THEO1002 - History of the Early Church

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Rev. Dr. Fergus King
Room: MC108 (McMullin Bldg.)
Ph: Messages via School Office, on 4921 5213
Fax: 
Email: Fergus.king@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Mondays 9am-2pm on campus; otherwise by email.

Semester 2 - 2010
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 milieux 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
Workshop for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

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.

Tutorials
It is expected that students will both contribute to discussions as a part of the assessment regime of the course. Reading for tutorials will be assessed using short multiple choice questions each week. These readings have been put together in a document which may be downloaded from the course documents in Blackboard.

Assumed Knowledge
Nil

Callaghan Campus Timetable
THEO1002
History of the Early Church
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2010
Lecture Monday 14:00 - 16:00 [MC102]
and Workshop Monday 16:00 - 17:00 [MC102]

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

Academic fraud is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one’s own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;
e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;

c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Turnitin is an electronic text matching system. During 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 text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).

· Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS

Students can access the University's policy at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in Late Penalty (under student) at the link above.

Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

· applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

· 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.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at:


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

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

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

· Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of
the examination period.

*Late applications may not be accepted.* Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

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 contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, 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 on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability).

**CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT**

Students enrolled *after* the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.


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

*Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term,* except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term 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 go to myHub: [https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au](https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au)

**STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit: [www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/)

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. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie Student Hub</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>The University of Newcastle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td>A Block, Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Precinct</td>
<td>Widderson Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td>Port Macquarie NSW 2444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
<td>Phone: 49215000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
<td>Singapore students contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
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**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>Dean of Students Office</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/</a></td>
<td>The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this they provide information and advice and help students</td>
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</table>
This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.

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End of CTS Entry  
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**Studentmail and Blackboard:** Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

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

Lecture Schedule

26/07 Week 1

Why Study Church History?

The Cradles of Christianity
The Mediterranean World
Caesar Augustus
Roman Society and Religion
Philosophies and Mystery Religions

Recommended Reading:
Gonzalez Chapter 1

02/08 Week 2

The Emergence of Christianity
First Century Judaism in Palestine
Judaism: Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians, Essenes
Judaism in the Mediterranean World
Jesus the Jew
The World of Paul
Identity: Christianity and Judaism.
Jewish and Christian Identity in the Roman World.

Recommended Reading:
Gonzalez Chapters 2, 3 & 4
Oden Ch.1

09/08 Week 3

Going it Alone
Persecution of Nero: The Cult of the Martyrs and Revelation
The Fall of Jerusalem
Jamnia
The Domitian Persecution?
Pliny, Trajan and the Imperial Cult
The Martyrdoms of the Second century (Polycarp)
Persecution: Marcus Aurelius: The Cult of the Martyrs

Recommended Reading
Gonzalez Chapters 5 & 6
Oden Ch. 7

16/08 Week 4

Early Christian Apologists
The Apostolic period: Ignatius of Antioch; Epistle of Barnabas; Didache
Justin Martyr and the Philosophical Tradition
Celsus: Christianity “a new-fangled cult”
Minucius Felix : The Octavius

Read:

Gonzalez Chapter 7

23/08 Week 5 Stairway to Heaven: The Gnostics
The Origin and Complexity of Gnosticism
Valentinus and Basilides
The Secret Teaching of John
Marcion
Christian Apologists and Gnosticism
Orthodoxy and Irenaeus

Read:
Gonzalez Chapter 8

30/08 Week 6 A TALE OF THREE CITIES: ROME, CARTHAGE AND ALEXANDRIA
The Church in Rome and North Africa
The Church in Alexandria: Clement and Origen
The Developing theologies of East and West

Read:
Gonzalez Chapter 9
Oden Ch.2

06/09 Week 7 Severus up to Constantine
The Severan persecutions
The Decian persecutions
Diocletian (more persecution)

Read:
Gonzalez Chapter 10-12

13/09 Week 8 From Constantine to Constantinople
Overview of the late patristic period

Read:
Gonzalez Chapters 13-14, 18

20/09 Week 9 Pulling threads together: Christological Controversies
The early theological controversies

Read:
Gonzalez Chapters 17, 19, 22, 27

11/10 Week 10 Pulling Threads together: Trinitarian Controversies
Later controversies with a Trinitarian dimension
18/10 Week 11  Monastic Movement

Antony and Pachomius
The Rule of St Basil
Jerome

Read:
Gonzalez Chapter 15,16, 23
Oden Ch. 2

25/10 Week 12  St Augustine of Hippo

The Manichees
Augustine and the Donatist Movement
Pelagius
The City of God

Read:
Gonzalez Chapter 16, 21, 24

1/11 Week 13 - Course Evaluation

Assessment Items

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<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>(2) for the total of 3,000 words, 60% total mark.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Preparation</td>
<td>10% total mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Revision Essay</td>
<td>One Take Home Essay  30% total mark</td>
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Essays

Essay 1) Outline the life of an Early Christian thinker: why was this writer important?  
Due 23/08

Essay 2) Write and Introduction to the *De Incarnatione Verbi* which includes
- A summary of the book
- Where and when it was written?
- Why it is a significant text?  
  Due 11/10

Essay 3) Take Home revision essay will consist of passages from primary texts. Students will be expected to identify text and writer, outline the subject matter of each text, the context which shapes the writing and the writer’s contribution to the discussion of the subject.  
Due 1/11

Referencing Guide

Students will be expected to use citations, references and bibliographies from one of the major conventions. This use must be consistent. References available in the Course documents
Bibliography

Recommended reading


Additional Reading


