

Summer 2016 Course of Study, Claremont School of Theology
COS 222: THEOLOGICAL HERITAGE II: EARLY CHURCH

Session II: July 7, 2016 – July 17, 2016 from 8:30-11:30 A.M.

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Tinsley Tuell

Email: cttuell@cs.com

NOTE: *Please contact me **before** class begins if you have questions regarding this syllabus.*

All pre-course work should be emailed to the Professor by June 9, 2016.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history and theology of the Church through the first five centuries. Using primary sources, students will reflect on significant individuals, events, and the articulation of the Christian faith during this period.

Students will be able to:

1. Understand and articulate the doctrine of the Trinity, and the historical debates in the early Church around the person and nature of Christ.
2. Understand and articulate a doctrine of salvation in light of the controversies of the early church.
3. Understand the history of the creeds and ecumenical councils.
4. Appropriate historical theology for pastoral ministry

Required Textbooks:

- Bondi, Roberta. *To Love as God Loves*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1987 (ISBN 9780800620417)
- Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2nd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. (ISBN 9780061855887)

Course Expectations and Grading:

1. Pre-Course Work [50% of total grade]
2. Class participation and preparation [10%]
3. Reading Reflection papers [30%]
4. Final Project [10%]

Pre-Course Work [50% of total grade]

A. Hermeneutical Reflections on History (no more than four typed pages)

Read Parts I-II (pages 1-261) in the Gonzalez book. For each of these two parts of the book, write two one-page reflections on a specific historical event or individual that is covered in that part of the book. (In total, this is four reflections and four pages in total.) Each of these four reflections should focus on a specific aspect of early Christian history and its potential meaning for contemporary life and/or ministry in the church. These four reflections must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font (or something comparable). Please have 1 inch margins on all four sides of the 8 ½ x 11 paper. (no need to “justify” the text to fit the right margin)

Each reflection must include the following:

1. A brief description, based on your reading, of the event/individual from Christian history that you are considering. **(Use your own words, with no quotations from the book.)**
2. A citation to a page in the textbook describing the event or individual.
3. Your assessment of the historical significance of this event or person, based on your reading.
4. A thoughtful and critical reflection on the contemporary significance of this aspect of Christian history within the United Methodist Church, whether in your local church, or a broader application.

B. Creedal Statement (no more than 4 typed pages)

1. After you have completed the assigned reading from the textbook, type a 1-2 paragraph statement of your personal beliefs about either: 1) the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, or, 2) the relationship between the divine and the human in Jesus Christ. Your textbook and traditions should inform this statement, but avoid explicit citation/quotation of printed sources in this personal statement of your own belief. You may cite the Bible by Book, chapter and verse as a reference, **but avoid lengthy quotations from it.**
2. Think of one or more objections to a specific part of your creedal statement. Describe and then explain the objection(s) in 1-2 paragraphs, beginning with the following phrase: “It may be argued that . . .”
3. Finally, defend and reaffirm your initial statement of belief against the argument(s) that you have raised (1-2 paragraphs). Give at least one persuasive reason for your audience to believe your creedal statement in the face of the objection(s) that you have described.

(This creedal assignment should be a minimum of 3 paragraphs and a maximum of 6 paragraphs.)

C. Sermon on Loving as God Loves in the Early Church (6 pages)

Read all of Roberta Bondi's book, *To Love as God Loves*. Bondi states that "being a Christian means learning to love God's love," and that this is what all that we have talked about up until this point has been about." (107). With a focus of learning from the early Church to love as God loves, write a sermon that purposes to provide information and inspiration to your audience to love with the type of love taught and lived by the early Christian monastics described by Bondi. You may use other sources in sermon, including the Bible, but it must satisfy the following requirements.

1. It must be six (6) **full** pages in length, and no more than seven (7) pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins, standard font type and size- see above).
2. Provide a specific and detailed (at least one paragraph in length for each of these terms) discussion of the importance of the following terms and ideas for Christian love as described by Bondi and the early monastics.
 - a. Love
 - b. Humility
 - c. The Passions
 - d. Prayer
 - e. God
3. As part of the focus and purpose of your sermon, quote at least two of the monastic sources quoted by Bondi in her book. 1) name the ancient monastic in your sermon, 2) cite the original source in an endnote or footnote (see abbreviations and bibliography of sources cited on pp. 110-11), and, 3) also cite the page in Bondi where the ancient monastic is quoted and cited. Here is an example of a footnote using the Chicago citation style: ¹ "Epiphanius 4," in *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, trans. Benedicta Ward, S.L.G. (Oxford: A.R. Moberly, 1981), 57, quoted in Roberta Bondi. *To Love as God Loves* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987), 21. Also include a bibliography at the end of your sermon (this is **NOT part of the 6-7 page count**). The Bible does not need to be included in your bibliography although you may cite it in your sermon, but avoid lengthy quotations from it.

Course assignments

A. Reading reflection papers [30%].

There are six reading reflection papers assigned in the class schedule. For each assignment, prepare a one-page reflection paper that includes the following: 1) the author and title of the

reading {this should NOT make up the bulk of the reading reflection}, 2) a brief, 1-2 sentence summary of the reading, 3) identification of an especially important assertion, attitude, or action that you see present in the reading, and 4) a specific, concrete application of this assertion, attitude, or action within your local church or civic community. Your paper will be graded on your ability to succinctly summarize the main purpose of the reading, recognize a historically or theologically significant aspect of the writing, and to apply this insight in a practical way to present-day circumstances and challenges in your particular community. **The first of these reading reflection papers is due the first day of class. Please print each paper and bring it to class. (6 papers at 5 points each =30pts)**

A. Final Project [10%] due on Friday, July 15, 2016

For the last day of class, create a list that addresses the following statement in ranked order with #1 being the most important (two (2) typed pages):

The top ten reasons that Early Church History shapes or challenges my theology are:

This project will be graded based on the extent to which it accurately and specifically refers to aspects of Early Christianity (for example, a person, event, idea, teaching, or action), and explicitly describes the effects on your theology. Additional explanation and instructions will be provided during the first day of class.

Course Schedule:

7/7 Introduction and Review of Pre-Course Work
7/8 Christian People and Early Christian Worship
7/11 Constantine, the Fourth Century and the Rise of Christendom
7/12 Early Monasticism, Donatism and Trinitarian Controversies
7/13 Augustine
7/14 Christological Controversies and the Early Medieval Period
7/7 Sacraments, Monastics and Class Review

Course Reading and Writing Schedule

7/7 Introduction and review of pre-course work (reflection paper due today)

Read the three assigned texts but complete a reading reflection for only one (your choice).

Read: The Epistle to Diognetus

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/diognetus-roberts.html>

Perpetua & Polycarp: Two Heroic Martyrs

<http://www.ctlibrary.com/ch/1990/issue27/2712.html>

The Gospel of Thomas (100 -200 CE)
<http://www.gnosis.org/haghamm/gthlamb.html>

7/8: Christian People and Early Christian Worship

Assignment due today: Complete a reading reflection for one of the texts (read all five pages but chose only one):

“Early Glimpses: Historical documents describing Christians at worship.”
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/1993/issue37/3721.html>

7/11: Constantine, the Fourth Century, and the Rise of Christendom

Assignment due today: Read the following text and complete a reading reflection.

Eusebius, *The Conversion of Constantine*:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/conv-const.html>

John Cassian, *On the Method of Continual Prayer*:
<http://www.osb.org/lectio/cassian/conf/book1/conf10.html#10.10>

7/12: Early Monasticism, Donatism and Trinitarian Controversies

Assignment due today: Read these three texts and complete a reading reflection on only one of them (your choice).

John Cassian, *On the Method of Continual Praye*
<http://www.osb.org/lectio/cassian/conf/book1/conf10.html#10.10>

Excerpts from the *Rule of St. Benedict*
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/rul-benedict-excerpt.html>

Comparison of Nicaea Creed (325 C.E) and Creed of Constantinople (381 C.E.)
http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nicene_Creed#Comparison_between_Creed_of_325_and_Creed_of_381

7/13: Augustine

Assignment due today: Read the following texts, but complete a reading reflection for only one of the readings (your choice)

Augustine, Excerpts from *Confessions*
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/aug-conv.html>

Augustine, Excerpts from a *Sermon on 1 John 4:2*

<http://www.ctlibrary.com/ch/1987/issue15/fromthearchives excerptsfromanaugustinesermon.html>

Pelagius, Extracts from *Defense of the Freedom of the Will*

<http://www.sullivan-county.com/id2/pelagius2.html>

7/14: Christological Controversies and the Early Medieval Period

Assignment due today: Read the following three texts and complete a reading reflection for only one of them (your choice).

Excerpts from *The Chalcedonian Definition of the Faith* (451 C.E.)

<http://www.ctlibrary.com/ch/1996/issue51/5125.html>

Council of Orange (529 CE)

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/orange.txt>

Leo the Great, The Petrine Doctrine

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/leo1a.asp>

7/15: Class Review

Assignment: Final Project of the Top Ten List is due today

Guidelines for Written Assignments

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 1/2" by 11" paper. Font should be either times New Roman or something similar and no larger than size 12 font. Please use 1 inch margins on all four sides
- All papers must include a page number and the last name of the student in either header or a footer on each page.
- Please note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section.
- All papers should provide citations for all quoted material. MLA, Turabian, APA or Chicago style may be used.
- Punctuation should be consistent. Clarity of prose is the goal of punctuation. Please carefully check spelling before turning in papers.

DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRE-COURSE WORK

1. Any pre-course work received after 9 June will be subject to a late penalty. Any pre-course work NOT received by the first day of class will receive a reduced grade.

2. The course number and the phrase “pre-course work” should be the subject of your email:
Example – **Pre-Course Work 222**

3. Pre-course work must be sent as an attached document and **not** in the body of the email.

4. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email.

5. Make copies of your papers and bring them to class. We will be using them during class discussions.

6. Academic Integrity: Please reference the standards delineated in the *Course of Study Handbook* and pay particular attention to the section on “plagiarism”. Plagiarism is the use of any material in your papers that is not original to you and for which you do not give credit to the source. The use of plagiarism usually means failure of the course. Please use only the assigned course materials and, except for the assigned online documents do NOT use the internet as a resource. Professors are required to report all instances of plagiarism to the Director of Course of Study.

-A good website to refer to regarding the use of quotations, summarizing and paraphrasing in your writing is: unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/b Bruinsuccess/03/09.cfm (also pages /10, /11)

More on Grading:

1. Please refer to the *Course of Study Handbook* in your Registration packet for an explanation of the grading policy. A copy of the above handbook is available in the faculty office.
2. A grade of “A” means that the student was error-free in describing the materials, identified key themes, thoroughly covered them and engaged in a critical evaluation of the various positions with a persuasive, well-written narrative.
3. A “B” grade means that the student did the work, was error-free in describing the material, and recognized the key arguments in the readings.
4. A grade of “C” means that the student did the reading, but it was not described accurately.
5. Less than a “C” means that the student was not able to convey that she or he read the material.

Guidelines:

1. As the course progresses, the syllabus may be changed or adapted at the instructor's discretion to facilitate students reaching the goals of the stated learning objectives.
2. The Writing Center offers students assistance as needed.
3. If you do not turn in your work, you will fail the class. . .