **only standard word file** are welcomed, **no WinZip, no pdf** or other formats. Wrong file will be regarded as no submission.
2. Each student must also upload the same soft copy of the completed assignment to the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, at the URL: <https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/>
3. The system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty, which is the same as that in <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p10.htm>. The declaration should be forwarded to the tutor (can be done electronically without signing). Do not send it to the lecturer.

Schedule

PART I: THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH: FROM JESUS TO THE END OF THE WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE 5TH CENTURY

- 7 Sept 2015 Introduction to the course
The church in the first two centuries
- What is the Relation of Jesus to the Church?
 - Steps in the Development of the Early Church and the spread of Christianity
 - The Separation between the Church and the Jewish Community

- 14 Sept 2015 Christianity and politics:
Conflicts with the State
The extension of Christianity in the first three centuries
- 21 Sept 2015 Challenges to the Faith in the Second Century and the Development of Early Catholic Theology
The Pre-Catholic Church
Gnostic Crisis, Marcionism and the Montanist Crisis
Response to the Challenges to the Faith: Development of Catholic Theology
- 28 Sept 2015 Christianity and culture: The encounter with Hellenist philosophy
Hellenistic philosophies
Patristic Theology
The early Trinitarian debates
- 5 Oct 2015 Christianity becoming the religion of the empire
Religious policy after Constantine
The so-called Constantinian conversion
Constantine's impact on the religious life of the Catholic Church
Impact on the Theology of the Catholic Church
Counter-movements to the Imperial Church: Ascetism and Monasticism
- 12 Oct 2015 Theological and ecclesial controversies of the 4th Century Donatism
The Arian Controversy until the Council of Nicea
The Continuation of the Controversy after Nicea until Constantinople
- 19 Oct 2015 Theology and christological debates in the 5th century
The Council of Chalcedon
Augustine

PART II: THE HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

- 26 Oct 2015 Mission history: the extension of Christianity and its inculturation in new contexts
The Encounter of the Catholic Church with Non-Roman Kingdoms
Shifts in world Christianity and the confrontation with Islam
- 2 Nov 2016 Church and state: The growth of papal and ecclesial power
The history of the papal claim of primacy
The development of the secular power of the popes
The conflict between the papacy and the Empire
Medieval papacy, church and state
- 2 Nov 2016 *** Teacher away for conference ***
- 16 Nov 2015 The history of a growing division: The churches in East and West on separate ways
Christological Debates of the 6th and 7th Century
The Iconoclastic Debate
- 23 Nov 2016 The history of the other church: Revivalism, reform, and alternative Christian faith expression in the medieval time

Christian mysticism
Monastic reform movements
Mendicant orders
Radical and heretical movements
The Catholic Church and the 'other church'

30 Nov 2016 Outward militancy and inward divisions in the high and late medieval time
The crusades
The inquisition
The Babylonian captivity of the church and the divided papacy
The conciliar church reform movement

7 Dec 2016 A short introduction to medieval theology
Early and medieval Christianity and its impact on Western culture and society
Unfinished business

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM

The University places great emphasis on students' academic honesty. A short video clip (in three different versions – Cantonese, Mandarin, and English) introduces you to the notions of plagiarism and academic honesty: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/tnl/acad_honesty.html

Read also the following academic honesty website:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>