



FND211/FTH 400

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

FALL 2022

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

September 7 – December 13

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Wednesday 8.30 – 11.20 am

Room: Ste Marguerite Bourgeoys Room

Instructor's Name: Dr Maria Kozakiewicz

Office: N/A

Office Hours: by appointment or after class

Telephone: 780-4381282

Email: Maria.Kozakiewicz@Newman.edu

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.

Course Objectives

M.DIV. Program Students

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster sound knowledge of the revelation of God in creation and history of creation.
- b) **Cultural Context** - The program shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity – no historical circumstances will ever appear fearful since the conclusion of the course makes God a Master of history.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program shall foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.

MRE Program Students

- a) **Cultural Context** - The program shall foster a capacity to discern and engage the cultural context as it impacts Catholic education.
- b) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall offer students with opportunities to grow in their spiritual life and in their vocation as Catholic educators and witnesses to the Gospel.
- c) **Integrating Theory and Praxis** - The program shall offer integration of theological knowledge and religious education formation in the professional work of Catholic education.

MTS Program Students

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster a survey knowledge of theology in the following four areas; Foundational Theology, Sacred Scripture, Systematic Theology, and Moral/Spiritual Theology

B.A. Program Students

- a) Broad familiarity with the contributions of Catholicism to Western Culture.
- b) Skills in reading, writing and oral communication.

- c) Skills in logical analysis and research.
- d) Opportunity for Growth in Christian discipleship.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Midterm exam	20%
Essay #1 (on paganism)	20%
Essay #2 (on Christianity)	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Textbooks

Plutarch's Lives: *Alexander the Great*, Franklin Classics (2018) or online
 Virgil: *The Aeneid*, book 6 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 of your choice) Penguin Classics 1998
The Desert Fathers, Sayings of the Early Christian Monks, Penguin Classics 2003
 Ryan S Topping, *The Gift of the Church*, vol 1, Tan Books, 2018

Recommended Reading

Pope Benedict XVI, *The Fathers, Our Sunday Visitor*, 2008
 Seneca: *Letters from a Stoic*, Penguin Classics (1969 or any other edition)
 Warren H Carroll, *The Founding of Christendom: A History of Christendom (Vol1)* and *The Building of Christendom, 324-1100*, Christendom Press, 2004
Constantine and the Christian Empire, Charles Matson Odahl, Routledge, 2010

Course Requirements

- **Assignment due dates and late submission policy**
- **ESSAYS.** There will be two essays to write: one on paganism and one (longer) on Christianity.
- The first reflective essay (4 pages long – for students in FND 211 and 6 pages long in the FTH400) will be written on one of two topics : a) “*Pre-Christian concepts of the need for existence of gods and the purpose of divine worship* ” or b) “*Characteristics of a Pagan hero – Alexander the Great* ” or else a topic student invents him/herself and has it approved by the teacher. The essay has to be submitted by **Thursday October 523th** (in paper)

- Research paper on Christian history (6 pages long in case of the students in FND 211 and 9 pages long for the students in the FTH400 program) will be written on a topic from the list provided by the professor in the second week of semester. It may also be written on a topic designed by a student and approved by professor. Each program will have its own research topics to choose from. Due date for the research paper is **November 23rd**

Dates:

- **Essay 1 – due on Thursday, October 5th**
- **Essay 2 – due on November 23rd**
- **Midterm –Wednesday , October 26th**
- **Final – TBA**
- **Missed Exams:** If you know in advance that you will not be able to write the midterm or final exam on the scheduled date for a legitimate and documentable reason, please let me know as soon as possible. If you do not show up for the exam without previous warning, we'll negotiate.
- **Attendance and Participation:** Students should expect to be called upon in class and participate in discussions on the relevant (and prepared) readings. In light of this, attendance is vital. 10% of your final grade will be determined by your active participation in class, and approximately half of that will be directly related to your physical attendance. You should attend class consistently (many Power Points presentations cannot be downloaded) do your readings in a timely manner and review the past material often.

Late Submission Policy.

- Late submissions will be accepted for valid reasons only. Penalty of 5% by one day missed will be applied if no explanation for delay is given. Paper copies are required.

Course Schedule

Lecture Topics and Readings:

Week 1 September 7

Introduction, Geography and History of the early civilizations of the Mediterranean. Rise of religion in the prehistoric societies ; religion of the Bronze Age civilizations. Polytheism and Hebrew monotheism. Iron Age - the Assyrian and the Neobabylonian Empires and the Persian Empire. Rise of Greek civilization. Greece from the Archaic Age to the Hellenistic Age. Creation of the Great Divide between the East and West. Alexander the Great and his conquests. Greek religion, literature and thought. Koine as a common language. Translation of Old Testament into Greek.

Readings: PowerPoint presentation in class

Week 2 September 14
 Pagan Heroes of myth and history (**Do we need heroes? discussion**)
 Raise of Rome. 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**. “Return of the Golden Age”
 and the Ruler of the Golden Age.
 Revival of *virtus*, *pietas* and *auctoritas*. **Raise of the Ruler Cult** after 14AD

Reading: Plutarch, *Alexander the Great* - the hero of the pagan world
 Virgil's 4th *Eclogue* (look it up among the “websites” at the end of the course
 outline), Virgil's *Aeneid* (book 6)

Week 3 September 21
 Apostolic Age and the first persecutions, both at Jerusalem and Rome.
 Julio Claudian dynasty and its downfall.
 The nascent Church. Gentiles and Jews. Problem of the Law and its solution during the
 Jerusalem council. Missionary dispersion of the Apostles. Peter and Paul in Rome.
 Nero, Scavi and the Tomb of Peter (Powerpoint). Gospels, Letters and the Acts.

Readings: Powerpoint; Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, chapters 1 and 2 ;

Week 4 September 28
 Rise of the Flavian dynasty. Vespasian, Titus and Domitian. Last Gospel – St John.
 Jewish War (notice divine omens) and the fall of the Temple in Jerusalem.
 Martyrs, Saints and Heretics. First Popes after St Peter: Linus, Anacletus, Clemens.
 Age of the Fathers of the Church
 Roman continued expansion, urbanization and road building.
Discussion – Eusebius and his lists of bishops
 Readings: Power Point
 Eusebius, *Church History*, chapter 3 (Vespasian to Trajan)
 Early Christian Writings: Introduction and *The First Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians*

October

Week 5 **October 5**
 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 of Aurelian and his military struggles with the Marcomanii.
 Gradual change of climate. More persecutions and confiscations of Church property.
 Testimony of Catacombs.

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

Readings: Eusebius, chapter 4 (*Trajan to Marcus Aurelius*) and book 5 (*Marcus Aurelius to Severus*); In the *Early Christian Writings: Didache*, epistles of Ignatius of Antioch – to the Ephesians, the Magnesians, the Romans, the Trallians, , to Polycarp. *Martyrdom of Polycarp*

October 5th - ESSAY 1 due (on paganism – list of topics will be handed in or sent the 2nd week of September) – 10%

The difficult 3rd century AD. Roman soldier-emperors and the economic decline of Rome in the 3rd century AD. Another major plague ca 250. New (Eastern) pagan cults: Sol and Mithras. New and old heresies.

Readings: Eusebius, chapter 6 (*Severus to Decius, heresy of Nestorius*) and 7 (*Gallus and Gallienus, the work of Cyprian and Dionysius. Multiple heresies: Sabellinus, Novatus, Nepos and the Manichees. Death of Origen. and Atrocities at Alexandria*)

Monday October 11th - Thanksgiving

Week 6 October 12

Attempts at reform by Diocletian. Intense and methodical persecutions of Christians (under Valerian, Decius then Galerius and Diocletian and Galerius). Division of the Empire into the eastern and the western parts with two Augusti and 2 Caesari Ruling. Several cities become centers of power. Rise in number of the Desert Fathers, especially in Egypt and Asia Minor.

Discussion –**why does the wisdom of Desert Fathers has such lasting influence?**

Readings: Eusebius Chapter 8 (*Diocletian and Maximian; Persecutions; the imperial recantation*) *Sayings of Desert Fathers – Introduction* and at least 1-2 sayings for each chapter. *Early Christian Lives – Life of Paul of Thebes* by Jerome

Week 7 October 19th

Renewed persecutions under Maximian, another widespread plague and famine. Rule of Maximinus, conflict between the Tetrachs. Constantine and his act of Milan – **Christianity accepted** as one of legitimate religions of the Empire. Lateran and Basilica of St Peter and many other churches are built; Difficulties in Constantine’s life. St Helen in Holy Land. Recovery of True Cross. Church property returned. Peace and Recovery. Constantine moves capital of the Empire to Constantinople. Theodosius the Great makes Christianity the only religion of the Empire in 395

Reading: Eusebius, chapter 9 and 10 (Peace and recovery: Constantine)
"Early Christian Lives", Introduction and St Athanasius *"Life of Antony"*

Week 8 October 26 **Thursday, Oct 26 –Midterm exam**

November

Week 9 November 2nd

5th century - Climate changes and invasion of Goths, Visigoths, Vandals and Huns.
 City of Rome depopulated (from ca 700 000 to 80 000 or less)
 Vandals reach and rule African provinces. Western provinces mostly overrun by the barbarians who gradually accept Christianity.
 Easter Empire survives the invasions.
 410 AD – Rome the city is sacked and looted by Goths, aqueducts broken.
 Population (eventually) shrinks from 1 000 000 to 80 000. Popes defend the city and negotiate with attackers. The beginning and flourishing of monastic movement in Italy and beyond.

Conversion of St Augustine, role of St Monica and St Ambrosius. St Augustine becomes bishop of Hippo. *Confessions* and the *City of God*. Dies during Vandal siege of the city.
 St Benedict and St Gregory the Great.
 Series of earthquakes in Italy in 5th century (major one in 433)
Rule of St Benedict. Monastic missionary activity in the North of Europe.

.Readings: Powerpoint
Early Christian Lives – Life of Benedict by Gregory the Great

NOVEMBER – 7-11 REMEMBRANCE DAY and THE READING WEEK – no classes

Week 11 November 16

Heresies since 1st century – overview: Donatus, Marcion, Montanus, Gnosticism et others.
 Christian radicalism

Disasters of the 6th Century and the last attempt to unify the Eastern Empire with the West, Rule of Justinian. *Code of Justinian* based on Christian values. 550 - Plague of Justinian and decimation of Europe

NOVEMBER 23 – ESSAY no 2 DUE

History of the struggle with the Persian/Parthian/Sassanian empire in the East
 Challenges of the Eastern Empire and defeats, then victories of Emperor Heraclius.

Meanwhile – almost invisible - rise of Islam (622) – just when the Persians have been conquered. Sudden conquest (by the Muslim caliphs) of Iran, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Middle East, then North Africa - and as far as India.

Religious motivation.

Muslims move into Spain. Pelayo and the battle of Covadonga. The last stand of Christian soldiers.

At the same time - Christian missions to the West (Britain and Ireland) and to China.

Europe descends into chaos.

Discussion – what/who saved Europe?

Week 12 November 30

Christianity's survival in Nubia. Faras (Pachoras) Centre and Cathedral. Lists of bishops.

The Vikings and their later transformation

Christianity moves into Eastern Europe. Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Readings: PowerPoint on Faras; maps of Viking conquests

December

Week 13 **December 3**

Review.

'Final Exam - TBA

General Academic Information

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 Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

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

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		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
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:

2. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
3. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
4. 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 Academic Calendar 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:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography

Suggested websites

- 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.
- For the Holy Bible go to <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/INDEX.HTM>
- 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)

Here 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>

- 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>
- *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

- 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.
- For most Christian texts (like Fathers of the Church or Desert Fathers), the "New Advent" website is acceptable. 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/>
- 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
- Full text of the Edict of Milan which gave the Christians freedom of worship can be found here: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/edict-milan.asp>
- For the catacombs of Rome (Christian) go to http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_commissions/archeo/inglese/documents/rc_com_archeo_doc_20011010_cataccrist_en.html
And for the Vatican Necropolis (under the St Peter's Basilica) called the SCAVI go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican_Necropolis