

Description:

A survey of the history of the Church from the apostolic era through the fall of Constantinople and the beginnings of the mission to the Americas. Although the global history of the Church, including Asia and Africa, will be considered, the course will focus on the experience of the Church in the Mediterranean basin and Europe, and in particular on the Latin-speaking churches. In addition to examining the broader events, contexts, and movements which frame histories of the Church, students will study primary sources (in translation) of critical moments and monuments of historical theology.

Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with the major persons, events, and movements in the pre-modern history of the Church, with special emphasis on Latin Christianity
2. To situate the history of the Church within its broader social, cultural, and intellectual contexts
3. To examine critical elements of the theological tradition from the pre-modern era
4. To introduce the student to basic elements of historiography and historical theory as relevant to theological research and argument

Procedures:

Class will consist in part of lectures by the professor and discussion by the class, assisted by the professor, of primary texts.

Evaluation:

Student progress will be evaluated on the basis of a midterm examination, written work, and a final examination. The written work will require full use of a theological library, such as Pius XII at SLU. Students who commute some distance to class will need to take this into account.

Required texts:

Chadwick, Henry. *The Church in Ancient Society: From Galilee to Gregory the Great*. Oxford History of the Christian Church. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Coakley, John W., and Andrea Sterk, eds. *Readings in World Christian History*. Vol. 1, *Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2004.

Irvin, Dale T., and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement*. Vol. 1, *Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2001.

Logan, F. Donald. *A History of the Church in the Middle Ages*. London and New York: Routledge, 2002.