COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required:

- The Bible (any version will do)

Selected works of Tertullian, Origen, and Marcion as gathered by the Student.

Course Description:

From its very beginning, the Christian message was grafted onto human history. The first Christians believed that—through Jesus Christ—God entered human history in a unique way, and history is crucial for understanding the development of Christian theology in the first four centuries of its existence. This course will be a deep study of the theologians who first formulated and vigorously debated Christian dogma and practice, with particular emphasis upon the influence of Tertullian, Origen, and Marcion.

Student Learning Outcome:

The Student will comprehend the contours of early Christian theological development within the context of Late Classical history.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist students in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week students will work on various combinations of readings, discussions, and research.

Participation: (100 pts., 50% of course grade)

Student Learning Outcome: The Student will comprehend the contours of early Christian theological development within the context of Late Classical history.

Participation in class discussions is intended to allow the Student to talk about issues pertaining to the topics at hand concerning various aspects of historiography and historical methodology, and will serve to inform the Instructor about how well s/he is absorbing course content. They will also allow the student to further develop and refine skills in scholarly debating, as s/he will be required to answer questions posed by the Instructor in coherent and insightful ways. Meetings will be held on days and times determined by mutual agreement.

Analytical Essay: (100 pts. each, 50% of course grade)

Student Learning Outcome: The Student will comprehend the contours of early Christian theological development within the context of Late Classical history.

The Student will write an analytical essay (20-30 pp.) that addresses the subject matter using primary and secondary source materials assigned by the Instructor, as well as those procured by the Student.

Grading
Grading will be calculated using a standard 10-point scale, with course elements weighted accordingly:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
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Participation (100 pts.) | 50%
Analytical Essay (100 pts.) | 50%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

As this course is web-enhanced through eCollege, students will require the following hardware and software:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. Windows XP or newer, and Internet Explorer 6.0 or newer is best.
Internet access/connection—high speed preferred (not dial-up).
Word Processor (preferably Microsoft Word 1997-2003 or newer).
This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
Office hours are given at the top of this syllabus, and are posted outside of my door. Arrangements can be made if a student cannot meet with me during regular office hours for consultations. Email is the most reliable method of reaching me outside of my office. Expect a reply within 24 to 48 hours, and replies will only be sent to students’ LeoMail accounts. Do not email me from your personal email account. Students may also be able to reach me by phone during office hours, and at other times do not leave a callback number as I do not return students’ phone calls.

Academic Honesty
It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and the instructor that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another’s work and claiming it as one’s own. This means ideas as well as text, whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word-for-word). Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically fail the assignment in question, may summarily fail the course, and could be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

The instructor's evaluative judgment of tests and examinations is final, and will not be subject to revision except in cases of mathematical error.

Class Decorum
All students must show respect toward the Instructor and the Instructor’s syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should also respect each others’ differences. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If the Instructor determines that a student is not being respectful toward other students or the Instructor, it is the Instructor’s prerogative to remove the student from the class either temporarily or permanently, as the case requires.

Note: Failure to comply with any of the Instructor's policies will result in immediate deregistration from the course.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment
that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu  
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Introduction  
Readings: Ferguson, “Introduction”

Week 2: Greco-Roman Culture and Politics  
Readings: Ferguson, chaps. 1-2

Week 3: Greco-Roman Religions and Philosophies  
Readings: Ferguson, chaps. 3-4

Week 4: Judaism  
Readings: Ferguson, chap. 5; The Bible (Books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Job)

Week 5: The Jesus Movement  
Readings: Ferguson, chap. 6; The Bible (Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John; Book of Acts; Letters of Paul, Book of Revelation); Davidson, “Introduction”

Week 6: From Jesus to Christ, Part I  
Readings: Davidson, chaps. 1-4

Week 7: From Jesus to Christ, Part II  
Readings: Davidson, chaps. 5-8

Week 8: Formulating Christian Theology and Practice  
Readings: Davidson, chaps. 9-12 and “Epilogue”
Week 9: Gnostic Christianity, Part I  
**Readings:** Pagels, “Introduction” and chaps. 1-3

Week 10: Gnostic Christianity, Part II  
**Readings:** Pagels, chaps. 4-6 and “Conclusion”

Week 11: Tertullian  
**Readings:** TBD

Week 12: Origen  
**Readings:** TBD

Week 13: Marcion  
**Readings:** TBD

Week 14: Course Recap—Free Discussion

**Analytical Essay Parameters**  
Paper must be composed using Microsoft Word.  
Text must be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font (10 pt. for footnotes).  
The length for the paper is 20-30 pp.  
Margins must be one inch on top and bottom, left and right, with full justification. Disable the extra space between paragraphs function.  
Bibliography must begin on a separate page, not on the same page as the end of the text.

*Consult the Style Guide, “Wade Mecum” (eCollege Doc Sharing), for detailed information about how a proper history paper should look and what it should contain.*