Course Description: An overview of the development of Christianity in the ancient and medieval periods. Attention will be given to the evolution of the Jesus movement into Christianity, the struggle for identity and structuring of the Church.

Course Delivery: This class will follow a traditional format that most students are familiar with at BTS. In addition, however, this course will be web based, which means the class will be closely connected with Moodle, a web based system. This syllabus and all of the course assignments will be listed on the Moodle site under the course title. All assignments will be submitted via Moodle and all grades will be returned via Moodle. Links to documents and other web sites will be given on the Moodle. Please see Danielle or David for assistance with Moodle.

Course Goals:
The course places great emphasis on primary research and documents. With this in mind the following goals were designed: 1) to aid students in their understanding and interpretation of major events in history, 2) to make historical judgments, 3) to analyze primary documents, 4) understand the sequence of events and their cultural and ecclesiastical impact. Particular attention is given to the development of Christian thinking and practices.

Course Assessment:
Each student will be assessed on their abilities to: analyze primary documents, make historical judgments based on research, and articulate in writing and verbally the socio-cultural-religious implications of major events in the history of Christendom. Course assignments are designed to accomplish these goals.

Course Requirements:
1. Two exams will be given covering course material including the readings, presentations and any lecture materials. The exams will be essay form, given out at the end of class to be returned at the start of class the following week. NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE RECEIVED!!!!!! Students may utilize any resources to assist them in writing the best possible response to the questions; however, students must document any sources used in the exam. First Test handed out October 18th and due October 25. Second test handed out December 13th and due December 20th.
2. Each student will make a ten-minute presentation in class related to the topic of discussion for the week. See the list of possible topics for each week.

3. Two 12-18 page papers will be submitted during the semester. The topics are open; however, students must run the topic past the professor for approval. A bibliography is a vital part of your paper. A variety of sources must be engaged, which includes books and articles, as well as Internet sources. See the grading standards for the percentage value of the bibliography for your paper. The first paper should cover a topic within the first 500 years of Christendom. The second paper should cover Christendom between 800-1400. **First paper due October 18th. Second paper due November 29th.**

4. Students will be called on to lead conversations in class. Each student should be prepared to explore the topic of the week based on the common readings.

**Required Course Texts:**


**Suggested Course Texts:**


**Course Grading**
- Two test 2 x 100=200
  - A = 95% 500-475
- Two papers 2 x 100=200
  - A- =92% 474-460
- Class presentation 50
  - B = 85% 459-425
- Leading class conversation 50
  - B-= 82% 424-410

  Total 500 points
  - C = 75% 409-375
  - C-= 72% 374-360
  - D = 65% 359
NOTE LATE POLICY
All late work will be graded down 10% a week!! After five weeks, the assignment is grades as 0.
No work will be taken after the final class of the regular semester December 13th.

IMPORTANT DATES
Last day to drop or add a class September 21st.
Last day to withdraw for a class Nov. 5th.
Last day of the regular semester December 14th.

Class Outline

Unit One: The Jesus Movement & Early Teachings
The goal of unit one is to introduce the student to early structure, instruction, and practices of emerging Christianity. The class will utilize a number of sources including the Apostolic Fathers, which is available in the library and on the internet.

Week One: Sept. 6
NT Jesus Movement and its teachings. Gonz. 23-60; Ehrman pages 1-24, 131-143.

Week Two: Sept. 13
Early Christian Teachings. Ehrman pages 235-308; Gonz. 61-96, and read the entire Didache.
Student Presentation Topic: First Clement. Explore the document and highlight its theology.

Week Three: Sept. 20
Student Presentation Topic: Martyrdom of Polycarp

Week Four: Sept. 27
Heresies & The Search for Identity. Gonz. 97-156; Ehrman 144-234.
Student Presentation Topic: (Bible) Canon Development as response to heresies

Week Five: Oct. 4
Alexandra and Antioch: Developing Theological Differences. Gonz. 157-227
Student Presentation Topic: Allegorical Interpretation of Scripture

Unit Two: Formal Christianity and the Monastic Response
The goal of unit two is to understand the evolution of the church in the following: growth and institutionalization, conflict that grew out of the quest for identity, and the spiritual response to state religion.

Week Six: Break Week
Week Seven: Oct. 18  **First Paper Due, First Test Given Out**  
Student Presentation Topic: The Edict of Constantine 313

Week Eight: Oct. 25  **First Test Due**  
Student Presentation Topic: Desert Fathers and Mothers

Week Nine: Nov. 1  (Last day to Withdraw from classes Nov. 5th)  
Eastern and Western Church Leaders. Gonz. 335-383.  
Student Presentation Topic: (Anointing with Oil) Chrismation Practice in early Christianity.

Week Ten: Nov. 8  
Student Presentation Topic: Review Augustine's Confessions, a classic text.

Week Eleven: Nov. 15  
Student Presentation Topic: Select one Pope from 100-700 and tell us their story.

**Unit Three: Medieval Christianity and Power**  
The goal of unit three is to follow the rise of Western Christianity, its internal and external conflicts and struggles, and the development of mysticism.

Week Twelve: Thanksgiving Break

Week Thirteen: Nov. 29  **Paper Two Due**  
Student Presentation Topic: Missionary Movements

Week Fourteen: Dec. 6  
Islam, Crusades and reshaping the world. Gonz. 195-256.  
Student Presentation Topic: Children’s Crusade

Week Fifteen: Dec. 13  **Test two given out**  
Student Presentation Topic: Monastic and Cathedral Schools

Week Sixteen: Dec. 20  **Test Two due**
Paper Grading Form

Name________________________________________________________________________________

**Introduction**

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Comments____________________________________________________________________________

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Comments____________________________________________________________________________

**Historical-Theological Argument**

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Comments____________________________________________________________________________

**Conclusion**

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Comments____________________________________________________________________________

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