

**Description:**

This course will expose students, within a historical context, to major theological, political, and social/cultural developments from antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages. Weekly readings will consist of translated primary and secondary sources, including Western and Eastern Christianity and also expansion to Africa and Asia. The interaction of Christianity with Judaism, Islam, and other world religions will also be considered. While students will learn about major figures and historical turning points, reading assignments will include texts which allow participants to discover Christianity's development from a "people's history" perspective. Two options will be available for completing course requirements in order to address both professional and academic concerns in the application of Church history.

**Objectives:**

1. To familiarize students with a broad range of historical figures, events, places, movements, and circumstances which shaped the development of early to pre-Reformation era Christianity.
2. To acquaint students with the spectrum of "popular Christianity" and its impact upon theologians of the ancient and medieval Church.
3. To equip students with an understanding of foundational methods for historical research as relevant to their individual interests in theology or ministry.
4. To facilitate student constructions of individual research projects which reflect sound argumentation and an understanding of thematic connections throughout pre-modern Christianity.

**Procedures:**

Each class period will consist of interactive lecture, involving full and active participation by both instructor and students. Both primary and secondary texts will be discussed. Small group discussion of recurrent themes will also occur.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will reflect student progress in written work and a final examination. Written work will be based upon assigned readings. Students will need to make use of the Pius XII Memorial Library at Saint Louis University.

**Required Texts:**

Coakley, John W, and Andrea Sterk, eds. *Readings in World Christian History, Vol. 1, Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2001.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History, Vol. 1, From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2005.