

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

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TA

Venue ELB 303

Course description and syllabus

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 15th century. Topics to be discussed in the course include the following:

- The separation of Christianity and Judaism
- Early Christianity's controversy with Gnosticism and Marcionitism
- Persecution of Christianity in the Roman Empire
- The emergence of monasticism
- Christianity as religion of the empire
- Early Christian church councils
- The rise of the papacy
- The spread of Christianity
- Revivalist, reform, and heretical movements in medieval Christianity
- Rome and Byzantine: a growing division

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 for students of THEO 5321:

- 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) 2 hours lecturing with Teacher's handouts and notes
- b) 1 hour tutorial in groups with student-led discussions
Read your notes that you have written and that you have received, additionally read reading assignments for tutorial and discuss questions

Textbooks

- 白德培: 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 (莫界文譯), 香港: 明風出版, 2016 (Tobias Brandner, *Tradition, Transmission, Transformations: A Critical History of Christianity from the Time of Jesus to the Eve of the Reformation*. Translated by Bryan Mok Kieman. Hong Kong: Ming Feng Press, 2016)
- Gonzalez, Justo L.: *The Story of Christianity. Volume 1. The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. Harper San Francisco, 1984 (2nd edition 2010) – recommended for purchase, available at University Bookstore
- Primary texts and other material on a special website
<http://www4.crs.cuhk.edu.hk/~tobias/>

Study literature

(*applies to students of THEO 5321)

- * 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.
- 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: *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

- 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
- * 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: *Groundwork of Christian History*, Epworth Press, 1987
- * 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) *
- Stark, Rodney: *The Rise of Christianity. A Sociologist Reconsiders History*. Princeton University Press 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, 1986⁴
(classical textbook; rewritten by Norris, Lotz and Handy; 405 pp on the pre-reformation part; translated into Chinese)
- 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)
- 基督教词典, 主编文庸, 乐峰, 王继武, 商务印书馆出版, 北京 2005
- 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 (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。子第一世纪至当代, 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

- 吳國榮，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

For THEO 2221: 20% Tutorial and Class Participation; 30% two tests through the term; 50% reading report and reflection paper

For THEO 5321: 20% Tutorial and Class Participation, 30% two tests through the term; 50% reflection paper on one early or medieval theologian

1. Tutorials

- Reading assignments to be read in preparation for the tutorial
- Goals of the tutorial:
 - to clarify what has been learnt in the past lesson
 - to reflect and critically discuss the past
 - to apply and to relate the past to the present
- Assessment of Tutorial and Class participation:
 - Regularity of attendance
 - Balanced communicative behavior
 - Quality of oral contributions
 - Originality of thought

2. Tests

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

- Provisional time: Tue, 6 Nov 2018 and 4 December 2018
- The small tests consist of short questions and multiple-choice questions and possibly some other questions.

3. Essay

THEO 2221:

- Write a reading report and reflection paper about **both** the following two texts:
 - Bosch, David J.: *Transforming Mission. Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*, Orbis Books Maryknoll 1991, pp. 181-238
 - Philip Jenkins: *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
- English 4,000 words, Chinese 4,000 to 4,500 characters – deadline by 10 Dec 2018
- The students may (optionally) submit an outline or idea or first draft by 13 Nov 2018 – the outline / draft will not be assessed. It is simply a service to the students to help them in their process of writing.
- Note that the assignment combines two aspects:
 - Your paper reflects a thorough reading and a good understanding of the two books (or parts thereof) and summarizes the content in a concise form.
 - You reflect on one or several issue(s) raised in the book in a way that relates to the present context (in whatever way this present context is defined).

- Language: English or Chinese is accepted
- Assessment Criteria:
 - Content: does the paper reflect a good understanding of the texts?
 - Thought: Does the student critically engage with the thoughts expressed?
 - Form: does the form of the presentation enhance the understanding of the written essay? (Neatness of the paper, good structuring, concise writing, mastering of language and proper use of source material)
 - Creativity: Does the form of the presentation show creative dialogue with the theologian? (Additional resource material, creative presentation)

THEO 5321

- Write an essay about any one Christian theologian of the early or medieval period – e.g., Augustine, Thomas, Irenaeus, Origen, Tertullian, Gregory of Nyssa, Catherine of Siena, Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart, Duns Scotus, Occam, Abaelard, etc.
- Try to answer the following questions (guideline for your help and inspiration – please be creative and feel free not to stick to this format):
 - What is his / her life and life context? (Social, political, ecclesial context of the theologian; the challenge that he wants to respond to)
 - What is his / her main thought? What philosophic traditions have influenced him / her? (philosophical and religious sources does he draw from)
 - What is his / her achievement? (effect on later church history and history of philosophy)
 - What does he / she tell me? What is his / her relevance today?
- The assignment combines mainly two aspects:
 - a. ability to **understand** a theologian’s thought and the ability to describe it concisely;
 - b. ability to **reflect** on a theological problem of your own context in exchange with the thought of a specific theologian.
- Note the following **formal guidelines** for writing:
 - **Length:** English 4,000 to 5,000 words, Chinese max 6,000 to 7,000 characters. Note the limitation of length.
 - **Due date:** 10 Dec 2018
 - **Language:** English or Chinese is accepted
- The students may (optionally) submit an outline or idea or first draft by 13 Nov 2018 – the outline / draft will not be assessed. It is simply a service to the students to help them in their process of writing.
- Assessment Criteria:
 - Content: does the paper reflect a good understanding of the theologian?
 - Thought: Does the student critically engage with the thought of the theologian?
 - Form: does the form of the presentation enhance the understanding of the written essay? (Neatness of the paper, good structuring, concise writing, mastering of language and proper use of source material)
 - Creativity: Does the form of the presentation show creative dialogue with the theologian? (Additional resource material, creative presentation)

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/academic_honesty/

Grading

The grading follows the general grading policy of the CUHK outlined below:

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Unacceptable
Thesis	A clear statement of what is being proposed or argued in the paper.	The thesis is easily detectable after reading the paper, but it is not presented in a single and clear statement.	The thesis is present, but a reader must work hard to reconstruct from the entire paper.	There is no thesis or central argument/proposal to tie the paper together, or the thesis is unclear.
Arguments	Each reason, support, or argument to follow the thesis is made clear, thorough, relevant and convincing. Proper references are consistently made to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid.	Arguments made to support the thesis are clear, but less thorough, relevant, and/or convincing. References are often made to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid, but this is done not as consistently.	Arguments made to support the thesis are acceptable but sketchy or their relevance unclear. Some references are made to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid.	Arguments to support the thesis are missing, irrelevant, or not convincing. The paper makes lots of claims or assertions that are not substantiated. There are few or no references to the text in question (biblical and/or a textbook) to show why the proposed thesis is valid.
Counter-Arguments	The paper acknowledges, anticipates, and accounts for conflicting evidence, counter-examples, counter-arguments, and/or opposing positions, even ones that are not obvious or not yet been made in writings of others.	The paper acknowledges and accounts for obvious conflicting evidence, counter-examples, counter-arguments, and/or opposing positions.	The paper acknowledges and accounts for a few obvious conflicting evidence, counter-examples, and counter-arguments, but miss other obvious opposing positions. Or the paper acknowledges counter-arguments without accounting for them.	No awareness or acknowledgment of conflicting evidence, counter-examples, counter-arguments, or opposing positions.

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Unacceptable
Organization	The paper's flow, from one paragraph to another, is consistently sensible, logical, and always with clear transitions. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is easy to follow and coherent.	The paper's flow, from one paragraph to another, is largely sensible and logical. Transitions are mostly appropriate. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is distinguishable if not easy to follow.	There are signs of sensible and logical organization, but these are mixed with abrupt or illogical shifts and ineffective flow of ideas. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is not clearly distinguishable.	The paper does not flow well in terms of organization or for the argument of the thesis. Transitions from paragraph to paragraph or from one idea to the next are missing. The movement from introduction to the body and then the conclusion is non-existent.
Style	The paper is written in complete and grammatically correct sentences. Word choice is precise; definitions are provided if and when needed. Paper has been spell-checked, proofread, and contains no errors.	The paper is written in complete sentence and grammatically correct sentences. Word choice is understandable, definitions are generally (though not always) provided if and when needed. Paper has been spell-checked, proofread, and contains only a few errors.	The paper contains some incomplete or grammatically incorrect sentences. Word choice is imprecise, at times not understandable, and/or not defined when needed. Not clear if the paper has been spell-checked and proofread because of the number of errors present.	The paper is written with many incomplete or grammatically incorrect sentences. Word choice is not understandable and definition of particular terms or words is not given even when needed. The paper has clearly not been spell-checked or proofread, and hence contains an excessive number of errors.
Documentation	Notes to indicate sources of information are given whenever they are needed. Both notes and bibliography use consistent and academically acceptable format.	Notes to indicate sources of information are generally given when they are needed. Notes and bibliography are generally but not always consistent or conform to required academic standard.	Sources of information are not consistently documented. If they are, format is inconsistent or does not conform to required academic standard.	Source materials are used without documentation.

For submission of assignments, please follow the following rule:

1. Upload your assignment on the Blackboard website. **Only word-format is allowed. PDF is regarded as non-submission.**
2. At the same time also upload a 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 uploaded in pdf to the blackboard system.

Overview

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

- 4 Sept 2018 Session 1:
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
- 11 Sept 2018 Session 2: Christianity and politics
Conflicts with the State
The extension of Christianity in the first three centuries
- 18 Sept 2018 Session 3: 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
- 25 Sept 2018 Public Holiday (the day after Mid-autumn Festival)
- 2 Oct 2018 Teacher absent (due to conference)
- 9 Oct 2018 Session 4: Christianity and culture: The encounter with Hellenist philosophy
Hellenistic philosophies
Patristic Theology
The early Trinitarian debates
- 16 Oct 2018 Session 5: 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
Countermovements to the Imperial Church: Ascetism and Monasticism
- 23 Oct 2018 Session 6: 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
- 30 Oct 2018 Session 7: Theology and christological debates in the 5th century
The Council of Chalcedon

Augustine

PART II THE HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

- 6 Nov 2018 Session 8: 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

Tutorial: Quiz 1
- 13 Nov 2018 Session 9: 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
- 20 Nov 2018 Session 10: 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
- 27 Nov 2018 Session 11: 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'
- 4 Dec 2018 (Make-up class)
Session 12: 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

Tutorial: Quiz 2