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Spring, 2004
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HS 2323: History of Christianity—Medieval and Reformation c. 1075-1600

Mondays 9:40-12:30 CDSP 113

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 asked to do the following tasks and will be evaluated on their performance of the following tasks:

1. thoughtful participation in class discussion (75 points)
2. one take-home midterm exam (5 page essay exam) (100 points)
3. three reflection papers (25 points each)
4. term paper (15-20 pages) (200 points)
5. 20 minute oral presentation based on the term paper research (50 points)
6. Regular class attendance is assumed

The criteria for the evaluation for each of the above tasks is found on my webpage.

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 discussion. Any requests for extensions must be made before the due date.

It is assumed that all students have access to the World Wide Web and to email. If this presents a problem, you must contact the professor immediately. **Supplementary materials and course announcements will be made via “Blackboard” Website. There is no password needed, but you do need to register as a Blackboard user (contact the GTU library reference librarians for help in this.)**

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:

Herbert Grundmann, Religious Movements in the Middle Ages (Notre Dame, 1996)

Frank Senn, Protestant Spiritual Traditions (Eugene, OR, 2000)

R.N. Swanson, Religion and Devotion in Europe, c. 1215-c.1515 (Cambridge, 1995) [On Reserve at GTU Library]

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

Topics to be Covered by Date

n.b. on some dates we will be discussing more than one topic. Read the syllabus carefully.

Feb. 2, 9 Christianity Turns into a Church:

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>

Theodosius on Religion: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/theodcodeXVI.html>

Swanson, Introduction

Feb. 9 Monasticism and its Ideals

Desert Ascetics

Benedictine Spirituality

Body vs. Soul: The Primacy of Celibacy

The Popularity of Monastic Spirituality Today

Required Reading:

Athanasius, Life of St. Anthony: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/vita-antony.html>

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

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

DMA: "Benedict of Nursia," "Benedictine Rule," and "Benedictines"

Reflection Paper due Feb. 23

Feb. 16 No Class GTU Holiday

Feb 23:

Discussion on Applicability of Monastic Model of Spirituality to Laity Today

Reflection paper due today: Is the Benedictine model of Spirituality as outlined in the Rule an appropriate form of spiritual life for the laity today?

Feb. 23 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”

March 1 The Rise of the Laity: Pious Zeal or Heresy?

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

Beguines

Humiliati

Lay Preaching

Confraternities

Required Reading:

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

March 1 The Rise of Heresies

Waldensians

Cathars

Lollards

Hussites

Institutional response: inquisitions, civic protection

Required Reading:

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

Film Clip: The Name of the Rose

March 1, 8 The Mendicant Transformation of the Monastic Ideal

Creation of Mendicant Orders

Popularity of Mendicants and their Threat to Clerics

Women in Mendicant Traditions

Lay Preaching

Required Reading:

Grundmann, ch. 5

Film Clip: Brother Sun, Sister Moon

March 8 Communities of Violence: The Rise of Religious Persecution

Crusades
Inquisitions

Required Reading:

Urban II Speech at Clermont (1095), five versions

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

Swanson, Ch. 7, 8

DMA: "Crusades"

Film Clip: The Name of the Rose

March 8 Holy People and Saints

Structures of Canonization

Unofficial Holy People

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

Required Reading:

Swanson, Ch. 5, 6

Film Clip: The Sorceress

March 15 Mystics and Their Authority

Hildegard of Bingen

Angela of Folingo

Catherine of Siena

Meister Eckhart

Joan of Arc

Required Reading:

Swanson, pp. 177-182, and see index on these topics

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

Film Clip: The Messenger

Take Home Exam Question Distributed in class on March 15; due in class on March 29

March 22: No Class. Reading Week

March 29 Ecclesiastical Education

Cathedral Schools and the Emergence of Universities

Universities and the Legacy of their Culture

Preaching and Biblical Studies

Doctrinal Debates:

Mary: Immaculate Conception.

God: Beatific Vision

Christ: Transubstantiation

Women: Preachers

Required Reading:

Swanson, Ch. 3

DMA: "Universities"

NCE: “Immaculate Conception,” “Transubstantiation,” “Beatific Vision”
Take Home Exam Due Today in Class

March 29 Clerical/Lay Nexus: sacraments and preaching

- popular preaching: ex. Bernardino of Siena, Savonarola
- penitentials: annual confession
- indulgences

Required Reading:

Swanson, Ch. 3, 7

DMA: “Bernardino of Siena,” “Penance and Penitentials,” “Indulgences”

Film Clip: The Apostle; The Gods of Time Square

April 5 Popular Devotions and Faith Experience

Rosary, Books of Hours, Stations of the Cross, Pilgrimage, Indulgences and Purgatory, Corpus Christi and other Processions, Flagellants, Bianchi

Required Reading:

Swanson, Ch. 9 and See Index on these topics

DMA: “Divine Office”

Film Clip: Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail; Gods of Time Square

Reflection paper due next week

April 12 The Structural Context of Faith

Architectural changes and their Legacy

Slide Show

Required Reading:

DMA: “Cathedrals”

Reflection paper due today: What is your ideal worship space? Instead of an essay, you may present a physical, three-dimensional model with some written explanation of why it is the way it is. There will be time to discuss each person’s ideal space, so be prepared to discuss you ideal space with the best visual aids (with other prompts, such as music).

April 19 Humanism and the interest in linguistics/original languages

Historiographical Issues: Neo-Paganism or Christian Classicism?

Preparation for Protestant Scholarly Concerns

April 19 Origins of the Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther

Philip Melanchthon

Required Reading: Senn, Protestant Spiritual Traditions, pp. 9-54

April 26 Radicals: Protestors and Ascetics

Peasants’ Revolt

Radical Reformation
 Thomas Muenzter
 Pacifists and Puritans
 Required Reading: Senn, pp. 80-124;165-182

April 26 Swiss Reformations

Ulrich Zwingli
 John Calvin
 Read: Senn, pp. 55-79

April 26 England and the Politics of Faith

Divorce and the Foundation of the Church of England
 The Protestant-Catholic Flip Flops of the 16th c.
 Elizabeth and the Rise of Anglican Spirituality

Read: Senn, pp. 125-164
 Film Clip: Elizabeth

May 3 Council of Trent and the Catholic Response to the Reformation

Council 1545-1563
 Clausturation of Religious Women
 Index of Prohibited Books, Holy Roman Inquisition
 Ignatius Loyola and the Society of Jesus
Required Reading:
 NCE: “Trent,” “Inquisition,” “Ignatius of Loyola”

May 3 Global Efforts to Proselvtize the Faith

Missions to the “New World”
Required Reading:
 Selections from the Journal of Christopher Columbus at
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.html>
 Film Clip: The Mission

May 3 The Religious Reaction to the “New Science”

Copernicus and Luther
 Galileo and the Inquisition
Required Reading:
 NCE: “Copernicus,” “Galilei, Galileo,”

May 10: Student Presentations

All Term Papers are Due in Class on May 10.