

REL-2010: RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF WESTERN CHRISTIANITY

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: REL-2010 : Religious Traditions of Western Christianity

Board of Trustees:

June 2022

Academic Term:

Fall 2022

Subject Code

REL - Religious Studies

Course Number:

2010

Title:

Religious Traditions of Western Christianity

Catalog Description:

A fundamental introduction to sacred texts, historically relevant figures, and liturgical practices central to Christianity beliefs and principles. As the course chronicles the impact of Christianity on reasoning, science, architecture, art and politics, it provides students the ability to engage in construction interreligious dialogues and ethical discussions.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I or ENG 101H Honors College Composition, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Critically analyze principles, terminology, and key concepts of religious traditions through primary texts and historically relevant events and figures foundational in Western Christianity.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Objective(s):

1. Examine the dynamic interplay between religious viewpoints and the impact on every dimension of life and culture in our modern world.
 2. Analyze basic characteristics of theology, doctrinal and religious studies as fields of academic inquiry into Western Christianity.
 3. Determine continuity of meaning between Catholicism and Protestantism within key doctrines, rituals and liturgical practices.
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Course Outcome(s):

Compare and contrast the diversity among religious traditions, ideologies, structures, and modes of thought between traditional congregations and religious sects.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Assess the underlying ethos of rituals, inter-religious dialogue and spirituality as foundational for global religious practices.
2. Examine distinguishing characteristics of Judaism, Christianity and Islamic faiths to identify similar and/or diverse views within each tradition.
3. Interpret religious texts in their global and socio-historical setting, conscious of contributing factors within each time period and location.
4. Explain concepts and ideologies of religion for individuals and as integrated into global cultures.
5. Compare and contrast the dynamics and worldviews apart from and as incorporated into religious traditions.
6. Examine aspects of truth claims, moral theology and the environment, asceticism and mysticism, information technology, and science.
7. Describe and analyze the phenomenological versus the reductionism approaches to religion.

Course Outcome(s):

Produce a written synopsis for presentation of a wide range of belief systems using mythical, allegorical and traditional religious narratives.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Examine Christianity's enduring impact on literature, art and architecture; and/or politics, economics and the environment; and/or faith, imagination, and the human spirit.
2. Explain how sub-sets of Christianity's scriptural teachings of faith, dogmas, methodologies and liturgical traditions shaped and/or responded to history.
3. Summarize details of the early persecution of the Church under the third century Roman Empire to Christianity's growing influence and global expansion.
4. Explain concepts and ideologies of religion for individuals and as integrated into global cultures.
5. Compare and contrast the dynamics and worldviews apart from and as incorporated into religious traditions.
6. Examine aspects of truth claims; moral theology and the environment; asceticism and mysticism; information technology, and science.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Comprehensive or Topical Exams
2. Quizzes
3. Expository Essay Questioning
4. Midterm Papers/Midterm Exams
5. Individual or Group Projects/Presentations
6. Research Paper
7. Topical Presentation

Course Content Outline:

1. The Old Testament
 - a. Gods Covenant with Israel
 - b. Judges Prophets Kings
 - c. Second Temple Judaism
 - d. Apostolic Missions
- e. Incubations and Origins: The Ancient Period 500 BCE-70CE
 - i. The Pre-history of Christian Thought
 - ii. Jesus of Nazareth

- iii. The Apostle Paul: His Thought and Context
- iv. The Break from Judaism
- f. Definition and Resistance: The Patristic period 70-500
 - i. Persecution of Christians
 - ii. Spirituality and Asceticism: The Desert Fathers and Mothers
 - iii. The Christian Apologists: Interacting with Gnosticism and other "Heresies"
 - iv. The Early Church Councils: Christological Controversy and Definition
 - v. Trinitarian Debate
 - vi. Formation of the New Testament Canon
 - vii. Augustine: Philosopher, Theologian, and Church Father
- 2. The History of Christianity
 - a. Establishment and Diversification: The Medieval Period 500-1500
 - i. Monasticism of the Early Middle Ages
 - ii. Eastern Christianity Splits from the West
 - iii. Anselm, Abelard, and Bernard
 - iv. Islam and Judaism in the Middle Ages
 - v. Women and Theology in the Middle Ages
 - vi. Thomas Aquinas
 - vii. Preparation for reform
 - b. Protest and Revolution: The Reformation Period 1500 - 1700
 - i. Martin Luther
 - ii. The Reformed Tradition
 - iii. Protesting Against the Protestants: Anabaptism and the Radical Reformation
 - iv. Reformation Continues: The English and the Catholics
 - c. Enlightenment and Evolution: The Modern period 1700-2000 and beyond
 - d. The Challenge of Modernism
 - e. Pietism and Revivalism
 - f. Romanticism's Response to Enlightenment Theology
 - g. Neo-orthodoxy: Karl Barth and others
 - h. Liberal Protestantism
 - i. Major Theological Traditions and Developments in the Twentieth Century
- 3. The Modern Period and Contemporary Discussion
 - a. Terence Nichols
 - b. Martin Luther
 - c. Other Protestant Reformers
 - d. The Catholic Reformation
 - e. Global Expansion and the Colonial Churches
 - f. Modern Challenges to Christianity
 - g. Christianity in America
 - h. Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue
 - i. Recent and Emerging Themes

Resources

Mark McInroy and Michael J. Hollerich. *The Christian Theological Tradition*. Fourth. New York: Routledge: Taylor and Francis, 2020. <https://www.routledge.com>

Ad Hoc: Resources for Teaching and Research relating to the History of Christianity . *History of Christianity, for both teaching and study*. New Haven, CT: Printing & Publishing Services (YPPS), 2018.

Chad Meister, James Stump . *Christian Thought: A Historical Introduction*. 2nd. New York and London: Rutledge Publishing, 2017.

Christian Classics Ethereal Collection. Christian Classics Ethereal Library. *largest collection of English-language primary sources from Christian history* . Grand Rapids, MI, 2017.

Weaver, Mary Jo. *An Introduction to Christianity*. Wadsworth, 1991.

Alan G. Padgett. *Christianity & Western Thought Series*. 2nd. Westmont, Illinois InterVarsity Press, 2016.

Madigan, Kevin. *Medieval Christianity: A New History*. 1st. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

George Herring. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. 2nd. Washington Square, N.Y.: New York University Press, 2015.

Robert E. Van Voorst. *Readings in Christianity*. 3rd. New York, NY: Pearson Publishing Company (Prentice Hall), 2015.

Mark A. Noll. (2012) *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group.

Justo L. Gonzalez. *Christianity and Western Thought: Journey to Postmodernity in the Twentieth Century*. 3rd. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2010.

Catherine A. Cory and Michael J. Hollerich. *The Christian Theological Tradition*. 3rd. London: Pearson Publishing Company, 2009.

McGrath. *An Introduction to Christianity*. Blackwell Publishers, 1997.

Jacob Neusner. *Religious Foundations of Western Civilization: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. 2nd. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

(1982) Eerdman's Handbook to Christian Belief. 0001, 01 01. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing.

Crim, K., ed. *Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981.

O'Brien, T. C. *The Encyclopedic Dictionary of Western Churches*. Washington, D. C.: Corpus Publications, 1970.

Resources Other

1. Bible History Online Images and Resources (<http://www.bible-history.com/>)

A student-friendly and comprehensive site on Bible history.

2. Electronic New Testament Educational Resources (<http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/>)

A comprehensive site for students giving links to all sorts of educational resources for the study of the New Testament and early Christianity.

3. ICLnet: Guide to Early Church Documents (<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history.html>) A useful research resource on early Christian texts, featuring canonical documents, creeds, the writings of the Apostolic Fathers and other historical texts relevant to church history.

4. The Christian Catacombs of Rome (<http://www.catacombe.roma.it/welcome.html>) An extensive site, in many languages, offering a historic and visual tour of Christian catacombs.

5. Internet Resources for the Study of Judaism and Christianity (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/%7EJtreat/rs/resources.html>) A well organized list of several sites on the Internet useful for the study of Judaism and Christianity. This site covers both primary and secondary sources.

6. Christian History.net (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/>) A collection of general articles from Church History magazine, many with good treatment of primary sources.

Maps

1. Territories of Herod's sons (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtmll/Ch01.xhtmll/#map1_2)

2. First century Palestine (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtmll/Ch02.xhtmll/#map2_1)

3. Eastern Mediterranean region: first century CE (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtmll/Ch04.xhtmll/#map4_1)

4. North Africa and Italy at the time of Augustine (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtmll/Ch011.xhtmll/#map11_1)

5. Eastern and Western empires with five important sees (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtml/Ch013.xhtml/#map13_1)
6. Extent of Islam by 661 CE (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtml/Ch015.xhtml/#map15_1)
7. Medieval Europe (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtml/Ch016.xhtml/#map16_1)
8. Religious affiliation in the Holy Roman Empire (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtml/Ch023.xhtml/#map23_1)c. 1560
9. Kant's Germany (https://c95871.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/Mjca6tfKsy_assets/epub/Mjca6tfKsy/OEBPS/xhtml/Ch025.xhtml/#map25_1)

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

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Top of page

Key: 3966