

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology
Fall 2023
HS1196
Tues./Fri. 8:10 am-9:30 am

Church History I: 1st c. to 15th c.

Instructor: Fr. Ambrose Sigman, OP
Email: asigman@dspt.edu

Course Description:

This course will introduce the students to the history of the Church from its beginning in recorded history to the end of the Middle Ages. Some attention will be given to the relationship between history and theology as well as what constitutes a truly ecclesiastical history. Mostly, though, this course will be a survey of the events covering this period of the Church's history. It will look primarily at external developments, such as the relationship between the church and civil societies, the development of various aspects of her structure and government, like monasticism and the episcopacy, as well as the Church's response to the events of history. The format of the course will be lecture and class discussion.

Course Goals:

The goal of this course is to offer students an introduction to the historical context of the early and medieval Church. It will offer the student a foundation in the intellectual, cultural, social, and institutional history of the Church during this period. Because of the period of time covered, much must be left unsaid, instead the course will seek to give the students the tools and the background they need to pursue further studies in areas or aspects of the Church's history which is of interest to them.

Course Outcomes:

Through lectures, reading, and exams, the students will develop a broad understanding of the history of the early and medieval Church. The student will develop the foundation necessary to pursue further and more specific studies in the area of Church history and will have an initial understanding as to how history and theology are related to each other.

Bibliography:

This course will be principally lecture based. The student will be obliged to read the following works which will help establish background and context for the lectures and discussions. These are survey works which will help the student gain a broad understanding of the periods under discussion. As such, if the student would like to substitute different works for the ones listed, please discuss it with the professor:

- Ando, Clifford. *Imperial Rome AD 193 to 284: The Critical Century*. (Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh: 2012); ISBN 978-0748620517
- Wickham, Chris. *The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages 400-1000*. (Penguin Books, New York: 2009); ISBN 978-0670020980
- Jordan, William. *Europe in the High Middle Ages*. (Penguin Books: New York, 2004); ISBN 978-0140166644

Course Expectations:

The student will choose from one of two options:

- One 10–15-page research paper on a topic agreed upon with the professor
- Two written exams, one on the ancient period and one on the medieval period.

Grading will be done according to the standards established in the Student Handbook (p. 37-38).

Schedule:

Week I (Sept 5th and 8th): Introduction and the relationship between Theology and History

Week II (Sept 12th and 15th): The Historical context in which Christianity was born and its first two centuries

Week III (Sept 19th and 22nd): The Pre-Constantinian Church

Week IV (Sept 26th and 29th): Church and Empire and their Transformed Relationship

Week V (Oct 3rd and 6th): Late Antiquity and the End of Empire in the West

Week VI (Oct 10th and 13th): Post-Imperial West and Byzantine East

Week VII (Oct 17th and 20st): The Carolingian Church and Exam on Ancient Christianity

Reading Week (Oct 24th and 27th): No Class

Week VIII (Oct 31st and Nov 3rd): The Early Medieval Church

Week IX (Nov 7th and 10th): Reform and Schism

Week X (Nov 14th and 17th): High Middle Ages

Week XI Nov 21st and 24th): Heresy and the Mendicants (Thanksgiving Holiday, no class on Friday)

Week XII (Nov 28th and Dec 1st): Scholasticism, Monasticism, and the Medieval Papacy

Week XIII: (Dec 5th and 8th): Late Medieval Crises and the end of the Middle Ages

Week XIV: (Dec 13th and 16th): Exam on Medieval Christianity