

Huron Faculty of Theology Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Early Church

Course Number and Section

CHURCH

5104A 550

Instructor Name(s): William Acres

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

The course will trace the social, cultural, political, spiritual, and theological history of the Christian Church from its apostolic beginnings to the early sixteenth century, just before Luther sets in motion the events that led to the various ecclesial reformations of that century. The material will be addressed largely through lectures, class discussion, and assigned reading.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Demonstrate an understanding of the origin, expansion, and development of the Christian Church; its doctrines and conflicts; and its relationship to the wider world from its origins to the early 16th century;
- Identify and explain the significance of key historical figures in church history (lay and ordained leaders, emperors and monarchs, theologians etc.);
- Explain the origin and impact of the principal heresies and heretical movements condemned by the Church;
- Identify the conditions and problems in the Church that led to the reformations of the 16th century;
- Draw connections between selected aspects of church history (such as forms of catechesis, piety, and devotion; anti-Semitism; the Crusades) and contemporary practices and issues;
- Understand the difference between and interrelationship of church history and theology;
- Demonstrate an ability to read, interpret, and assess historical documents and sources;
- Articulate the relevance of historical study to contemporary issues.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder. Documents of the Christian Church. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. [Will also be required for 5106B/2127G in Winter Term.]
Chadwick, Henry. The Early Church. Rev. ed. London: Penguin Books, 1993.

Madigan, Kevin. Medieval Christianity : A New History. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2015.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Document Study 1	10/3/2024	10
Heresy Assignment	10/24/2024	15
Document Study 2	10/17/2024	10
Medieval Piety Presentation Assignment	12/05/2024	20
Take-Home Final Examination	12/12/2024	30
Attendance and Participation	12/05/2024	15

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, August 30, 2024