

AIX CENTER OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SEM 2 2021/2022

REL 311
3 CREDITS
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CLASS GIVEN ON WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY FROM 9 AM TO 10.30 AM.

EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN EUROPE

I COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Drawing on the example of Provence's evolution from the Pagan era to the first evangelization of the region, the class will explore the history, the theology and religious practices (including art) of the first centuries of Europe's Christianity.

This course will examine the conflicts, individuals, social movements, and theologies that shaped Christianity during its formative period, the first through eight centuries. How did this religion become the official religion of the Roman Empire? What implications did this "success" have for Roman society and the evolution of Christianity?

Issues we will study include the spread of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean world; martyrdoms and persecutions; Christian and Jewish relations; hierarchy and power; heresy and orthodoxy; asceticism and the body; gender and class.

II COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course has several primary learning objectives:

1. Synthesizing a historical overview of the primary themes, figures, and events in early Christian history
2. Learning to study religion from a critical and historical perspective
3. Knowing how to read and interpret primary sources from the early Christian period
4. Understanding and coping with the particular methodologies and problems inherent in studying premodern religious history
5. Learning to write analytical, historical papers about religion that are based on primary sources

III LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the semester, the students will be able to

1. Recognize and articulate (orally and in writing) the difference between an academic approach to religion and a personal, devotional approach.

2. Demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in recognizing the major contributors to the modern study of religion and their models/theories from philosophy, theology, the history of religions, and the social sciences.
3. Understand the following terms in their conventional, popular usage, and then discuss the variety of ways that religious studies scholars have criticized, expanded, or problematized these areas: religion, religious, myth, ritual, symbol, philosophy, secular/secularization, cult, sect, mysticism, polytheism, monotheism, spirituality, magic, paganism, canon, religious violence, individualistic compared to community-based religions.
4. Explain and give basic examples of the social function of religion with regard to gender, ethnicity, and nationality.
5. Demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in describing Early Christian traditions, including their historical development, major beliefs and practices, and demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in interpreting religious texts and rituals.

IV INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Discussions
2. Lectures
3. Study Fields

V PRIMARY TEXTBOOK:

1. Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*
2. Additional Readings available on the IAU Microsoft Teams Portal

VI EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

1. Exams You will be given **2 written exams during the course of the semester**. Each exam is non-cumulative. The exams will be in essay form based on a question to answer, a quote or a short text to analyze. Exams count for **40 % of the final grade (20 % each)**.

2. The Critical Response Papers will analyze a reading or readings (ancient or scholarly) in response to a specific question prompt and in the context of readings and lectures. **Count for 40 % of the Final grade (20 % each)**. The paper has to be **sent by email (guillaume.durand@iau.edu) before the class**, Times, 12, double space, entirely typed, **800-1,000 words**, with footnotes for the sources. Title of the document: Last Name First Name_REL_Essay Question I (or II). **No pdf document, only .doc or .docx.**

3. Participation: 20 % of the final grade

Participation is graded according to the implication of the student (relevant answers to the coursepack questions; enlargement of the topic by other questions / ideas) and his attitude in the classroom (cellphone, laptop...).

A / A- = regularly contributes to discussions; good discussion leader; good attitude

B+ / B / B- = often contributes to discussions; good discussion leader; good to fair attitude

C+ / C / C- = occasionally contributes to discussions; good to fair leader; fair to poor attitude

D = rarely contributes to discussions; fair to poor leader; poor attitude

A : 95% and more ; A- : 90-94% ; B+ : 88-89% ; B : 84-87% ; B- : 80-83% ;

C+ : 78-79% ; C : 74-77% ; C- : 70-73% ; D+ : 68-69%.

VII ATTENDANCE:

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class, and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade.

About attendance, two unexcused absences are tolerated. Any other unexcused absence will affect the final grade. Are considered as excused absences: absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is required); emergencies.

Absence to a study tour counts for twice.

VIII CALENDAR:

Student should complete the assigned readings BEFORE the class

Wednesday, January 26: Presentation of the course

TOPIC 1: ORIGINS AND EARLY DEVELOPMENTS (1st – Early 4th CENT.)

Friday, January 28:	The Roman World at the time of Jesus
Wednesday, February 2:	Christians, Romans and Jews
Friday, February 4:	Christians, Romans and Jews (cont'd)
Wednesday, February 9:	Expansion, Organization and Genders
Friday, February 11:	Expansion, Organization and Genders (cont'd)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th	Field trip to Saint Maximin
Wednesday, February 16:	Who is Jesus? Early Christian Heresies + Response Paper 1 due
Friday, February 18:	Persecutions and Martyrdom – Cult of the Saints, Cult of the Relics
Wednesday, February 23:	The Roots of Monasticism
Friday, February 25:	Christian Art during the Persecutions (Italy)
Wednesday, March 2:	Constantine and the Beginnings of Universal Christianity
Friday, March 4:	Constantine and the Beginnings of Universal Christianity (cont'd)
Wednesday, March 9:	Christian Art and Architecture in the Early/Mid 4 th cent.
Friday, March 11:	MID TERM EXAM (TOPIC 1 – Essay Question)

TOPIC 2: THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION AND BEYOND (4th – 14th CENT.)

Wednesday, March 16:	The Successors of Constantine: Between Nicaeans, Arians and Pagans
Friday, March 18:	The Successors of Constantine (cont'd)
Wednesday, March 23:	When the West and the East split (Geopolitics of the 5 th – 6 th cent.)
Friday, March 25:	When the West and the East split (cont'd)
Wednesday, March 30:	Site Visit to the Cathedral (Baptistry)
Friday, April 1:	From the Council of Nicea (325) to Nicea II (787)
Wednesday, April 6:	From the Council of Nicea (325) to Nicea II (787) (cont'd)
Friday, April 8:	Jerome, Augustine and Benedict + Response Paper 2 due
SPRING BREAK	
Wednesday, April 20:	Christian Art in Early Medieval Western Europe
Friday, April 22:	The Great Schism (1054)
Wednesday, April 27:	Site visit to the Cathedral (Cloister and Romanesque Nave)
Friday, April 29	The Gregorian Reform and the Avignon Papacy

Wednesday, May 4

Site visit to the Cathedral (Gothic Nave and Triptych)

Friday, May 6

No class

May 10-13:

FINAL EXAM (TOPIC 2)

IX STUDY TOURS:

The Field Study is mandatory

On Saturday, February 12th, we will make a field trip to Saint-Maximin la Sainte Baume.

Visit of the basilica and its crypt, which shelters the skull of Mary-Magdalene. Lunch at St Maximin. Afternoon, drive to Plan d'Aups at the foot of the Sainte-Baume and walk (40 minutes approx.) up to the cave where Mary-Magdalene stayed at the end of her life.

Departure from the hotel du Roi René at 9.45 am. We should be back to Aix around 4.30 pm.

Good walking shoes and water are mandatory.

X HANDOUT:

Readings and assignments have to be done before the corresponding class.

	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Wednesday, January 26 Presentation of the course		
TOPIC 1: ORIGINS AND EARLY DEVELOPMENTS		
Friday, January 28 The Roman World at the Time of Jesus	J Curran <i>the Emergence of Christianity</i> (will be useful all through the 1 st part of this course)	
Wednesday, February 2 Christians, Romans and Jews: The Jews in the Roman World	Chadwick, 9-31 ; Gerhart, 161-167 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/judaism.html http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/first/congregations.html	What were the different Jewish Philosophies? Who were the earliest Christians and what were their concerns? What were the social levels of Christians in the first few centuries?
Friday, February 4 Christians, Romans and Jews (cont'd): The Roman Religion	Chadwick, 9-31 ; Gerhart, 229-237 ; M. Humphries, Chap 27, Religion http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/empire.html http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/hellenisticculture.html https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/my-st/hd_myst.htm	What were Greco-Roman religions like? How would you define the Imperial Religion? What is a Mystery Cult? Give examples. Summarize how Christians were viewed by the Romans: what were the five Roman charges against Christians? List items of defense of early Christian belief and practice that Justin brings to Roman attention.
Wednesday, February 9 Expansion, Organization and Genders	Chadwick, 16-17 ; 54-73 + Read the Letter of Pliny to Trajan (document on Teams) http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/first/missions.html	What was the geographical spread of Christianity during the first, second and third centuries? Who was Paul or Saul of Tarsus? Collect some relevant elements of his life.

	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/paul.html	
Friday, February 11 Expansion, Organization and Genders (cont'd)	https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/first/women.html https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/thecla.html https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/mary.html	What were the importance and roles of women during the Early Christian period? Based on the 2 nd website, how do we explain the conversion of Thecla? Who was Mary-Magdalene? Find information regarding her role in Jesus' life. What is Dura-Europos and what do we have to learn from it? (Personal Search on the web, also on Stokstadt_Early Christian Art)
Wednesday, February 16 Who is Jesus? Early Christian Heresies	Chadwick, 32-41 ; 52-53 ; 169 ; Gerhart, 270-284 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/first/diversity.html	CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 1 DUE BEFORE THE START OF THE CLASS: Write an essay answering the following question. What were the most important Christian sects / heresies during the Early Christian Period (1 st – 4 th cent.)? Describe them highlighting especially their theological views on Jesus Christ. The paper has to be sent by email (guillaume.durand@iau.edu) before the class, Times, 12, double space, entirely typed, 800-1,000 words, with footnotes for the sources. Title of the document: Last Name First Name_REL_Essay Question I No pdf document, only .doc or .docx
Friday, February 18 Persecutions and Martyrdom. Cult of the Saints, Cult of Relics	Chadwick, 116-124; Gerhart, 237-245 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/why/martyrs.html	When did Persecutions occur? List the most importance stages of persecutions. What happened to Christians' bodies before, during and after martyrdom? Who were Polycarp / Perpetua / Felicitas? What are their dates? Why are these documents of special importance? What was the impact of martyrdom and persecution?
Wednesday, February 23 The Roots of Monasticism	Chadwick, 174-183	What was the desert like and how did ascetics live in Egypt? In Syria? What are the different stages of the development of Early Monasticism? Who are the great characters of Early Monasticism?
Friday, February 25 Early Christian Art during the Persecutions	Gerhart, 434-439 + Stokstadt_Early Christian Art http://www.catacombe.roma.it/en/index.php	Find information about the characteristics of Early Christian art and focus esp. on the Catacombs of Rome, listing the early Christians symbols used during the persecutions.
Wednesday, March 2 & Friday, March 4 Constantine and the Beginnings of Universal Christianity.	Chadwick, 121-145 and 184-212 http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/why/legitimization.html http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/why/starktheology.html	Who was Constantine? Find information about his life (personal search on the web)? How does the physical evidence (e.g. coins, arches) contribute to our understanding of Constantine's intentions? Why did Christianity succeed?

Wednesday, March 9 Christian Art and Architecture in the Early/Mid 4 th century CE.	Stokstadt_Early Christian Art Gerhart, 439-441 Chris Wickham_ <i>Culture and Belief in the Christian Roman World</i>	List and describe what seems to be the most relevant Early Christian Monuments and Artworks. How did Christianity re-appropriate ancient Imperial Roman culture and belief to set up the Nicene Christian religion in the Empire?
Friday, March 11	1ST EXAM	
TOPIC 2: THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION AND BEYOND		
Wednesday, March 16 & Friday, March 18 The successors of Constantine: Between Nicaeans, Arians and Pagans	Chadwick, 133-173	What does material evidence tell us about pagan practice in the 4 th century? What is the situation of the Early Christian Church in the late 4 th century? Focus mainly on the sons of Constantine, Julian the Apostate, Valerian and Theodosius the Great. What were their beliefs? How did they implement them?
Wednesday, March 23 When the West and the East split (Geopolitics of the 5 th – 6 th cent.)	Chadwick, 237-257	How did the geopolitical situation evolve in the 5 th -8 th centuries in Western Europe? What was the reaction of Popes Damasus, Leo the Great and Gelasius?
Friday, March 25 When the West and the East split (Geopolitics of the 5 th – 6 th cent.)	McNally – <i>Gregory the Great and his declining world</i>	Who was Gregory the Great? What were his achievements? Why is he regarded as the most important Pope during the Early Christian Period?
Wednesday, March 30	Site Visit to the Cathedral (Baptistery) meet directly in front of the cathedral	
Friday, April 1 and Wednesday, April 6 From the Council of Nicea (325) to Nicea II (787)	Gerhart, 298-305; 323-341; 441-443 http://www.newadvent.org/library/almanac_14388a.htm http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04423f.htm	What are the seven Ecumenical Councils? What were the different controversies developed during the Seven first Ecumenical Councils? Collect and critically notate Early Christian representations of the Trinity and the Virgin Mary.
Friday, April 8 Jerome, Augustine and Benedict	Chadwick, 213-236 + Personal Search	CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE BEFORE THE START OF THE CLASS: Answer these questions: Who were (Saint) Jerome, Augustine (of Hippo) and Benedict (of Nursia)? When did they live? Where? What did they bring to Early Christianity? The paper has to be sent by email (guillaume.durand@iau.edu) before the class , Times, 12, double space, entirely typed, 800-1,000 words , with footnotes for the sources. Title of the document: Last Name First Name_REL_Essay Question II

		No pdf document, only .doc or .docx
Wed., April 20 Christian Art in Early Medieval Western Europe		
Friday, April 22 The Great Schism (1054)	Read carefully the document “ <i>Papal Bull of Excommunication</i> ” (on Teams) and start analyzing it.	Identify the characters, the period (check on the web for the geopolitical setting) and places, the grievances mentioned. What is an excommunication during the Medieval period?
Wed., April 27	Site visit to the Cathedral (Romanesque Nave and Cloister) – meet directly in front of the cathedral	
Friday, April 29 The Gregorian Reform and the Avignon Papacy		
Wednesday, May 4	Site visit to the Cathedral (Gothic Nave and Triptych). Meet in front of the Cathedral.	
MAY 10-13	FINAL EXAM	