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**Religious Studies 2126F – The Early Church to the Late Middle Ages**

**Fall 2021**

**Course Information**

Church History 2126F: The Early Church to the Late Middle Ages

Wednesdays, 2:30-5:20

Room W104

Instructor: Dr. Stephen McClatchie

Contact Information: [smcclatchie@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:smcclatchie@huron.uwo.ca)

Office Location: A320A

Office Hours: Fridays, 1:30-3:00 p.m. – in person or on Zoom

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/91815447321>

Meeting ID: 918 1544 7321

**Course Description**

The course will trace the social, cultural, political, spiritual, and theological history of the Christian Church from its apostolic beginnings to the early sixteenth century, just before Luther sets in motion the events that led to the various ecclesial reformations of that century. The material will be addressed largely through lectures, class discussion, and assigned reading.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the origin, expansion, and development of the Christian Church; its doctrines and conflicts; and its relationship to the wider world from its origins to the early 16th century;
* Identify and explain the significance of key historical figures in church history (lay and ordained leaders, emperors and monarchs, theologians etc.);
* Explain the origin and impact of the principal heresies and heretical movements condemned by the Church;
* Identify the conditions and problems in the Church that led to the reformations of the 16th century;
* Draw connections between selected aspects of church history (such as forms of catechesis, piety, and devotion; anti-Semitism; the Crusades) and contemporary practices and issues;
* Understand the difference between and interrelationship of church history and theology;
* Demonstrate an ability to read, interpret, and assess historical documents and sources;
* Articulate the relevance of historical study to contemporary issues.

**Textbooks and Course Materials**

Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. [Will also be required for 5106B/2127G in Winter Term.]

Chadwick, Henry. *The Early Church*. Rev. ed. London: Penguin Books, 1993.

Madigan, Kevin. *Medieval Christianity : A New History*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2015.

*These texts are available at the Western Bookstore. All are available as e-books as well.*

**A word about the textbooks and assigned reading**:

There is a lot of reading in this course. Do your best to keep up! We will read most of Chadwick’s *The Early Church* and all of Madigan’s *Medieval Christianity*. Chadwick’s book, in particular, is difficult because he assumes a certain amount of historical knowledge by the reader, which allows him to take some chronological liberties; it’s easy to get confused so don’t be discouraged. It is also *very* detailed. I will work hard in the lectures to indicate what is important. Madigan’s book is more straight forward.

The Bettenson & Maunder book is a collection of primary sources that should be read to supplement the primary texts. Many of the important documents referred to in Chadwick and Madigan will be found, usually in excerpt, in it.

**Tentative Class Schedule/Syllabus**

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| 1  2 | 8 September  15 September | **The Building of Christendom (to 5th century)**  *Roman, Greek, and Jewish Contexts*  *Beginnings of Christianity*  *Encounters with the Empire: Persecution, Conversion, Apologetics*  *Constantine*  Chadwick, *Early Church*: chapters 1, 3, 7  Bettenson & Maunder: Part I, Section I: I, III |
| 3 | 22 September | **The Ante-Nicene Church (to 325 AD)**  *Church Order*  *Orthodoxy and Gnosticism*  *Early Christian Writers*  Chadwick, *Early Church*: chapters 2, 4, 5  Bettenson & Maunder: Part I, Section I: II; Section III; Section VII |
| 4  5 | 29 September  6 October  *Document Study #1 due 29 September* | **Creeds, Councils, and Conflict (352-451 AD)**  *The Arian Controversy and the Council of Nicaea*  *Aftermath and Continued Conflict*  *The Nestorian Controversy and the Council of Chalcedon*  *Questions of Heresy and Orthodoxy*  Chadwick, *Early Church*: chapters 6, 8, 9-11, 14 (to p. 205)  Bettenson & Maunder: Part I, Section IV: I-IV, VII; Section V |
| 6 | 13 October | **The Church in the East after Chalcedon (451 AD to 1054 AD)**  *Aftermath of Chalcedon*  *Saint John Chrysostom*  *Iconoclasm*  *Great Schism*  Chadwick, *Early Church*: chapter 14 (p. 205-end)  Bettenson & Maunder: Part II, Section I |
| 7 | 20 October  *Heresy Assignment due 20 October* | **The Latin Church Before and After Chalcedon (4th-5th centuries)**  *Church-State Relations*  *Rise of the Papacy*  *Saints Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome*  *Donatist Schism*  *Pelagian Controversy*  *Conversion of the West & the Frankish Kingdom*  *Celtic Christianity*  Chadwick, *Early Church*: chapter 15  Madigan, *Medieval Christianity*: chapter 2 |
| 8  \*\*  9 | 27 October  \*\*  10 November | **Early Medieval Christianity (6th-11th centuries)**  *Monasticism*  *Gregory the Great*  *Anglo-Saxon Mission*  *Charlemagne*  *11th & 12th century Reform*  *Gregory VII & the Investiture Controversy*  *Islam and Crusade*  Madigan, *Medieval Christianity*: chapters 3-4, 8-9  Bettenson & Maunder: Part II, Section II: II-V; Section VI: I, III a, b, d |
| \*\* No class on 3 November (Fall Reading Week) \*\* | | |
| 10  11 | 17 November  24 November  *Document Study #2 due 17 November* | **High and Late Medieval Christianity (12th-early 16th centuries)**  *Monks, Nuns, & Friars*  *Scholasticism & the University*  *Papal Monarchy*  *Popes & Councils*  *Christians & Jews*  *Heresy & Heretics*  Madigan, *Medieval Christianity*: chapters 6-7, 10-14, 17-20  Bettenson & Maunder: Part II, Section II: VI, VII; Sections III, IV, V, VII: XI |
| 12 | 1 December | **Medieval Devotion: Mary, Saints, Relics, Pilgrimage**  *Parochial Life*  *Liturgy & Sacraments*  *Catechesis*  *Devotion & Piety*  *Pilgrimage*  *Mysticism*  Madigan, *Medieval Christianity*: chapters 5, 15-16, 21 |
| 13 | 8 December  *Student presentations in class* | **Medieval Piety Presentations** |

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Summary:

10% Document Study #1 Due 29 September

15% Heresy Assignment Due 20 October

10% Document Study #2 Due 17 November

20% Medieval Piety Presentation Assignment Due 8 December in class

30% Take-Home Final Examination Due Monday, 13 December by 9:00 a.m.

15% Attendance and Participation Ongoing

**Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be submitted through OWL by 11:59 p.m. on the date that they are due.**

1. **Document Studies**: on documents from Bettenson & Maunder

Length: 500 words each (2 pages, double-spaced)

Due: 29 September 2021 & 17 November 2021

Weight: 20% of final grade (10% each)

Instructions: For each document study, choose one document from the appropriate list below and write a brief summary of its significance, considering (as appropriate) the following:

* When, why, and by whom it was written;
* What is the problem (historical, political, theological, ecclesial, social etc.) addressed by the document;
* Why did it matter? Does it still?

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| Document Study #1 (due 29 September) | Document Study #2 (due 17 November) |
| Justin, *Apology* [pp. 70-71]  Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses* [pp. 72-74]  *The Didache* [pp. 68-70]  Cyprian, *De catholicae ecclesiae unitate* [pp. 76-8] | Gregory VII’s Letter to the Bishop of Metz [109-16]  The Bull *Unum Sanctam* [120-2]  S. Anselm on the Atonement [146-7]  S. Thomas Aquinas on the Incarnation [149-53] |

1. **Heresy Assignment**

Due 20 October 2020

Length: 1000-1500 words (4-6 pages, double-spaced)

Weight: 15% of final grade

The objective of the assignment is for you to attain an understanding of the major heresies afflicting the Church in the 4th and 5th centuries AD and to reflect on their continuing impact on the Church today. It is in two parts.

Instructions:

Part 1: for each heresy in the table below, write a brief definition (2-3 sentences or bullet points) that outlines the issue and notes the orthodox teaching of the Church (1-1½ pages; point form is fine).

Part 2: pick ONE heresy and write about it in more detail (in addition the brief definition), including a consideration of how it continues to affect the Church today. Your answer should be in sentence form. If you wish, your paper may take the form of a sermon.

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| Heresies of the Person of Christ | Heresies of the Church and Christian Living |
| Arianism  Docetism (and Apollinarianism)  Nestorianism  Eutychianism  Adoptionism  Monothelitism | Marcionism  Donatism  Pelagianism  Gnosticism |

1. **Medieval Piety Presentation** (with notes)

Due: In class, 8 December

Length: 10 minutes, maximum

Weight: 20% of final grade

Instructions: an in-class presentation on an example of medieval devotion or piety such a prayer, a local *cultus*, a sermon, a cathedral, a stained-glass window, a painting, a sculpture, a piece of music, etc. The possibilities are endless! Points to consider in preparing your presentation include (but are not limited to):

* Full information about your choice (creator, date, current location if an artefact etc.);
* Its use: how, when, by whom etc.;
* How it relates to wider trends in medieval piety;
* What, if any, relevance it has today
* Why you chose it.

The presentation may not exceed 10 minutes. Your notes or PowerPoint presentation must be submitted immediately afterwards. Please include the text or image or a link to a recording in your notes.

Before you start working , please confirm your choice with the instructor.

1. **Take-home Final Examination**: on all assigned readings and lectures

Due: Monday, 13 December, by 9:00 a.m.

Format: short essays on selected topics

Weight: 30% of final grade

Note: The examination will be distributed in class on 8 December

1. **Attendance and Participation**: an assessment of your attendance in class and over-all participation in the course. More than two absences will result in a grade of zero out of ten, leaving only five points remaining for a participation grade.

Weight: 15% of final grade

By “over-all participation in the course,” is meant participating in class discussions, demonstrating that you have done the readings, asking appropriate questions in class, and seeking guidance from me if help is needed.

**Huron Appendix to Course Outlines:**

**Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022**

**Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

**Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

1. A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
2. Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf>.

**Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf>. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf>.

**Turnitin.com**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.  All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

**Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

* the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
* the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at  
<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf> are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at  
<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf> .

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

**Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

1. **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

1. **Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email** [**huronsss@uwo.ca**](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca)**.**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Forms/Academic%20Consideration%20Request%20Form%202020.pdf). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf>. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) for any further questions or information.

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Learning Development and Success: <https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>

Accessible Education: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

**Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

Chaplaincy: [gthorne@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:gthorne@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.