



Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2020
CH 611	Early Christianity	Prerequisite: CH 501
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Tues/Thurs	Instructor:	Dr. Ryan H. Wilkinson, Ph.D.	First day of classes:	Tue, Jan 7
Time:	2:30-3:45 p.m.	Email:	ryan.wilkinson@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 19
Room:	A2131	Phone:	-6936	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar 9
Lab/ Tutorial:	N/A	Office:	L2074	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 20
	N/A	Office Hours:	Wed/Fri 1:15-2:15, or by appt	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 30
Final Exam:	TBA by Registrar by January 30			Last day of classes:	Thurs, Apr 9

Course Description

An examination of the major developments in the history of Christianity from its origins to the 7th century AD. Emphasis will be placed on doctrinal and theological developments and the social and political context of the Christian churches.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Become familiar with major developments in the first six centuries of Christian history and with multiple key texts from that period.
- Understand the nature of history, and develop the capacity for historical thinking about causation, complexity, change-over-time, and context in early Christian history.
- Develop the skill of historical research on pre-modern and early Christian topics.
- Develop the skills of responsible academic communication.
- Employ primary source evidence, by interpreting sources relating to the history of early Christianity.
- Evaluate historical interpretations, and assess historiographical and cultural factors that shape various modern views of early Christian history.

Textbook:

John Anthony **McGuckin**, *The Path of Christianity: The First Thousand Years* (Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL, 2017).

Course Schedule

Tues Jan 7	Intro to the course
Thurs Jan 9	Some Jewish background / biblical creation theology READ: Middleton, "Image of God" article (posted to Moodle) TICKET 1 DUE IN CLASS Ticket details: Write 1-2 pages (handwritten or typed) addressing two points from the Middleton, "Image of God" reading: 1) In what ways does Middleton suggest/illustrate that Christian doctrines or approaches to Scripture may change over time, across different historical contexts? 2) Personal reflection: did anything in this reading surprise you, enlighten you, concern you, or encourage you? Are Middleton's ideas similar to, or different from, your experience/understanding of Christian teaching?
Tues Jan 14	Jesus, early Christ-devotion, and the New Testament church
Thurs Jan 16	Early church practice / Intro to the Apostolic Fathers READ: <i>Didache</i> (see Moodle) READ: McGuckin (hereafter, "McG") pp. 965-1000
Tues Jan 21	Early heresies and controversies 1 READ: McG pp. 3-48, 106-111
Thurs Jan 23	Early heresies and controversies 2 READ: McG pp. 48-106 (just skim pp. 73-89) READ: Excerpt from Irenaeus of Lyons (see Moodle)
Tues Jan 28	Persecution: causes, character, and consequences READ: McG pp. 117-150, 212-223 READ: Excerpt from <i>Passion of Perpetua</i> (see Moodle)
Thurs Jan 30	PROGRAM DAY, NO CLASSES
Tues Feb 4	The Apologists READ: McG pp. 183-187, 191-193, 195-197, 199-207, 223-261, 271-275
Thurs Feb 6	The Constantinian Revolution READ: TBA (see Moodle) QUIZ 1 (Montanism, Marcionites, Irenaeus of Lyons, Justin Martyr, Logos School)
Tues Feb 11	Nicaea and the Arian controversy 1 READ: McG pp. 278-315

- Thurs Feb 13 Nicaea and the Arian controversy 2
READ: McG pp. 315-354, 432-436
- Tues Feb 18 **READING WEEK, NO CLASSES**
- Thurs Feb 20 **READING WEEK, NO CLASSES**
- Tues Feb 25 Overview of themes in Patristic thought
READ: McG pp. 261-271
READ: Athanasius, *On the Incarnation of the Word of God*, Chs. 1-5 and Ch 9 (see Moodle)
- Thurs Feb 27 Formation of the New Testament canon
READ: TBD (see Moodle)
QUIZ 2 (Tertullian, Perpetua, Origen, Diocletian, Arius)
- Tues Mar 3 Asceticism and the monastic movement 1
READ: McG pp. 383-422
READ: Excerpt from John Cassian, *Conferences* (see Moodle)
- Thurs Mar 5 Asceticism-monasticism 2 / Body and sexuality in late antique Christianity
READ: McG pp. 869-889, 1090-1119
TICKET 2 DUE IN CLASS (Term-paper topic due to me, along with brief details on initial research – see Moodle for further details)
- Tues Mar 10 Ecclesiologies in conflict: bishops, pilgrims, and saints
READ: McG pp. 891-911, 916-921
QUIZ 3 (Gregory of Nazianzus, Gregory of Nyssa, Ambrose of Milan, Fayyum, John Cassian)
- Thurs Mar 12 Text in context special reading session 1 (text TBA, see Moodle)
- Tues Mar 17 A bishop and his critics: Augustine's legacy 1
READ: McG pp. 436-459
READ: Excerpt TBA (see Moodle)
- Thurs Mar 19 Augustine and his legacy 2
READ: Excerpt TBA (see Moodle)
READ: Villanova lecture on Platonism and Augustine, Sections 2 and 3 (see Moodle)
- Tues Mar 24 Women in the early church
READ: McG pp. 891-921
- Thurs Mar 26 Chalcedon and later Christological debates 1
READ: McG pp. 519-570
- Tues Mar 31 The Bishop of Rome and his contested role(s)
READ: McG pp. 425-432, 459-469, 661-681, 739-746

Thurs Apr 2	Later Christological debates 2 / Toward early medieval theologies READ: Excerpt/Article TBA (see Moodle) TICKET 3 DUE IN CLASS (Term Paper progress report; see Moodle for further details)
Tues Apr 7	Text in context special reading session 2 (Text TBA) QUIZ 4 (Donatism, Pelagius, Jerome, Chalcedon, Maximus the Confessor)
Thurs Apr 9	Course conclusions and exam preparation READ: McG pp. 479-515 TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS
TBA	Final Examination (date to be announced by Registrar by January 30)

Requirements:

16%	4 quizzes, 4% each [Feb 6, Feb 27, Mar 10, Apr 7]
14%	3 tickets to class [Jan 9 – 5%, Mar 5 – 5%, Apr 2, 4%]
15%	3 1-on-1 monthly meeting 2-page reports (5% each – dates TBD)
25%	Term paper [Apr 9]
20%	Final exam [TBA]
10%	Participation

I will provide further details on expectations before each assignment is due. Assignments generally match those for the undergraduate version of the class, with the exception of a longer Term Paper, 3 additional mini-reports (at monthly meetings), and adjusted percentages overall to account for the different range of assignments. For now, please see this further information about each assignment:

Quizzes: Each of four quizzes will require the student to identify an item: Who or what was it? When and where was it relevant? Why is it significant for early Christian history? Each quiz will address one item chosen from the list of possibilities written on this syllabus.

Tickets to Class: These are short writing assignments, 1-2 pages long, either handwritten or typed. I will provide further guidance for each closer to the due-date, but for now, please note:

- Ticket 1 – a reading-response due January 9th – is a response to the reading assignment for that day.
- Ticket 2 – due Mar 5 – will require students to submit in advance the topic for their term paper along with some additional details on that project.
- Ticket 3 – due Apr 2 – will require students to submit a term paper progress report including a tentative draft thesis statement and other items relevant to their term paper. **If this Ticket is not submitted, the student's term paper shall not receive any higher than a B+ grade.**

Monthly Meeting Reports: Student(s) will meet with the instructor three times over the semester for out-of-class meetings to discuss course content in greater depth. Dates and topics for these meetings will be arranged separately with the instructor. For each meeting, students should provide a 2-page, typed, double-spaced, cleanly edited mini-paper responding to the assigned readings for that meeting (which will usually consist of 2-3 scholarly articles or sources on the meeting's topic).

Term Paper: Each student will write a 17-20-page research paper that contextualizes and analyzes some aspect of early Christian history. I will distribute more specific guidelines once the semester is underway. Note, however, that the course is designed to funnel students toward early progress and time to edit or revise research findings; leaving the paper to the last minute will not work well, as many of our discussions will aim at enriching your paper projects.

Final Exam: I will distribute further details on the final exam closer to the end of term, but I anticipate a final consisting of short-identification answers and possibly an essay component.

Participation: Students should attend each class and each monthly meeting, come on time, and be prepared to discuss each day's assigned readings. In class, students should be attentive, engaged, and respectful of each other and of me. I may ask each student to fill out a self-assessment rubric at the end of term to support a suggested Participation grade.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON LATE WORK: Assignments turned in late will automatically incur a full-grade penalty (e.g., "A-" to "B-"). Furthermore, I will only accept late work up to 72 hours following the initial deadline, after which point the assignment will earn an "F." The only exception to this policy will be in cases of documented medical or family emergency in coordination with the instructor. If you expect to have trouble completing an assignment on time, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss options, and to identify ways I can best help you complete the assignment.

Attendance:

As noted above, students must attend each class and be prepared for that day's discussion. Attendance will figure in the Participation component of the overall grade.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student

to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.