FTH410i Medieval Church History

Fall 2016

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date
7 Sept. & 20 Dec.

Online
Tristan Sharp
Office Hours: by appointment (via Skype or phone)
tristansharp@gmail.com

Course Description
The historical development of the Church in the Medieval Era from the beginning of the eighth century to 1500. Monasticism and religious orders, heretical movements and popular religion, intellectual development, Church and State relations.

Course Objectives
This course aims to give students a foundational understanding of the history of the Church in the Middle Ages. By the end of the course, students should have:
  a) A basic understanding of history as an academic discipline and its place in Catholic intellectual life.
  b) The ability to read primary sources of medieval Christianity (in translation) critically and analytically.
  c) The ability to communicate the results of their research effectively.
  d) An appreciation of the enduring value of medieval spirituality, thought and art.
  e) A sympathetic appreciation of the experience of Christian believers in medieval society.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Readings 10%
Primary Source Analysis 10%
Peer evaluation 10%
Book Review 15%
Final essay 30%
Final exam 25%

Discussion of Readings

Students must post a question or comment about each weeks assigned primary source reading to a class discussion board. These can highlight something that you found troubling, intriguing, confusing, etc. Between these comments and my responses, we will build up a small body of commentary on each reading, which is (as we will see) a very medieval activity. The grade of 10% is divided evenly on a complete/incomplete basis over 12 weeks. In other words, a student who commented for 10 weeks would receive a mark of 8.3/10, for six weeks, 5/10, etc.

Primary Source Analysis
Due Oct. 5; 1000 words

In this paper students will critically evaluate two short primary sources, and discuss how they can provide insight into the history of the medieval church. More details will be available on the course website.

Peer evaluation
Due Nov. 30

This assignment will be part of the process of writing the final papers (more details under that heading).

**Book Review**
Due Nov. 2; 4-6 pages
Each student must write a review of one of the books listed on the course website. The review should summarize the author’s argument and use of evidence. The student should then evaluate the quality of the author’s argument, and explain its relevance for the history of the Church in the modern era. Students do not need to do additional background reading, but they may wish to consult other reviews of the book in question.

**Research Paper**
Due Dec. 7; about 15 pp.
Students are encouraged to choose a topic that connects with their own academic or pastoral interests. I am happy to work with students to develop topics along these lines. On Nov. 23 students must submit a 1-2 paragraph summary of their paper, and outline, and a preliminary bibliography. This will be read by two peers, who will provide constructive feedback based on a rubric provided by the instructor. This feedback is due on Nov. 30. Student will then have one week to make changes. Each student will comment on two papers (5% of the grade each) and receive two sets of comments. If an outline is not provided on Nov. 23, the student will receive 0% on the peer review assignment. The evaluations will be confidential for one’s peers (but not for the instructor).

**Final exam**
Due Dec. 14
These exams will be open-book., and it will consist of short essays that cover major themes and developments of the course.

**Style and Citation**

All papers should be double-spaced, and submitted in a format with standard word margins. Please submit Word files. Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, should be used, although the instructor is willing to make allowances for students who may have particularly strong feelings about typography.

There are three acceptable styles of citation for this course:


Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore. There are numerous online resources for these styles; one of the best is the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), which should be sufficient for most purposes: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)

**Late assignments**
Late assignments will lose 2% per day to a maximum of ten days, after which the assignment will not be accepted. Please note that the outline of the paper and the peer evaluation assignment (see below) will **not be accepted after the due date**.
Textbooks (and how to use them)

There are three textbooks for the class, each of which will serve a different role.


This textbook will provide the background history of the Middle Ages for the course. It covers major developments in all aspects of society. If you have already taken a survey of medieval history as an undergraduate, you many not need this book.


As the name implies, this book is a history of theology, with a particular emphasis on those thinkers who are of most interest to contemporary theologians. There will be occasional readings on the course website that supplement this book as needed (for instance, for Eastern theology, which can Nieuwenhove does not cover).

The resources on the course website are designed to bridge the gap between these two books. They will cover the life of the Church as whole. In other words, you get background from Rosenwein, and theology from van Nieuwenhove, and everything else from me. In general, the material in class does not duplicate what is in the textbooks, and assumes that you have read them.

There is also a collection of primary sources (that is, material written during the Middle Ages)


These readings are designed to complement and enrich the other content. A few supplementary primary readings will appear on the course website.

Course Requirements

The total amount of formal written work for this course will amount to approximately 7000 words, as well as short, more informal comments and peer evaluation. All writing should be clear, free from errors in grammar, and in accordance with academic standards. Since this is an online course, no oral work is required. Students are expected to read all assigned texts in a thorough and critical manner. The course requires a reading knowledge of English only, although a reading knowledge of other European languages (including Latin and Greek) will allow access to useful resources.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is, to quote the NTC *Student Handbook* (p.14), “a serious offence, diminishing scholarship and defrauding those who eventually may depend on our knowledge and integrity.” As a general rule students must acknowledge the source of every quotation or paraphrased idea that is borrowed from another author, except for material that may be deemed “common knowledge” (e.g. dates for well-known events). Students who are unsure when citation is required should consult the instructor before submission of an assignment. More detailed guidelines on the definition of plagiarism and the penalties for academic misconduct can be found in the *Student Handbook*.

Grades, Academic Grievances and Appeals

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the grading scale provided in Newman’s academic regulations:

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As reflected in this scale, and in accordance with the regulations, a ‘B’ indicates that students are performing at an average level (i.e. the student’s grade would be at the class average for a larger class). The exception is students in the MTh program, for whom ‘A-’ indicates an average level. Information on grade appeals can be found in the Student Handbook. Students who have concerns about the evaluation of or expectations for an assignment should consult the instructor before the assignment is due (indeed, as soon as possible). For other grievances, including sexual harassment, see Student Handbook.

**Bibliography**
A basic bibliography for medieval Church history will be provided on the course website.

**Course Schedule**
New material will be posted to the course website by 5pm each Wednesday.

7 Sept. Introduction to the Course

**Part I From Late Antiquity to the Medieval Church, c.550-c.1000**

14 Sept. Latin and Celtic Christianity to c.775
Readings Rosenwein, pp. 1-38, 58-75
van Nieuwenhove, chps. 1, 3, 4
Coakley and Sterk, no. 51 Rudolph of Fulda, *Life of Leoba*
On course website: *Rule of St. Benedict* (excerpts)

21 Sept. Islam, Iconoclasm and the “Triumph of Orthodoxy”
Readings Rosenwein, 39-57, 79-86, 115-120
Coakley and Sterk, no. 55 John of Damascus, *On the Divine Images*
Coakley and Sterk, no. 56 Letters of Patriarch Photius and Pope Nicholas I

28 Sept. Carolingian Reforms and their Aftermath
Readings Rosenwein, 96-112, 127-144
On course website: Charlemagne, Legislation on Religious Matters
On course website: Cluny's Foundation Charter

5 Oct. The Frontiers of Christianity: The Eastern Church under Islam and the Conversion of the North
Readings Rosenwein, 87-96, 121-127, 145-149
Coakley and Sterk, no. 45 Apology of Patriarch Timothy
Coakley and Sterk, no.52 The Heland

Part II The Reformation of the “Twelfth Century” (c. 1000-c.1175)
12 Oct. The “Gregorian” Reformation and the Growth of Government
Readings Rosenwein, 160-170, 173-178, 201-220
Coakley and Sterk, no. 59 Pope Gregory VII, Letter to Hermann of Metz

19 Oct. New Currents: Monks, Hermits, and Schools
Readings van Nieuwenhove, chp. 6-11
Coakley and Sterk, no.65 Bernard of Clairvaux, On Loving God
On course website: Peter Lombard, Four Books of Sentences

26 Oct. The Crusades
Readings Rosenwein, 155-160, 170-173, 197-200
Coakley and Sterk, no.60 Guibert of Nogent, The Deeds of God through the Franks

Part III A Golden Age? (ca. 1175- ca. 1300)
2 Nov. New Forms of Holiness: Poverty, Heresy, and Holy Women
Readings Rosenwein, 244-251, 267-279
van Nieuwenhove, chp. 12, 14
Coakley and Sterk, no. 66 Thomas of Celano, First Life of Francis of Assisi
Coakley and Sterk, no. 68 Writings of Hadewijch of Brabant

9 Nov. Reading Week

16 Nov. Pastoral Empire: Papal Monarchy and the Friars
Readings Rosenwein, 251-256
van Nieuwenhove, chp. 13, 15-16
On course website: Readings on marriage

Part IV Renewal or Decline? (ca. 1350- ca. 1500)
23 Nov. Crises of Authority
Readings Rosenwein, 284-285, 289-301, 304-324
van Nieuwenhove, chp. 17-19
Coakley and Sterk, no. 75 The Council of Constance, Haece sancta and Frequens
Coakley and Sterk, no. 72a Boniface VIII, Unam Sanctam

30 Nov. Vernacular Religion
Readings van Nieuwenhove, chp. 20
On course website: Commonplace book of Robert Reynes
On course website: Rudolf of Schlettstadt on Jewish sacrilege

7 Dec. The Eastern Church: Renewal and Disaster

Readings
Rosenwein, 241-244, 257-258, 287-289
Coakley and Sterk, no. 69 The Lives of Már Yabh-Allāhā and Rabban Šāwmā
Coakley and Sterk, no. 73 Gregory Palamas, *Triads*