

FND 100i/FTH 400i EARLY CHURCH HISTORY for online delivery

FALL 2019

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

September 4th – December 18th 2019

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Thursdays each week

Accessed online at

<http://moodle.newman.edu>

Instructors Name:

Dr. Maria Kozakiewicz

Office:

virtual

Office Hours:

Thursday 1-4 PM (by phone) or by appointment

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Course Description

The historical development of the Church from the second century to the rise of Islam. The relationship of Church and Empire, the beginnings of monasticism, the contributions of women, the development of institutions and doctrine, and the missionary activity of Christians beyond the Greco-Roman World.

3 Credits.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to encourage and develop learning and skill in the following four areas, with varying degrees of focus depending on the program of the student in question:

- a) Intellectual Formation - The program shall foster source-based knowledge of the early history of the Church as it grew within the (often hostile) Graeco-Roman world.
- b) Cultural Context - The program shall allow the students understand the pre-Christian ancient culture and appreciate challenges faced by the early Christians as they were spreading the faith among the peoples guided by very different value systems.
- c) Personal and Spiritual Formation – The program shall foster trust in God’s Providence. Close study of history of the Church from its raise in the 1st century to ca 650 AD leads to understanding that God is the true master of history of humanity.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Course assignments and evaluation will consist of the following four components:

1. Bi-Weekly Online Forum Discussions. Students in FND 100 stream will be asked to contribute TWO short (150 words) posts on forum every two weeks. Students who are in the FTH400 program will contribute TWO longer posts (300 words) Posts should be relevant to the weekly readings and topics discussed. Some questions will be posted on the moodle as well.
2. Small reflective essay (4 pages long – for students in FND and 6 pages long in the FTH400) on either of two topics : a) “*Pre-Christian concepts of the Afterlife*” or b) “*Aeneas as a perfect Roman man and leader*” or else a topic student invents him/herself and has it approved by the teacher. The essay has to be submitted by **September 26th** (as email attachment)
3. Research paper (6 pages long in case of the students in FND 100 and 9 pages long for the students in the FTH400 program) on a topic from the list provided by the professor or on a topic approved by the professor. Each program will have its own research topics to choose from. The list of topics will be posted on the Moodle by the mid-September. Due date for the research paper is **October 24th**.
4. Final Take-Home Examination is due on December 16th. The list of topics which the Final Examination will consist of will be posted on the Moodle on December 5th 2019.

Forum posts	20%
Essay #1 (on paganism)	20%
Research Paper (on Christianity)	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Textbooks

Plutarch’s *Lives: Alexander the Great-Julius Caesar*, Franklin Classics (2018)

Virgil: *The Aeneid*, translation by Robert Fagles. Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition, 2008

Eusebius, *The History of the Church: from Christ to Constantine*, Penguin Classics (1990)

Early Christian Writings: The Apostolic Fathers, Penguin Classics, 1987

Early Christian Lives (Athanasius, Jerome, Sulpicius Severus and two more) Penguin Classics 1998

Ryan S Topping, *The Gift of the Church*, vol 1, Tan Books, 2018 A. ll students are advised to begin their readings will this book – it is not long, yet gives great overview of the Church History and

helps the reader understand how Christianity changed the world. Try to read it in one – two sittings and then return to the chapters listed in the Readings.

Recommended Readings

Pope Benedict XVI, *The Fathers*, Our Sunday Visitor, 2008 – this publication presents the Church Fathers through the lenses of Pope Benedict’s impressive faith and intellect.

Seneca: *Letters from a Stoic*, Penguin Classics (1969 or any other edition)

Warren H Carroll, *The Founding of Christianity: A History of Christianity* (Vol1) and *The Building of Christianity*, 324-1100, Christianity Press, 2004 (very valuable and truly Catholic textbook – try to buy it). This publication (available on Amazon.com in paperback) is one of the best Church History textbooks. If you feel

Suggested websites

1. Begin by reading the following page from the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the Vatican webpage:
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm#763
It will help you look at history through the eyes of the Faith.
2. For the Holy Bible go to <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/INDEX.HTM>
3. For a wide range of ancient texts and historical explorations across time and world try this site. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/asbook.asp>

This website is organized according to geographical regions in which civilizations developed (so, “Egypt”, “Mesopotamia”, or “Greece”, “Rome”. It will lead you to all kinds of information (literary texts, legal texts, inscriptions etc)

You will find testament of the first emperor of Rome, Augustus (Jesus was born under his rule) called “the Deeds of Divine Augustus” here:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Augustus/deeds.html>

4. On the Internet Classics Archive <http://classics.mit.edu/index.html> you will find Plutarch’s Lives including Alexander the Great (this is **the first reading in this course**)
<http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/alexandr.html>
and Cicero <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/cicero.html>
as well as Julius Caesar <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/caesar.html>

5. *Aeneid*, Virgil translated by R Fagles – in pdf but with no numbers for lines of the text. Good to read until you receive your own text in print.

<https://inquiringmindpdx.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/virgil-aeneid-trans-fagles-penguin-2006-1.pdf>

Famous “Messianic” Eclogue 4th of Virgil can be found (in modern translation) on

https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/VirgilEclogues.php#anchor_Toc533239265

6. If you want to get an idea how popular and well-entrenched was ancient pagan religion and myth, browse through the website <https://www.theoi.com> It has all the stories of the Greek gods and heroes and countless images (photographs of actual ancient artwork).
7. For most Christian texts (like Fathers of the Church or Desert Fathers), the “New Advent” website is excellent. Authors (the Church Fathers and also Eusebius text are arranged in alphabetical order so you need to know the name of the author and the title of the text you are seeking:
<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/>
8. If you want to read the text (inscribed on the huge Arch of Constantine in Rome) which refers to Constantine’s vision which led him to accept Christianity, see:
http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/Europe/Italy/Lazio/Roma/Rome/Arch_of_Constantine/inscriptions.html
9. Full text of the Edict of Milan which gave Christians freedom of worship can be found here:
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/edict-milan.asp>
10. For the catacombs of Rome (Christian) go to
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_commissions/archo/inglese/documents/rc_com_archo_doc_20011010_cataccrist_en.html
And for the Vatican Necropolis (under the St Peter’s Basilica) go to
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_Necropolis

Lecture Topics and Readings:

Week 1 September 5

Introduction, Geography and History of the early civilisations of the Mediterranean. Rise of religion in the prehistoric societies; religion of the Bronze Age civilisations. Temples and burials. Hebrew monotheism. Old Testament times. Abraham and Moses

Readings: PowerPoint presentation (Moodle)
Eusebius, *The History of the Church*: Introduction

Week 2 September 12

History of Greece from the Archaic Age to the conquest by Rome. Greek religion, literature and thought; Periclean Athens; Alexander the Great. Raise of the ruler cult. *Koine*. Raise of Rome.

Reading: Plutarch, *Alexander the Great*
PowerPoint presentation (Moodle)

Week 3 September 19
History of the Roman Republic and its conquests

Readings: Plutarch, *Lives, Julius Caesar*
PowerPoint Presentation (Moodle)

Week 4 September 26

Roman religion and views on afterlife. Roman art and architecture. Crisis of the 1st century before the birth of Christ. Triumvirates, end of the Republic and the Age of Augustus. Conquest of Gaul and Spain. Revival of *virtus*, *pietas* and *auctoritas*. Rise of the Ruler Cult after 14AD.

Readings: Cicero's Letters – Letters written after death of Tullia, his daughter.
Res Gestae Divi Augusti and Virgil's 4th *Eclogue* (check the list of websites),
Virgil's *Aeneid* (books 1- 6)
PowerPoint presentation (Moodle)

Reflection Essay due date - September 26th -

Week 5 October 3

Roman imperial art and architecture – the Imperial Fora, Colosseum, Arches, Palaces and Baths; Art and Architecture in the provinces – Athens, Leptis Magna, Caesarea on the Sea. Temple in Jerusalem.

Readings: Virgil's *Aeneid* (books 6-12); PowerPoint presentation (Moodle)

Week 6 October 10

Historical background to the coming of the Messiah. The political situation and expectations of the Jews. The Person and Work of Christ. The Church at Jerusalem.

Readings: Eusebius, *Church History*, chapters 1-3
Topping, *The Gift of the Church*; Foreword, Preface, Chapter 1 - *Prophets*

OCTOBER 14th - THANKSGIVING

Week 7 October 17

1st century AD: Julio-Claudians : Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius (Caligula), Claudius, Nero (historical overview). Conquest of Germania and Britannia. Excesses of the ruler cult.

Readings: PowerPoint presentation (Moodle)

Week 8 October 24

St James and the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Saul becomes St Paul.

Fire of Rome and the first persecutions. Death of St Peter and St Paul. Missions of the Apostles and the Disciples.

Readings: *The First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*
The First Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians
Eusebius, *The Church History*, book 2 (The Apostles)

October 24th – Research Essay Due date

Week 9 October 31

The Flavians, the Jewish War and destruction of Jerusalem. Dispersion of the Jews. Persecutions of Domitian.

Readings:: Eusebius, Book 3 (*Missions and Persecutions*)
Topping, *The Gift of the Church*, chapter 2 – Martyrs: the Gift of Witness
PowerPoint presentation on history of the period and the Arch of Titus (Moodle)

NOVEMBER 11 – 15 REMEMBRANCE DAY and THE READING WEEK – no classes

Week 10 November 7

2nd Century AD Five Good Emperors: Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius

Conquest of Dacia under Trajan; Pliny the Younger's problems with persecution of Christians. The Plague and military struggles with the Marcomanii. More persecutions.

Martyrdom of Polycarp of Smyrna and Ignatius of Antioch. Rise of heresy.

Readings: Eusebius, chapter 4 and 5

Early Christian Writings: *Didache*, *Martyrdom of Polycarp*, two letters of Ignatius of Antioch
PowerPoint presentation – Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius (Moodle)

NOVEMBER 21st – ESSAY no 2 DUE

Week 11 November 21

Roman soldier-emperors and the economic decline of Rome in the 3rd century AD. More intense persecutions of Christians (under Valerian, Decius then Galerius and Diocletian and Galerius).
New pagan cults: Sol and Mithras.

Readings: Eusebius, book 6 and 7 (Origen and Atrocities at Alexandria; Diocletian to Maximian)

Week 12 November 28

Conversion of emperor Constantine and the Act of Tolerance. St Helen's pilgrimage to Holy Land.

Constantine moves capital to Constantinople – reasons and results.
 Legal status of the Catholic Church. Churchbuilding style. “Old” St Peter’s
 Basilica and Lateran. Santa Maria in Trastevere. Pantheon.
 Christian radicalism - from martyrdom to desert. Monastic life.

Readings; St Athanasius “ Life of Antony” (in “Early Christian Lives”)
 Eusebius, book 9 and 10 (Peace and Recovery; Constantine)
 Topping, *The Gift of the Church*, chapter 3 and 4
 Websites (check the list) on the Catacombs and Scavi under St Peter’s Basilica
 PowerPoint presentation (Moodle)

Week 13 December 5

Gradual (and painful) fall of the Western Roman Empire; spread of
 Christianity.
 Challenges of the Eastern Empire and Emperor Heraclius. Rise of Islam (622) –
 just when the Persians have been conquered. Conquest (by the Muslim
 caliphs) of Mesopotamia, Middle East and Egypt. Christian missions to the
 West (Britain and Ireland) and to China

Reading: *Life of Benedict* (by Gregory the Great)
 Topping, *The Gift of the Church*, chapters 5, 6 and 9

Final Exam topics posted on Moodle
 Take -Home Final Exam is due on December 12

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Essays are due on appointed dates. Late submissions will be accepted for valid reasons only.
 Penalty of 5% by one day missed.

If you know in advance that you will not be able to submit your work on the scheduled date for
 a legitimate and documentable reason, please let me know as soon as possible

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from
 one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will
 be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed
 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed
 deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The
 grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the
 infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to

automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Aichters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu .