

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** History of ideas concentrating on those events, persons, and issues which have had the greatest impact on the evolution of Christianity.

## I. HISTORY

1. Introduction: Methodology
  - a. What is History?
  - b. The Importance of Context.
  - c. The Importance of Perspective.
2. The Foundations: Judaism and Jesus of Nazareth
  - a. Jewish Apocalypticism.
  - b. The New Testament as Source Material.
  - c. The Historical Jesus.
3. Early Interpretations: The Christ of Faith
  - a. James, John, and Peter: Jewish-Palestinian Christianity.
  - b. Paul: Hellenistic Christianity.
  - c. Christology and Soteriology.
4. Proto-Institutionalization
  - a. Greece and Rome.
  - b. The Mystery Religions.
  - c. Hierarchical Structure.
5. The Patristic Period: (100 - 400 ad)
  - a. Persecutions: Apocalypse and Apology.
  - b. Constantine and the Imperial Church.
  - c. Imperial Theology: From Nicaea to Chalcedon.
  - d. The Monastic Reaction.
6. Augustine (354 - 430 ad)
  - a. The Confessions.
  - b. The City of God.
  - c. Vs. the Donatists.
  - d. Vs. Pelagias

## 7. The Rise of the Papacy

- a. The Gothic Wars.
- b. Leo the Great and Gregory the Great.
- c. The Germanization of Christianity.
- d. Charlemagne.

## 8. The Protestant Reformation

- a. Proto-Protestant Movements: Catherites and Waldensians.
- b. Reform and Nationalism: John Wyclif and Jan Hus.
- c. Martin Luther.
- d. The Radical Reformers: Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin.

## 9. The Enlightenment

- a. From the Reformation to the Enlightenment.
- b. Rational Religion and the End of Absolute Truth.
- c. The Rise of Biblical Criticism.

# II. THEMES

## 1. Christianity and Politics

- a. Brief Historical Overview.
- b. Democracy and Christianity.
- c. Politics and Religion in the United States: The Establishment Clause.
- d. Contemporary Issues.

## 2. Christianity in the United States

- a. Catholic Conquest and Puritan Heritage.
- b. The Great Awakening.
- c. Fundamentalism and the Protest Against Modernity.
- d. Liberal Mainline Christianity.
- e. Contemporary Issues.

## 3. Christianity and Science

- a. The Ultimate Challenge.
- b. Conflicting Cosmologies and a Crisis in Values.
- c. Evolution.
- d. The Principle of Uncertainty.

**TEXT:** Paul Laughlin, Remedial Christianity.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. There will be three exams, each of equal worth and each covering about one-third of the course. Exams will be essay.
2. Writing Intensive students will receive a separate handout.

**Prerequisites and General Education Core:** Recommended Prep: Placement in Eng. 22/60. Rel. 210 fulfills a general education requirement for the A.S., A.A.S., and A.T.S. degrees in (d) Understanding and appreciating world cultures and values. Rel. 210 fulfills a general education requirement for the A.A. degree in Arts, Humanities, and Literature in Group 2: Humanities (AHL2).

**Student Learning Opportunities:** Upon completion of the course a student should be able to:

1. Critically explain contemporary scholarly challenges in understanding the origins of the Christian religion.
2. Accurately identify important names, dates, and events in the history of Christianity.
3. Identify patterns of cause and effect to explain the changing and evolving teachings of Christianity.
4. Identify similarities and especially differences within the major branches of Christianity.
5. Compare and contrast contemporary liberal and conservative Christian responses to Church/State, ethical, and scientific issues.

(WI) specific SLO's:

1. Identify in writing, a writer's implied as well as literal meaning.
2. Summarize, analyze, and evaluate written works.
3. Gather and evaluate information purposefully from electronic and print sources.
4. Use writing to discover, develop, and support ideas.
5. Produce writing whose form, organization, syntax, style and tone are appropriate for a given audience, subject and purpose.
6. Write research papers that support or purport a thesis, integrate expert opinions from various sources and documents.
7. Revise, edit, and proofread for correctness, clarity and effectiveness.
8. Develop a personal voice in written communication.

**CONTACT:**

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