Course Description

This course continues the study of the history of the Church, its relationship with the state, the development of its doctrinal and ethical positions, its relationship to surrounding cultures, its geographical expansion and consolidation during the early, high and later Middle Ages.

Course Objectives

To continue student exposure to Patristic texts.

To provide the student with a working knowledge of church history in the Medieval Era.

To gain an appreciation of some of the major interpretive approaches to these periods.

Course Texts


Additional readings which may be found on library reserve assigned from
*Christology of the Later Fathers*, ed. Edward Hardy
St. Theodore the Studite, *On the Holy Icons*
St. Symeon the New Theologian

Course Outline

Note: the Guideline Questions for the course texts are to be prepared in advance of the class for which the reading is due.

Introduction: Review of the period of the early Church

The Disintegration of the Roman Empire
  Augustine’s *The City of God*
  READ Brown, chapt. 4 and 5
  Video lecture: “Long Shadows and the Dark Ages”
5th century controversies and councils
“Dogmatic Letters of Nestorius and Cyril of Alexandria” in Hardy, 346 - 354
“The Formula of Union” in Hardy, 355 - 358
“The Tome of Leo” in Hardy, 359 - 370
“The Chalcedonian Decree” in Hardy, 371 - 374
READ Ullmann, chapt. 1

The 6th century Church, West and East—Justinian and the Byzantine empire
READ Brown, chaps. 6, 7 and 8
READ Ullmann, chaps. 2 & 3

Western Monasticism
READ Brown, chaps. 9, 10 and 11

The House of Islam
READ Brown, chapt. 12 and 13

Christianities of the North
READ Brown, chaps. 14 and 15
READ Brown, chapt. 16
Assignment #1: Saints

The Iconoclast controversy
READ Brown, chapt. 17

Copies on library reserve
Video lecture: “Graven mages: Christianity’s Visual Arts”
READ Ullmann, chapt. 4

READ Brown, chaps. 18, 19 and 20
READ Ullmann, chapt. 5
READ St. Symeon the New Theologian, “Fasting”, “Ecstasy in the Light” and “On Spiritual Knowledge” Library reserve

The High Middle Ages

Feudalism

The Cluniac and Gregorian reform. The Investiture controversy
Heresy and the rise of the mendicant orders

READ Ullmann, chapt. 9
Assignment #2: The Mendicant Orders

The Universities and Scholasticism

READ Ullmann, chapt. 10 & 11
Assignment #3: Scholasticism

The Crusades


The Later Middle Ages

Contextual factors: climate change, demographic changes, Hundred Years War, peasant and urban revolts.

Video lecture: “The Late Middle Ages—Rebirth, Waning, Calamity?”

Avignon papacy

READ Ullmann, chapt. 12

Great Western Schism

Assignment #4: Popes


Assignment #5: The Spanish Inquisition due

The Renaissance: Renaissance humanism

READ Ullmann, chapt. 13
DVD: “The Age of the Medici”: Leon Battista Alberti

Course Evaluation

MDiv. And STB: 2 exams, mid-term and final (1/3 each of final grade)

MDiv.: 4 short papers on specified topics (see separate sheet) (collectively, final third of grade)

STB: A research paper (standard length of 12 to 15 pages) on a topic to be approved by the instructor is required. (1/3 of final grade)

Bibliography

Multi-volume church histories

Medieval Christianity


Islam and Christianity

Jacques Pirenne, *Muhammed and Charlemagne*

The Crusades


Christopher Tyerman, *The Debate on the Crusades* (2011)


Norman Cantor, *In the Wake of the Plague. The Black Death and the World It Made* (2001)


Jabob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (reprinted)

John Addington Symonds, *Renaissance in Italy*, 7 vols. [1875 - 1886] (reprinted)


Irena Backus, *The Reception of the Church Fathers in the West. From the Carolingians to the Maurists*, vol. 2, (1977)