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Spring, 2007
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Available by appointment

HS 2323: History of Christianity—Medieval and Reformation c. 1075-1600

Mondays 9:40-12:30 FST Classroom

This course is designed to give an overview of significant developments in the History of Christianity between 11th c. and the 16th c. Special attention will be given to popular religious devotions and the on-going reform movements that eventually broke open in the Protestant Reformation.

The goals of this class are:

1. to develop an understanding of historical method and a historical approach to Christianity
2. to help make the distant past relevant to the present practice of the Christian faith
3. to develop oral presentation skills
4. to develop research skills, specifically in the discipline of history
5. to develop critical analysis of the Christian faith through the discipline of history

To meet these goals, students will be ask to do the following tasks and will be evaluated on their performance of the following tasks:

1. thoughtful participation in class discussion (50 points)
2. one take-home midterm exam (5 page essay exam) (100 points) DUE APRIL 2
3. one short (3-5 pp.) essay (50 points) DUE FEBUARY 5
4. term paper (15-20 pp.) (200 points) DUE May 7
5. 20 minute oral presentation based on the term paper research (100 points) MAY 7 or 14
6. Regular class attendance is assumed

All written assignments are due during class on the due date. Late papers are generally not accepted. Any requests for extensions for other assignments must be made before the due date. All written assignments should be prepared as if for professional purposes, meaning they should have no typographical errors or grammatical errors. It is presumed that all written assignments will present a clear historical thesis and will develop an argument based on historical documents and secondary scholarly studies.

Some supplementary readings will be assigned from the Web, therefore it is presumed that all students have access to a computer and to the Internet.

Some Required Readings are found in the GTU Library Reference Room. They are abbreviated as follows:

Dictionary of the Middle Ages = DMA
New Catholic Encyclopedia = NCE
The Papacy. An Encyclopedia = Popes

Required Books:

Carolyn Walker Bynum, *Holy Feast, Holy Fast*.
 Daniel Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence*.
Rule of St. Benedict
 Steven Ozment, *Age of Reform*

Additional documents on-line are required reading (see URLs below).

Topics to be Covered by Date

Jan. 29 Christianity Turns into a Church:

Historical Thinking: how to think like a historian
 Why is History Relevant in Professional Ministry?
 The Transition from a Persecuted Religion to the only Legal Religion
 The Geographic Limits of this Course: The Roman Church and European Reformation

Required Reading (distributed in class)

Gelasius: Two Powers: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gelasius1.html>
 Edict of Milan: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html>
 Passage from Angela of Foligno, *Memorial*

Feb. 5 Monasticism and its Ideals

Short Essay Due in Class (3-5 pages): How is Medieval Monastic Spirituality as reflected in the Rule of St. Benedict relevant to lay spirituality today? (Make sure your paper has a thesis and development of a clear argument.)

Desert Ascetics
 Benedictine Spirituality
 Body vs. Soul: The Primacy of Celibacy
 The Popularity of Monastic Spirituality Today

Required Reading:

The Rule of St. Benedict
 DMA: Benedict of Nursia, Benedictines

Suggested Reading:

Peter Brown, *Body and Soul Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity*

Feb. 12: How to Research in the Discipline of History

Class will meet in the Library Computer Lab

Read: <http://courseweb.fst.edu/pryds/Study/research.pdf>

Prepare: Bring to class three ideas of possible research paper subject areas
 You will be asked to submit by the end of class a list of 5 scholarly books; 3 scholarly articles; 3 book reviews; one website; one movie on a possible area of research that will become the center of your research paper.

Feb. 19 No Class GTU Holiday

You should use this holiday from class to actively research for your term paper.

Feb. 26 Institutional Attempts to Universalize a Faith

Gregorian Reforms
 Structures of Authority
 The Rise and Falter of the Papacy
 The Rise of Conciliarism

Required Reading:

On Gregory VII: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06791c.htm>

Dictatus Papae: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/g7-dictpap.html>

Fourth Lateran Council: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/lat4-select.html>

Innocent III on Papal Role: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/innIII-policies.html>

Boniface VIII *Clericis laicos*: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-clericos.html>

DMA: “Gregory VII,” “Innocent III,” “Boniface VIII,” Investiture Controversy
 Popes, Gregory VII, Innocent III, Boniface VIII

Ozment, ch. 4 “The Ecclesiopolitical Traditions”

March 5 Monastic Intellectual Traditions and the Rise of Scholasticism

Peter Abelard and Bernard of Clairvaux
 Higher Education before the Universities

Required Reading:

Ozment, ch. 3 “The Spiritual Tradition”

DMA: Peter Abelard, Bernard of Clairvaux, Scholasticism

March 12 The Mendicant Transformation of the Monastic Ideal

Creation of Mendicant Orders
 Popularity of Mendicants and their Threat to Clerics
 The Rise of Universities
 Women in Mendicant Traditions
 Lay Devotional Practices

Required Reading:

Ozment, ch. 2 “The Scholastic Tradition”

DMA: Universities, Sermons, Preaching, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Prayer, Books of Hours

March 19 Communities of Violence: The Rise of Religious Persecution

Crusades

Inquisitions

Required Reading:

Find, bring in and be able to present at least one scholarly book review of R.I. Moore, *Formation of a Persecuting Society*

Urban II Speech at Clermont (1095), five versions

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/urban2-5vers.html>

Swanson, Ch. 7, 8

DMA: "Crusades" "Inquisition"

NCE: "Inquisition" "Crusades"

Introduction to D. Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence*

Recommended Reading: *The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives*, by Carole Hillerbrand

Take Home Exam Question Distributed in Class on March 19. Due in class April 2.

No Class on March 26 Reading Week

April 2: Analytical discussion of *Communities of Violence*

April 9: Holy People and Saints/Mystics and their Authority

Structures of Canonization

Unofficial Holy People

Local Cults and their Fate: St. Guinefort, Rose of Viterbo

Required Reading:

DMA: Saints, Relics, Pilgrimage

NCE: Saints, Relics Pilgrimage

Bynum, ch. 1-2

April 16 Mystics and Their Authority

Analytical Discussion of Bynum's book

Required Reading:

Bynum, ch. 3-10

DMA: "Hildegard," "Eckhart," "Joan of Arc"

NCE: Joan of Arc, Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart

April 23 Humanism and the Early Protestant Reformation

Historiographical Issues: Neo-Paganism or Christian Classicism?

Preparation for Protestant Scholarly Concerns

Martin Luther: Catholic or Protestant?

Required Reading: Ozment, ch. 5-8

April 30 Reformations

Calvin, Zwingli and the Radical reformers

Changes in Spirituality: Marriage, Salvation, Piety

Required Reading: Ozment, ch. 9-12, 14

May 7 Counter Reformation and Student Presentations

Required Reading: Ozment, ch. 13, 15

All Term Papers are due May 7 in class.

May 14: Student Presentations