THEO1002 - Forming the Faith: History of the Early Church
Course Outline

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Lecturer</td>
<td>Rev Canon Margaret Carr</td>
<td>Ph: 4952 9610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation hours 9am-5pm by phone Mondays, or 24h by email during semester.

Semester  
Semester 2 - 2008

Unit Weighting  
10

Teaching Methods  
Lecture  
Workshop

Brief Course Description
This course provides students with an overview of the development of Christianity in the first formative centuries of the Christian Faith. Through lectures and a workshop programme, students will be introduced to key features and factors in the genesis and growth, identity and developing self-understanding of the early Church, with particular attention to the interaction of faith and theology with the changing social, cultural and intellectual worlds of antiquity.

Following an introduction to the Jewish and Roman milieus within which Christianity first emerged, the course outlines and critically examines how and why the Christian faith developed and the relationship of the first ecclesial communities to their wider societies. The major achievements, turning-points and key theological and doctrinal controversies and contributors are explored, providing an understanding of the main lines and varieties of patristic life, theology, devotion and church order in east and west, and of how they continue to have significance in the life of Christianity today.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term  
Workshop for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2008

CTS Download Date: 6 July 2008
Course Objectives
The aim of the course is to:
1. Introduce students to foundational aspects of Christian life and theology as formed by the historical developments of the Church in its first centuries to c.500CE;
2. Introduce students to key approaches to the study and critical use of Christian history as part of the continuing development of Christian thought and praxis;
3. Provide students with illustrative examples of early Christian life and theology as the expression of a changing Christian identity under the pressure of different social contexts;
4. Enable students to begin to make initial theological judgments about particular doctrinal developments in relation to their historical contexts.

Course Content
Lectures
Students will be required to attend 2 x one hour lectures and a one hour workshop on the theme of the lectures each week. Themes will include: the social and cultural worlds of the first Christians, and the key question of how and why the Early Church grew; shaping the first churches (ministry and apologia); Gnosticism and the rise of the Canon; relating Faith to the World (Origen, Tertullian and Cyprian); persecution, heresy and martyrdom; Constantine and the Constantinian Church; asceticism and desert monasticism; Arianism and the Council of Nicaea; the Ecumenical Councils and definition of the Trinity; Augustine and his World; women and social life in the First Christian Churches; baptism, liturgy, discipline and church order in the late Roman Empire; and mission and Identity in the aftermath of the Roman Empire: Celts, Romans and _paganos_.

Workshops
It is expected that students will both contribute to, and at times lead, discussions as a part of the assessment regime of the course. The readings for the workshops will include the relevant primary documents in J.Stevenson (ed), A New Eusebius (revised edition, London, SPCK, 1987) and J.Stevenson (ed), Creeds, Councils and Controversies, together with appropriate sections of the other core texts and other relevant required resources.

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>2000 words, 40% total mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Evidence of weekly reading and discussion; 15% total mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify) Workshop leadership task and written reports; 500 words, 15% total mark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz - Class</td>
<td>Two class quizzes (1000 words each), 30% total mark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
Nil

Callaghan Campus Timetable
THEO1002
FORMING THE FAITH: HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2008
Lecture and Workshop Monday 14:00 - 16:00 [MCG25]

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:
· copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
· using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
· working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -
· Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
· Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
· Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term, are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

· **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

· **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due
date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The census dates below are the last dates to withdraw without academic penalty. For onshore students, withdrawal on or before the census date means no financial penalty.

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2008
For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008
For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2008
For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2008
For Trimester 3 courses: 22 September 2008
For Trimester 1 Singapore courses: 3 February 2008
For Trimester 2 Singapore courses: 25 May 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**

- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**

- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**

- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

For Port Macquarie students, contact your program officer or EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au, phone 4921 5000
For Singapore students, your first point of contact is your PSB Program Executive

**Faculty websites**

Faculty of Business and Law

Faculty of Education and Arts
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/

Faculty of Health
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/

Faculty of Science and Information Technology
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/

**Contact details**

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Ourimbah**
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**The Dean of Students**
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

**Alteration of this Course Outline**

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**

**Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards**
Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

---------------------------------------- End of CTS Entry ----------------------------------------

Important Additional Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

COURSE RATIONALE

This course provides an essential historical foundation for students engaged in religious and cultural studies in the Bachelor of Theology (BTh) programme. In particular, it provides an introduction to the diverse ecumenical heritage and many enduring tensions within Christianity, and a critical understanding of how faith controversies arise and are resolved. Within the BTh programme this course offers students the opportunity to gain a vital understanding of how theology, society and Christian life interact and form one another, with the added opportunity to return to themes and issues raised in later courses of the programme.

The central rationale of this course is to provide students the opportunity to identify major formative theological, ecclesial, social and political issues and decisions which have both set the framework and continue into later times. Where relevant, students may also locate their own theological positions and understandings.

This course introduces core skills in the necessary task of comparing, contrasting and evaluating key themes in Christian life and theology; and will require students to begin using historical evidence and to reflect critically in their use of the past to interpret the present.
The workshop programme will encourage students to become familiar with a number of foundational primary texts as an indication of the enormous resources available within Christian History.

**Class Timetable for Semester**
Classes will commence 28th July and finish on 3rd November. Semester recess is from Sat. 27th September to Sunday 12th October.

**Preparation for lectures and workshops**
Students are expected to have pre-read the assigned topic for each week’s seminar, and to attend all classes (previous results show a strong link between participation rate and grade). Marks for group participation and contribution will depend on this preparation and weekly submission of short weekly tasks. The course lecturer will help you select appropriate reference books and journals in early church history.

**Student Assessment**
Students must submit their major essay on time in electronic form via Blackboard as well as hard copy. You can expect to receive feedback on written assignments – *if submitted by the due date*. Student assessment is based on the course learning objectives stated earlier in this Outline, in keeping with the University’s policy ([http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000779.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000779.html)).

**Overview of Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description of Topic</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop leadership task and written report(s).</td>
<td>Obtain topic and date from lecturer. Submit up to 250 word outline before session; and 500 word summary 1 week later.</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Before Oct. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group participation &amp; contribution</td>
<td>Evidence of weekly readings and discussion of topics (250 words)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>July 24-Oct 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class tests (2)</td>
<td>Short answer questions. Each quiz = 5x200 words.</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 8 (Sep 8) &amp; Week 14 (Nov 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Workshop Leadership Task (15%)**
Students will be given their particular topics and dates by the second week of class. By that time the course lecturer will also instruct you on how to prepare for, and lead the workshop session; and how to compose your summary of the group’s process and new insights.

*Before the workshop,* the leader must give the lecturer a short written outline (approx. 250 words, as sentences or dot-points on one A4 page) of the intended topic, group process, main points and bibliography used. *By the following week,* the student leader must also provide a written summary (500 words) of what new insights resulted from group discussion, and what would have improved the workshop

Unacceptable reasons or failure to deliver the workshop on the agreed date will result in no mark given for this task. Failure to provide either short report on time will forfeit 5% of this mark.

**Essay Plan and Essay (40%)**
An Essay Plan must be submitted by the due date, and in sufficient detail for the course lecturer to approve, and/or give constructive feedback on producing a quality Essay. This means the Plan will not be given any mark, although you may want to repeat sections of it in the Essay. The latter
(essay) per se contributes up to 40% of the final grade, which is why the Plan (and relevant feedback) is an important blueprint for success. Instructions on setting out the Essay Plan and Essay, plus the list of essay topics will be provided in class. The Referencing Style for this course is given in the next session and in the Assessment folder on Blackboard.

**Group Participation & Contribution (15%)**

Seminars and group discussion on related topics occur in the week’s class following the lecture. All students are expected to read the topic for each week’s seminar in advance, and to contribute their insights and reflections in the workshop. As evidence of such preparation, each student must hand in or email before five (of the 13 weeks’) seminars 2 questions of interest from their prior reading, plus a short justification (50 words max.). These will be assessed (ie. 5x2% each) for depth/quality, and the remainder (5%) will be given for participation.

**In-class Quiz (30%)**

Two short answer quizzes will be held in-class, during weeks 8 & 13. These will assess your critical thinking about a range of topics discussed in the prior 6 weeks. Each quiz will have five short-answer questions (requiring a max. 200 words) to be done in a 75 minute period. Each quiz will contribute 15% to the final mark. Further details will be given by the course lecturer in class.

**READING RESOURCES**

The list of Required Reading for weekly lecture topics and seminars will be available as a handout in class and can be found in the Course Documents folder on Blackboard.

The following additional library resources are available as an extended bibliography:

- Peter Brown, *Society and the Holy in Late Antiquity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982)
- Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Emergence of the Christian Tradition (100-600)* (Chicago, Uni of Chicago, 1971)


F. Young, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon* (London, SCM, 1983)

**Referencing Guide**

Below is a short guide to the referencing system used by the History Discipline. You can also check the Assignment Cover Sheet for further information. This section is taken from ‘How to Write History Essay’ which will be available through Blackboard.

**G. Examples of Footnote and Bibliography Entries**

In the following examples, FN indicates the footnote form of a reference and B indicates the same reference as it should appear in your Bibliography. Some points to note:

- Do not use the terms, ibid., op. cit. or any other latinism. Instead, use brief titles for all subsequent references.

- Provide the city (not the suburb or country) of publication.

**Book**


**Journal Article**


**Translated Book**


**Chapter in an edited book**


**Book in a series**


**Multivolume work**


**Magazine or Newspaper Article [Published monthly or daily]**

FN 1. Patrick Carey, “Home at Last,” Irish Daily Independent (Dublin), 16 June 1904. [If the newspaper is cited only once, there is no need to include it in bibliography. If references are more frequent, the bibliography should list the periodical with the time range consulted for research in the essay.]

B Irish Daily Independent (Dublin), 1900-1914.

**Thesis or Dissertation**


**Electronic Sources**

To cite sources available via the World Wide Web, give the author’s name (if known), the full title of the work and any reference number, the nature of digital source, the full web address, and the date of your visit (since web sites change rapidly).


**Subsequent references**

If there are subsequent references to works that have already been cited refer to the work by surname, short title and page number. Do not use Ibid. or any other Latin abbreviation for immediately following references, just repeat the short title citation:

2. Macintyre, Concise History of Australia, p. 35.


H. Further Reading

**Books**


**Semester Schedule for THEO1002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td><strong>No Classes</strong> this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>The birthplace of Christianity / The Emergence of Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>Early Christian Apologists&lt;br&gt;Workshop task topics and dates assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>The Heresy of Gnosticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>Christianity East and West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>The Decian Persecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>The Great Persecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>The Arian Controversy / <strong>Essay Plan due</strong> /Class Quiz 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Emperor Julian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Church and State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep. 27 – Oct. 12</td>
<td>Semester Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Monastic Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>St. Augustine of Hippo / <strong>Essay due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Christological Disputes of Eastern Christendom / The Tome of Leo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Reflection on Learning and wrap up / <strong>Class Quiz 2</strong></td>
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</table>

GF-MC: 8 July 2008