

Cincinnati Christian University
HIST 560 01 – Early Church History

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Course Description: A study of the history of the early church in the first six centuries, carrying the story down to the pontificate of Gregory the Great. Special attention will be given to how certain problems within the church gave rise to developments that created an institution radically different from that pictured in the New Testament.

Course Objectives: The student will . . .

- Learn the history of the early church
- Understand the evolution of the church from its New Testament form and why it evolved.
- Write objective, analytical, academic papers which will improve reading and writing skills.

Course Material: To accomplish the course objectives a variety of materials will be used including power point slides, textbooks, movies, handouts, classroom lectures and discussions.

Course Syllabus

Course Schedule:

Friday, August 31 – 9:00am to 5:00pm

Friday, October 12 – 9:00am to 5:00pm

Friday, November 9 – 9:00am to 5:00 pm.

Breaks will be given during the class at the discretion of the professor. A one hour lunch break from noon to 1:00p will occur each day. All students are expected to be on time each morning.

Course Outline:

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| Aug. 31 | Orientation, 1 st Century, Gnosticism, Persecution, Bishops, Creeds & Canon, Early 3 rd Cent., Decius. |
| Oct. 12 | Diocletian and the Great Persecution, Constantine, Arianism & Nicea to Theodosius |
| Nov. 9 | Monasticism, Augustine & the 5 th Century, the German Tribes, Justin, Justinian & the Byzantine Empire and Gregory the Great. |

Course Due Dates:

Final Exam – on Canvas between 7:00p on Friday, Nov. 9th to midnight on Thurs., Nov. 15th.

Chadwick Book Analysis – due at the start of class on Friday, October 12th.

Eusebius Book Review – due at the start of class on Friday, October, 12th.

Research Project – due on Canvas by Friday, November 2nd.

Stark Book Review – due on Friday, December 14^h by midnight

Stark Review can be e-mailed directly to the professor at James.hansee@ccuniversity.edu.

Required Textbooks:

1. *The Early Church*, by Henry Chadwick, Penguin Publishing, 1993.
2. *History of the Church from Christ to Constantine* by Eusebius, Penguin Classics, 1990.
3. *The Rise of Christianity* by Rodney Stark, Harper Press, 1997.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance** – your attendance is required and is critical to your success in the class. You need to be in attendance at all three classes. See Seminary catalog for specific attendance requirements. Any missed class time will affect your course grade.
2. **Notes** – You are expected to take notes on all class lectures, class discussions, power point presentations and movies.
3. **Late Work** – Turn in all course assignments on time. The professor has no obligation to accept late work or a late final. If the student feels there is a justifiable reason for any late work, he or she needs to contact the professor. There is a penalty applied to any accepted late work.

Course Assignments:

Chadwick Book Analysis – Read Chadwick’s book and write a 3 to 4 page analysis covering three subjects. First, identify what Chadwick sees as the major issues and themes recurring throughout the Early Church era. Use specific examples from the book and demonstrate how those themes crossed generations and centuries. Second, identify major threats to the unity of the church. Third, offer a brief analysis of Chadwick’s writing style and overall presentation. This analysis is due Friday, October 12th.

Eusebius Review – Read books 1-10 in Eusebius’ history and write a 3 to 4 page analysis of his work. Assess Eusebius’ value and integrity as a historian and as an author. How does he deal with his sources? How much can he be trusted? Is he fairly objective or does he have some “axes to grind”? What is his value to church history? This review is due Friday, October 12th.

Research Project – Posted on Canvas by Friday, November 2nd by midnight. Students will be assigned a topic on the first day of class on which to do research. Students will summarize their findings in a 6 to 8 page research paper to be posted on Canvas by Friday, November 2nd. Students will utilize a minimum of four sources (1 of which can be a class textbook and 1 of which can be an online source). More details will be discussed in class.

Stark Book Review – Read *The Rise of Christianity* and write a 2 to 3 page analysis of the book. What is his perspective on this topic? Why did he write this book? How does this book add to our understanding of the early church? How solid is his approach and thinking? What are recurring themes for Stark? There are additional questions and approaches to analyzing this work; these are intended only as a starter questions. This review is due Friday, December 14th.

Course Grading: Course letter grades will be determined in accordance with the percentages listed in the Seminary catalog. Final grade for this course will be based on the following breakdown:

a. Class attendance, participation and preparedness	10%
b. Chadwick Book Review	15%
c. Stark Book Review	15%
d. Eusebius Book Review	15%
e. Research Project	20%
f. Final Exam	25%

Style for all written assignments:

- Proper English - Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors will lower your grade! It is to your benefit to proofread your work at least twice before handing it in.
- Typing format - students are to use either Times New Roman or Courier New 12 pt. font, double spaced with one inch margins. All assignments also need a title page.
- Formal writing – All written assignments are considered formal scholarly writing. Use the style guide of CCU to aid you in this quest. Common mistakes include passive voice, personal judgments, first person commentary, repetition, contractions and abbreviations.
- Documentation – all quotes and sources of information must be documented. For the book review use parenthetical references.
- Appearance – All papers must be stapled together (no paper clips) with a cover page and should have a neat appearance when turned in.

Grading of papers will include grammar, quality of content and compliance with above guidelines.

Class Guidelines

1. Arrive in class by the start time and be prepared for class.
2. Students who need to leave class early should inform the professor prior to the start of class.
3. Students are expected to participate in the class, but refrain from causing distractions in the class. Students are not to enter and exit the classroom at their own personal discretion. Go to the bathroom before or after class or during one of the breaks.
4. Be attentive in class. Sleeping, talking, playing with cell phones, laptops or other electronic equipment, or disturbance of any kind will not be tolerated. Excessive inappropriate behavior will result in the lowering of your grade, dismissal from class or failure from the course.
5. Turn off all cell phones prior to class. Texting during class will not be tolerated.
6. It is the student’s responsibility to complete and turn in all assignments on the due dates. To successfully pass this course, all assignments must be completed and turned in.
7. Contact the professor if you have any problems, need clarification of information, require help with course assignments or need some other form of assistance.