

**HIS 206-02 - Topics in Premodern World History I: “The History of Christianity to 1648”
ONLINE
Course Syllabus**

Course Description: This course explores the history of Christianity until the end of the Thirty Years War in Europe. Taking a chronological approach, we will discuss the earliest history of Christianity, focusing on its religious, cultural, and historical contexts; the development of Christianity in the Roman World; Christianity after Constantine; Christianity in Medieval Europe; the development of distinct Christian communities in Africa, Asia, and the Levant after the Council of Chalcedon (including Coptic Christianity and Eastern Orthodoxy); and the Protestant Reformation and the European wars of religion in the 16th and 17th centuries. This course focuses on four (4) main themes or questions: 1) How did the context of Christianity’s origins influence what early Christians believed, how they chose to express those beliefs, and how Christianity spread? 2) How did the idea of “orthodoxy” develop? How did disagreements between Christians shape what Christian communities believed and practiced? 3) Why did Christianity become the most powerful religion in Europe by 500 CE, and how did it maintain that power (and, in contrast, why was Christianity less influential outside of Europe)? and, 4) In what ways did Christians respond to changes in politics, culture, and society in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries?

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs): Upon completing HIS 206, you will be able to:

1. Measure the impact of religious controversies on Christian history (and global history as a whole).
2. Apply enduring questions about the history of Christianity to specific historical examples.
3. Understand and apply the “5 C’s of Historical Thinking” in order to formulate a narrative of Christian history that explains the ways that Christianity and Christian communities changed between Christianity’s beginnings and the end of the Protestant Reformation.
4. Develop historical reading skills (sourcing, contextualization, corroboration, and close reading) and use those skills analyze primary source documents from Christian history and assess differing viewpoints.
5. Assess the impact of key thinkers and leaders, events, and ideas on Christian history.

History Department Learning Goals:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes (GHP SLOs):

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Global Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes (GL SLOs):

1. Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures, polities, and/or intellectual traditions.
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America).
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

Required Course Materials:

- Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation* (HarperCollins, 2010) (ISBN: 9780061855887)

You are **required** to obtain a copy of this book – by purchasing it from the UNCG Bookstore or another retailer or borrowing it – for this course. Other course readings – particularly primary sources – along with videos, will be posted to Canvas. You will need read and watch all posted materials in order to complete this course.

Computer Requirements: To complete this course, you will need a computer and reliable internet access. You will need to access Canvas, the Canvas Message Center, and your UNCG email regularly. All course components use Canvas, and it is your responsibility to understand how to navigate Canvas to ensure your success in this course. Try to complete work well in advance of course deadlines. Technical issues can happen just before assignment deadlines. All online, phone and walk-in options for technical support for UNCG are available here: <https://its.uncg.edu/Help/>. Please email me about technical problems if the issue seems to stem from our Canvas course setup.

Expectations for an Online Learning Environment: When choosing to take a course online, it is necessary that the student understand that it is his or her responsibility to ensure that they have: a) sufficiently robust equipment, b) stable and adequate Internet service, and c) the time management and self-discipline skills necessary to submit work in a timely manner. **Technology issues will not be accepted as explanations for late or missing assignments.**

Students are expected to be courteous, ethical, and professional in their interactions with the instructor and fellow students. The online format of this class is not an excuse to be rude or unprofessional.

Communication: The best ways for students to communicate with me is through email or Canvas. During weekdays, students can expect a reply to the initial inquiry within forty-eight hours. **Please consult the syllabus and the FAQ discussion board on Canvas before emailing me.** Please show courtesy in all emails.

Course Components, Evaluation, & Assessment

1. Information Literacy Assignments– 10%

According to the American Library Association, “Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to ‘recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.’” Information literacy is a crucial skill set for all professions and disciplines. Students will complete two information literacy assignments throughout the course to develop and assess their information literacy skills. *These assignments fulfill CLO #4, GL SLO #1, and GHP SLO #1,*

2. Terms and Concepts Quizzes – 20%

Each week, you will be quizzed on the week’s assigned readings, websites, and videos to assess reading comprehension, as well as your ability to use historical thinking skills to answer questions about the course material. These quizzes are “open book” and “open note.” Consult the terms and concepts study guide for each week to prepare for these quizzes. At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest quiz grade for each student. *These assignments fulfill CLO’s #1, #3, and #5, GL SLO #1 and #3, and GHP SLO’s #1 and 2.*

3. Discussion Boards – 20%

Each week, you will be required to answer the weekly discussion question(s) which focus on primary sources, and are designed to assess your ability to analyze and interpret historical evidence. You will also be required to respond to at least two (2) of your classmates’ posts. *These assignments fulfill CLO #4, GL SLO #3, and GHP SLO #1.*

4. Unit-end Essays – 30%

At the end of the first three units, you will complete short (2-3 pages) essays focused on the key question for the unit (see the course schedule below). These essays will evaluate your ability to think historically about central questions in the history of Christianity. *These assignments fulfill CLO #2, GHP SLO #2, and GL SLO’s #1 and #2.*

5. Final – 20%

The final will be composed of short answer questions that are designed to assess your knowledge of the course content and your historical thinking skills. This take-home, open-book test will

cover all of the course material. *This assignment fulfills CLO #3, GHP SLO #2, and GL SLO's #2 and #3.*

Final Grade Scale

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| A | 100-94.0 |
| A- | <94.0-90.0 |
| B+ | <90.0-87.0 |
| B | <87.0-84.0 |
| B- | <84.0-80.0 |
| C+ | <80.0-77.0 |
| C | <77.0-74.0 |
| C- | <74.0-70.0 |
| D+ | <70.0-67.0 |
| D | <67.0-64.0 |
| D- | <64.0-61.0 |
| F | <61.0-0.0 |

Course Parameters

Late Policy

It is important to hand in assignments on time, both for this class and as practice for the professional world. The quizzes are due no later than 11:59 pm on the day they are due. **You will not be able to take the quizzes after the deadline.** As for the take-home midterm and final, for every day that the assignment is late, I will deduct **5%** from the total grade.

Extra Credit

There will be extra credit available for this course. Each week, I will provide optional reading questions. Students wishing to earn extra credit may complete those reading questions for every week, in order to earn an extra 10% on the final. **Students must complete each week's reading questions in order to receive extra credit. I will not award partial credit – you must complete all reading questions.**

Academic Accommodations

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. If you feel you will encounter any barriers to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS). The OARS staff can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can learn more about OARS by visiting their website at <https://ods.uncg.edu/> or by calling 336-334-5440 or visiting them in Suite 215, EUC.

Health and Wellness

Your health impacts your learning. Throughout your time in college, you may experience a range of health issues that can cause barriers to your learning. These might include physical ailments, illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may be experiencing. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. Help is always available

Academic Support

For assistance with writing assignments, contact the UNCG Writing Center, where staff members hold appointments both in person and via instant-messaging. The Digital Media Commons and the Digital ACT Studio in Jackson Library provide help with multimedia projects and UNCG's Speaking Center offers a great resource for building public, small-group or individual speaking skills.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

The UNC-Greensboro community values integrity in the work of its students. To that end, you must submit work that you yourself have written. Copying the work of others and passing it off as your own (known as plagiarizing) will not be tolerated. The consequences for plagiarism can include receiving a zero for the assignment, a failing grade for the class and/or university sanctions. You should be familiar with UNCG's policy on academic integrity, available at <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>.

Syllabus Revisions

The instructor for this course reserves the right to alter the syllabus with advance notification to students.

Course Schedule and Assignments

This course schedule aligns with the modules on Canvas.

| Unit 1: A Millennium of Beginnings, BCE 1000-100 CE <i>Central Question: How did the context of Christianity's origins influence what early Christians believed, how they chose to express those beliefs, and how Christianity spread?</i> | |
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| Week 1: Defining and Doing History (August 18-August 23) | |
| Read & Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Jules R. Benjamin, "How Historians Work" (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Andrews and Flannery Burke, "What Does It Mean to Think Historically?" (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> "What is Historical Thinking" video (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus Quiz (due August 23 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> "Getting to Know You" Discussion (due August 23 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 2: Christianity's Jewish Roots (August 24-August 30) | |
| Read & Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 2 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , 13-19 <input type="checkbox"/> MacCulloch, <i>Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years</i> , 45-73 (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> "Exodus 20," <i>The Five Books of Moses</i> (The Schocken Bible: Volume I), 368-373 (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 2 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due August 30 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 2 Discussion: Judaism and Early Christianity (due August 30 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 3: Christianity's Greco-Roman Contexts (August 31-September 6) | |
| Read & Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 3 Overview Video (Canvas) |

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , 19-23 <input type="checkbox"/> MacCulloch, <i>Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years</i> , 19-46 (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpt from Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 3 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due September 6 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 3 Discussion: Platonism's Influence on Early Christian Thought (due September 6 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 4: Jesus, the "Way," and First-Century Christianity (September 7-September 13) | |
| Read & Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 4 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Mullin, <i>A Short World History of Christianity</i> , 3-13 (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , 25-48 <input type="checkbox"/> John 1, <i>The New Testament: A Translation</i> (David Bentley Hard, trans.) <input type="checkbox"/> Bettenson, ed., <i>Documents of the Christian Church</i> , 3-7 (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 4 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due September 13 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 4 Discussion: Early Christians and the Roman Elite (due September 13 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Unit 1 Essay (due September 13 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Unit 2: Christianity Before the Council of Chalcedon, 100-451 CE <i>Central Question: How did the idea of "orthodoxy" develop? How did disagreements between Christians shape what Christian communities believed and practiced?</i> | |
| Week 5: Christians in the Roman World, 100-300 CE (September 14-September 20) | |
| Read & Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 5 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , 49-68, 97-104 <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpts from Tertullian's <i>The Apology</i> and Celsus's <i>On the True Doctrine</i> (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 5 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due September 20 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 5 Discussion: Tertullian vs. Celsus (due September 20 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Literacy Assignment #1 (due September 20 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 6: Constructing a New Religion-Christian Doctrine and Practice to 300 CE (September 21-September 27) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 6 Overview Video (Canvas) |

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , 69-96, 105-117 <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpt from Justin's <i>Apology</i> (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 6 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due September 27 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 6 Discussion: Christian Worship in the Second Century CE (due September 27 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 7: An Imperial Faith, 300-451 CE (September 28-October 4) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 7 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , 119-126, 131-148, 157-179, 193-197, 219-252 <input type="checkbox"/> Pelagius and Augustine on Original Sin, Grace, and Free Will (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 7 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due October 4 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 7 Discussion: The Dispute between Pelagius and Augustine (due October 4 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 8: The Struggle for Orthodoxy, 325-451 CE (October 4-October 11) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 8 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> MacCulloch, <i>Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years</i> , 211-228 (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Bettenson, <i>Documents of the Christian Church</i> , 54-62 (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Unit 2 Essay (due October 11 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Unit 3: Upon this Rock: Medieval Christianity and the Papacy, 451-1409 | |
| <i>Central Question: Why did Christianity become the most powerful religion in Europe by 500 CE, and how did it maintain that power (and, in contrast, why was Christianity less influential outside of Europe)?</i> | |
| Week 9: Christian Communities in Asia and Africa (October 12-October 18) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 9 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> MacCulloch, <i>Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years</i> , 231-254 (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpts from the <i>Henotikon</i> of Zeno (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 9 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due October 18 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 9 Discussion: The Consequences of the Council of Chalcedon (due October 18 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 10: Challenges to the Idea of a "Church Catholic" (October 19-October 25) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 10 Overview Video (Canvas) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i>, 253-261, 269-313 <input type="checkbox"/> Bettenson, <i>Documents of the Christian Church</i>, 134-136 (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Week 10 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due October 25 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 10 Discussion: The Great Schism of 1054 (due October 25 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 11: The Church of Rome, 800-1200 (October 26-November 1) | |
| Read and Watch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Week 11 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i>, 315-356 <input type="checkbox"/> Bettenson, <i>Documents of the Christian Church</i>, 147-156, 157-158, 161-163 (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Week 11 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due November 1 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 11 Discussion: Assertions of Papal Authority in the 11th -14th centuries (due November 1 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Literacy Assignment #2 (due November 1 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 12: The Church of Rome, 1200-1400 (November 2-November 8) | |
| Read and Watch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Week 12 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i>, 357-406 <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpts from Froissart's <i>Chronicles</i> (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Week 12 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due November 8 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 12 Discussion: Explaining the "Great Schism" (due November 8, 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Unit 3 Essay (due November 8 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Unit 4: The Western Church Dismembered, 1409-1648 <i>Central Question: In what ways did Christians respond to changes in politics, culture, and society in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries?</i> | |
| Week 13: Efforts to Reform the Church from Within (November 9-November 15) | |
| Read and Watch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Week 13 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i>, 407-445 <input type="checkbox"/> Documents on the Conciliar Movement (Canvas) |

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| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 13 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due November 17 @ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 13 Discussion: Views on the Conciliar Movement as a Response to Schism (due November 17, 11:59 pm) |
| Week 14: The Protestant Reformation (November 16-November 22) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 14 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> MacCulloch, <i>Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years</i> , 604-643 (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> Bettenson, <i>Documents of the Christian Church</i> , 263-271 (Canvas) |
| Assignments | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 14 Terms and Concepts Quiz (due November 22@ 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Week 14 Discussion: Luther's Complaints Against the Church (due November 22 @ 11:59 pm) |
| Week 15: The Counter-Reformation and the European Wars of Religion (November 23-November 24) | |
| Read and Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 15 Overview Video (Canvas) <input type="checkbox"/> MacCulloch, <i>Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years</i> , 644-688. |
| Assignments | |
| THANKSGIVING BREAK, November 25-27 | |
| Final Exam (Due December 5 at 11:59 pm) | |