

Dr. Darleen Pryds
Franciscan School of Theology
Graduate Theological Union
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email: dpryds@fst.edu
tel. (510) 848-5232 ext. 21
available by appointment

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

Mondays 11:10-2:00 FST Classroom/On-Line

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. This semester the course will be taught as a hybrid in-class/on-line course.

The learning objectives of this class are:

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

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

1. thoughtful participation in-class/on-line discussion (50 points)
2. one midterm exam (5 page essay exam to be posted on-line) (100 points)
3. three short (1-2 page) papers posted on-line (25 points each)
4. term paper (15-20 pp.) (200 points)
5. 20 minute oral presentation based on the term paper research (50 points)
6. Regular class attendance and on-line participation is assumed

All written assignments are due during class on the due date. Late papers are severely penalized. Absolutely no late reflection papers accepted since their purpose is to prepare for in-class/on-line discussion. 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is presumed that all written assignments will present a clear historical thesis and will develop an argument based on historical documents and secondary scholarly studies.

On-line discussions will take place on the class site in Moodle. All students must sign up on the Moodle site by Wednesday, Feb. 4. 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

Required Books:

Steven Ozment, *The Age of Reform*

Herbert Grundmann, *Religious Movements in the Middle Ages*

Caroline Walker Bynum, *Holy Feast, Holy Fast*

Paul Lachance, *Angela of Foligno. Complete Works*

Joseph Lynch, *The Medieval Church*

Samuel Torvend, *Luther and the Hungry Poor*

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

Topics

Feb. 2 Christianity Turns into a Church:

Historical Thinking: Learning 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:

Gelasius: Two Powers: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gelasius1.html>

Edict of Milan: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html>

Lynch, ch. 1

Feb. 9 Monasticism and its Ideals: In-Class Session

One page reflection paper to be posted on line by class meeting: How is Medieval Monastic Spirituality as reflected in the *Rule* of St. Benedict relevant to lay spirituality today? State a clear thesis and make a clear argument. (You should be able to summarize your paper for in-class discussion.)

Desert Ascetics

Benedictine Spirituality

Body vs. Soul: The Primacy of Celibacy

The Popularity of Monastic Spirituality Today

Required Reading:

The Rule of St. Benedict: <http://www.kansasmonks.org/RuleOfStBenedict.html>

Lynch, ch. 2-4, esp. ch. 2

Suggested Reading:

About the Rule of St. Benedict: <http://www.osb.org/gen/rule.html>

DMA: “Benedict of Nursia,” “Benedictine Rule,” and “Benedictines”

Feb. 16 The Carolingian Church: No Class Meeting

On-line Lecture. Participate in threaded discussions based on posed questions.

You should actively research topics for your term paper. What subjects interest you?

Required Reading: Lynch, ch. 5-7

Feb. 23: 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.

Mar. 2 Institutional Attempts to Universalize a Faith: No Class Meeting

On-Line Lecture. Participate in threaded discussions based on posed questions.

Gregorian Reforms; Structures of Authority

Canonization and the Institutionalization of Sanctity

Required Reading:

Lynch, ch. 8-10

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

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

Suggested Reading:

DMA: “Gregory VII,” “Innocent III,” “Boniface VIII”

March 9 The Rise of the Laity: Pious Zeal or Heresy?: No Class Meeting

On Line Lecture. Participate in threaded discussions based on posed questions.

Vita Apostolica: anti-clerical or unquenchable thirst for God?

Beguines; Humiliati; Lay Preaching; Confraternities

Waldensians, Cathars, Fraticelli

Institutional Response: inquisitions, civic protection, mendicant orders

Schools and Clerical Education

Required Reading:

Grundmann, ch. 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, “New Contributions,” Ch. 1 (pp. 209-235)

Lynch, 14-18

Ozment, 3 (recommended 1-2)

Suggested Movie: *The Sorceress*

March 16 Women's Forms of Leadership and Spiritual Expression: Class Meets

To prepare, write in one page the thesis and argument of Bynum's *Holy Feast, Holy Fast*. This summary should include a brief analysis of Bynum's sources, i.e. on what basis she creates her argument.

Required Reading:

Bynum, ch. 1, 3-4; 6-10

Recommended Reading: Bynum, ch. 2

Take Home Exam Question Distributed in class on March 16; due in class on March 30**March 22: No Class. Reading Week****March 30 Mysticism and Women's Authority: Class Meets**

Write one page reflection on your reading of Angela. Post on line, and be able to summarize it for class discussion. The focus of your reflection is optional, but you must state a clear thesis and make a clear argument.

Required Reading:

Angela of Foligno, Complete Works, 123-218; 219-229; 251-266;

Take Home Exam Due Today in Class**April 6: Foundations of Reform and the Reformation: No Class Meeting**

On Line Lecture. Participate in threaded discussions based on posed questions.

Required Reading:

Ozment, ch. 5-8

April 13: Making the Reformation Relevant Today: Class Meets

Be able to state the thesis and argument of Torvend's book.

Required Reading:

Torvent, *Luther and the Hungry Poor*

April 20: The Reformation Spreads: No Class Meeting

On-Line Lecture about the spread of the Protestant movement and the Catholic Response.

Optional Reading:

Ozment, ch. 9-15, esp. recommended is ch. 12-13.

April 27: The Catholic Reform and the Rise of Modern Science: No Class Meeting

On-Line Lecture about Catholic Reform, Copernicus, Galileo, and Bruno

May 4: Student Presentations and Final Remarks: Class Meets

Students will present their research projects in class. Peer reviews of each presentation will be given. All final papers are due in class today.