

Dr. Darleen Pryds

HS 1070 History of the Church

Fall, 2009

Franciscan School of Theology/GTU

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<http://coursweb.fst.edu/pryds>

Available by Appointment

HS 1070 History of the Church

This course offers an overview of key events, developments, and trends in the history of Christianity from the beginning to the present. As such, the course does not pretend to offer a comprehensive treatment of the subject. Instead the aim of the course is to recognize the ecumenical differences in church history and to introduce participants in historical method so that participants may feel confident to pursue historical research to meet their respective professional needs, whether those needs be pastoral, academic, or personal.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to analyze historical presentations of Christianity, whether they be written, acted, or in any other way performed, with regard to inherent theological and denominational perspective.
2. Students will be introduced to a wide range of resources to support their own investigation of church history
3. Students will become active learners in this class, encouraged to investigate church history and share their learning to the entire class.
4. Students will be introduced to an overview of key events, developments, and trends in church history so that they will be able to complete an overarching timeline of Christianity from the beginning to the present.

Required Reading:

- E. Glenn Hinson, *The Early Church. Origins to the Dawn of the Middle Ages*
- Carl A. Volz, *The Medieval Church. From the Dawn of the Middle Ages to the Eve of the Reformation*
- Glenn T. Miller, *The Modern Church. From the Dawn of the Reformation to the Eve of the Third Millennium*

- Miri Rubin, *Mother of God. A History of the Virgin Mary*
 - Gary Macy, *The Hidden History of Women's Ordination. Female Clergy in the Medieval West*
- n.b. other readings and materials will be assigned on-line and distributed in class.*

All students are required to sign up for the on-line component of the class on Moodle.gtu.edu

The enrollment key is: Innocent III

Required Assignments:

Class attendance and active participation are assumed, including on-line discussion on Moodle.

One book review, due Tuesday Nov. 3. 4-5 pages. The book review is of a book of your choosing that is related to your research project. All students must have the professor approve of your selection of the book you review prior to due date. Suggested deadline for approval is October 13.

Research Project: Create a portfolio of materials relevant to Church History as you interpret it and as you will need to use it in your future career. ***This portfolio needs to include a 5-8 page interpretive essay explaining your own thesis and argument of Church History as a whole.*** Include a bibliography of materials you will use as reference materials.. This should include published books, articles; websites; movies/clips of movies; and art. This could also include YouTube clips. Each student should check-in with the professor 2-3 times during the process of compiling their portfolio and interpretive essay.

Oral Presentation: You will be asked to present your project to the class in an oral presentation of 20 minutes with up to 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Your oral exam will be evaluated by your peers and by the professor. You should anticipate giving a professional level oral presentation as if you were presenting these materials to a Parish Council or academic committee who could be hiring you. Therefore your job is not to teach the content of this portfolio as if to a class, but to present this portfolio in an analytical manner.

Schedule of Classes

September 8: Mapping Out the History of Christianity v. the History of the Church

What is History? Discussion on the academic discipline of History and how it differs from Theology. How to reach historical interpretation; argument based on evidence. How to use and analyze primary and secondary sources

Challenges of Church History and History of Christianity: Personal baggage, assumptions, faith convictions, personal desires...

Strategies on reading at the graduate level.

Sign up for the class on Moodle.gtu.edu

Read: E. Glenn Hinson, *The Early Church*

September 15: Analyzing Text Books: Fact or Interpretation?

What are the premises of Hinson's textbook of the early Church? Who does he include? Who is left out? What are the primary sources he uses? What are the secondary sources he uses? What version of Church History is presented here?

Read: E. Glenn Hinson, *The Early Church*

September 22: The Scholarly Monograph: How History is Used to Make an Argument

Read: Gary Macy, *The Hidden History of Women's Ordination*

Fill out the template for notetaking for each chapter of the book AND for the book as a whole.
<http://courseweb.fst.edu/pryds/study/notes.pdf>

September 29: Research Workshop: Meet in GTU Library Computer Lab

Read: Carl Volz, *The Medieval Church*

October 6: Myth Making: Crusades, Mendicants, Saints, and Heretics

Film Clips: *Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Francesco*

Read: Carl Volz, *The Medieval Church*

October 13: Myth Making, II: The Protestant Reformation and Sectarian History

Read: Glenn Miller, *The Modern Church*

October 20: Did Women have a Renaissance? Did Women have a Reformation

What happens to women in Church History?

Read, Miri Rubin, *Mother of God: A History of the Virgin Mary*

October 27: No Class reading Week

November 3: Efforts at Christian Centralization: Mega Churches and their Origins

Dogma and Media as efforts to centralize; Infallibility and backlash to it; radio and t.v. Fulton Sheen and social/political Catholicism; evangelical preachers and the rise of megachurches: Aimee Semple McPherson, Billy Graham,

Film Clips: Aimee Semple McPherson, Billy Graham, Fulton Sheen

Read: Glenn Miller, *The Modern Church*

November 10: Vatican II: Not Just for Catholics

Film Clips: *The Nun's Story*, *The Flying Nun*,

November 17: The Backlash to Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue

The fits and starts of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue since 1980. The Moral Majority and Christian Politics;

Film Clip: *The Last Temptation of Christ*;

Read: Glenn Miller, *The Modern Church*

November 24: Christianity in a Technological World

A look at on-line spiritual resources; social media and spiritual communities; blogging and church “discipline.”

December 1 Student Presentations

December 8 Student Presentations

December 15 Student Presentations and Conclusion