

SHAW UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL  
 HIS 501-01  
 HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH I  
 Spring 2009  
 Saturday: 11:A.M. – 1:30 P.M.  
 Lecture Room, Leonard Hall

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. James Arthur Holmes

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Office Hours: Tuesday: 2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday: 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Friday: 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

**Mission Statements**

MRE Program Mission	Mdiv Program Mission
<p>The mission of the Master of Religious Education degree is to equip persons for competent leadership in Christian Education to serve congregational ministries and other religious institutions. This purpose is consistent with the mission of Shaw University Divinity School; the Master of Religious Education program focuses on leadership in the “practice of ministry,” particularly in the African American Church</p>	<p>The mission of the Master of Divinity degree is to prepare persons for ordained ministry, for chaplaincy, general pastoral and religious leadership responsibilities in congregations and other settings, and to prepare some students for admission to advanced programs oriented to theological research and teaching. The purpose is consistent with the mission of Shaw University Divinity School; the Master of Divinity program focuses on leadership in the “practice of ministry,” particularly in the African American church</p>

**Program Goals**

MRE Program Goals	Mdiv Program Goals
<p>1. to equip students with the capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of educational ministry;</p>	<p>1. to provide students with an intellectual atmosphere and a comprehensive, discriminating understanding of our religious heritage;            2. to enhance student training for Christian</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. to help students understand the educational, social, and behavioral sciences that undergird educational practice, as well as the cultural contexts in which educational ministry occurs;</li> <li>3. to assist students with personal growth and spiritual maturity; and</li> <li>4. to provides skills in teaching and in design, administration, and assessment of educational programming.</li> </ol>	<p>ministry, mindful of global, and diverse cross cultural, and non-American Christianities, and interaction with other faith traditions;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. to support students' development in the personal and spiritual capacities necessary for pastoral and religious leadership, advancing growth in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness;</li> <li>4. to expand programmatic activities, services, and academic programming to enhance student capacity for ministerial and public leadership.</li> </ol>
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### Program Learning Outcomes

MRE Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)	Mdiv Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Graduates will demonstrate a capacity to articulate an understanding of the scriptural, historical, and theological traditions of particular Christian traditions and of the broader community of faith</li> <li>2. Graduates will evaluate teaching and learning theories for the purpose of developing a distinctly Christian philosophy of educating God's people;</li> <li>3. Graduates will demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection on how their unique personalities, backgrounds, and gifts and abilities relate to the ministry of Christian education;</li> <li>4. Graduates will demonstrate a capacity to design and t.o carry out a lesson plan necessary for effective educational ministries</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Graduates will demonstrate a capacity to articulate an understanding of the scriptural, historical, and theological traditions of particular Christian traditions and of the broader community of faith</li> <li>2. Graduates will develop a consciousness about and a capacity to reflect critically on issues of diversity, globalization, and cross cultural concerns;</li> <li>3. Graduates will demonstrate a capacity for critical reflection on how their unique personalities, backgrounds, and gifts and abilities relate to the role of the minister as leader, guide, and servant of the faith community;</li> <li>4. Graduates will demonstrate a capacity to create programs and have a critical voice in ministerial and public leadership</li> </ol>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a descriptive and critical introduction to the history of the church from its Greco-Roman, Jewish and North African roots to the Reformation Period. Special attention will be placed on major theological and institutional issues and persons in context.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<b>Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)</b>  <b>At the completion of this course, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (Assessment Tools)</b>	<b>Linkage to MDiv Program Learning Outcomes</b> <i>(PLO statement number(s) that correspond to or support the SLO)</i>	<b>Linkage to MRE Program Learning Outcomes</b> <i>(PLO statement number(s) that correspond to or support the SLO)</i>
<b>1.Be thoroughly familiar with the background (the Greco-Roman, Jewish, and the North African context) out of which Christianity came and the environment into which it was born.</b>	<b>Examinations, Oral Reports and Written Reports.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.Be able to identify the key individuals and major groups and their distinctive views and contributions to Church History during the Beginning through the Medieval Period.</b>	<b>Examinations, Oral and Written Reports.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>3. Understand the major movements and issues that influenced the church during the beginning through the Medieval Period</b>	<b>Examinations, Oral and Written Reports.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4. Be able to apply church historical facts and critical analysis to and academic, church, and community work.</b>	<b>Examinations, Oral and Written Reports.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Be equipped with an essential historical Christian background from the Greco-Roman Period to the Reformation Period for further Graduate Theological Education.</b>	<b>Examinations, Oral and Written Reports.</b>	<b>1</b>	

**TEXTBOOKS:**

**Latourette, Kenneth. A History of Christianity. From the Beginnings to the Reformation. Volume I. Revised Edition. Mass.: Prince Press, 2000.**

**Walker, Williston and David Lotz, Richard Norris, and Robert Harvey. A History of the Christian Church. Fourth Edition. N.Y.: Simon and Schuster, 2000.**

**ADDITIONAL TEXTS:**

**Carroll, James. Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.**

**Cruse, C. R. Translator. Esebius' Ecclesiastical History. Mass.: Hendrickson, 1998.**

Day, Peter. Editor. Dictionary of Religious Orders. Bath: Manning Partnership, 2001.

Engberg-Pedersen, Troels. Paul and the Stoics. Louisville: Westminster Press, 2000.

Ellingsen, Mark. Reclaiming Our Roots: An Inclusive Introduction to Church History. Trinity Press International, 1999.

Holmes, Michael. Editor. The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

Kung, Hans. The Catholic Church: A Short History. N.Y.: Modern Library, 2001.

Logan, Alstair H.B. Gnostic Truth and Christian Heresy: A Study in the History of Gnosticism. Mass.: Hendrickson, 1996.

Swan, Laura. The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives and Stories of Christian Women. N.Y.: Paulist Press, 2001.

Von Campenhausen, Hans. The Fathers of the Church. Mass.: Hendrickson, 1998.

Wace, Henry and William Perry. A Dictionary of Early Christian Biography. Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.

#### GRADING SCALE:

The following grading scale will be employed for all assignments and for the final grade:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

All written assignments should conform to the guidelines in the Divinity School's "Guidelines for Written Assignments," available in the Divinity School Office. The following criteria will be used in evaluating all written assignments.

**A** Indicates the student has significantly exceeded the minimum expectations for the assignment. The student has consulted the relevant scholars and has consistently entered into dialogue with these scholars, offering his/her critique of the relevant sources. All the required parts of the assignment are present, and the written presentation is consistently above average, with no errors in spelling or grammar.

**B** Indicates the student has exceeded the minimum expectations for the assignment. The student has consulted relevant scholars and has entered into dialogue with most of them, offering his/her critique of the sources. All the required parts of the assignment are present, and the written presentation is above average, with no errors in spelling or grammar.

**C** Indicates the student has met the minimum expectations for the assignment. The student has consulted relevant scholars and has represented their views well, at least occasionally offering a critique of the sources. The required parts of the assignment are present, and the written presentation is acceptable, with minimal errors in spelling or grammar.

**D** Indicates the student has not met the minimum expectations for the assignment in one or more of the following ways: significant critical scholarship is not consulted; significant segments of the assignment are missing or inadequate; or the written presentation is inadequate in grammar, spelling, or format.

**F** Indicates the work is not acceptable for graduate-level study.

An incomplete is given only when extraordinary circumstances (extended illness, death in the family, etc.) prevent the student from completing all the assignments before the end of the semester. An incomplete must be made up before the end of the following semester, or the grade will automatically change to an F, and the course must be repeated. Please note: any student who receives an incomplete, regardless of the reason will not be able to receive an A in the course. The highest grade possible for a student who receives an incomplete

will be a B. Under normal circumstances, all work should be turned in to the instructor by the end of the course on December 6, 2008. Please note: the instructor will not accept any work after 1:30 P.M. on December 6, 2008.

#### ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual attendance and participation in all classroom discussion is expected of all students at all class meetings (10% of the final grade). It will be extremely difficult to pass this class if a student misses two or more class meetings. Please contact the instructor to see if it is possible to make up the work missed. An E-mailed, telephoned, or message through another person is *NOT* an excused absence. It is the responsibility of the student to get the missed notes for any missed class.

If the student is dropped from the Class Roll for failure to attend class, it is the responsibility of the student to clear the matter with the Registrar's office.

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

##### Honor Pledge

The University's Policy on Plagiarism located on page 16 in the Shaw University Handbook will apply to all assignments in this course. The University's Policy on Plagiarism further states that repeated violations may result in suspension from the university.

Please do not cite the Wikipedia as it is not an authorized source.

Please submit all text documents as Rich Text Files (.rtf) instead of .doc files--the files normally produced by Microsoft Word. To create an RTF file, write your document with your usual word processor then save it (use file-save as, then choose type and select the .rtf suffix from the drop-down box). You may contact the Library staff with any questions.

A first Position/Research Paper (six pages) on a Church History topic assigned by the instructor. Students are not allowed to change the topic. The Position/Research Papers should present conclusions about the topic along with essential information and reasons for the conclusions. The printed copies are due on February 21, 2009, at 11:00A.M. This is both an Oral Report and a Written Report. The Oral Report will be given in accordance with a schedule provided by the instructor. The two assignments taken together are worth 20% of the grade.

A second Position/Research Paper (ten pages) on a Church History topic assigned by the instructor. Students are not allowed to change the topic. The Position/Research Papers should present conclusions about the topic along with essential information and reasons for the conclusions. The printed copies are due on April 4, 2009, at 11:00A.M. This is both an Oral Report and a Written Report. The Oral Report will be given in accordance with a schedule provided by the instructor. The two assignments taken together are worth 20% of the grade.

Examinations will be given at Mid-semester (weight: 20% of the final grade), and at the end of the semester (weight: 20% of the final grade). The tentative date for the Mid-term Examination is March 14, 2009 and the date for the Final Examination is May 2, 2009. The student is required to sit for both the Mid-term and Final Examinations. If the student fails to sit for either of the examinations, the student will receive the grade of F for the missed Examinations. Make-up Examinations will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

All lectures, discussions, and assignments will integrate the theory and practice of ministry. In addition, the academic work will focus on ministry in a global context.

This course will utilize experiences, poetry, prose, and other literature to help demonstrate an understanding of Church History.

Master of Religious Education (MRE) students will in consultation with the instructor tailor their assignments to meet the needs of the general goals of the MRE Program.

Multiple submission of a work is unacceptable. That is to say, please do not submit a paper that you have used in another course.

Please be sure that your work is properly documented, as plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are expected to complete their work in the time frame of the course. No work will be accepted after the close of the course. Under normal circumstances incompletes will not be given.

Late work will be penalized. Ten points will be deducted from all late work. In fact ten points will be deducted for every week the work is late.

Please be sure to put your name on your work and to staple your work. Five points may be deducted from all unstapled work and unnamed work.

Proper classroom decorum will be maintained. Disruptive behavior, i.e., talking on cell phones, talking in class, constantly interrupting the instructor, or having family members to interfere with the class, will not be tolerated. A consistent disruptive student may be asked to leave the class and his or her conduct may be reported to the Office of the Chief Academic Officer.

#### COURSE OUTLINE:

Jan 17 Introduction and Mr. Clark: Library Orientation.  
Pre-Test

Jan 24 The Beginning of Christianity and Christianity and the Gentiles. A History of Christianity. Latourette, 1-4; A History of the Christian Church, Walker, Period I, Chaps. 1-6.

- Jan 31 The Christian Community in the World. Latourette, 5; Walker, Period I, Chaps. 6-14. Presentation: The Role of the Bishop in the Early Church.
- Feb 7 The Struggle Against Heresies. Latourette, 6; Walker, Period II, Chaps. 1-6. Presentation: The Monarchian Controversy.
- Feb 14 Lifestyles in the Early Church. Latourette, 6; Walker, Period II, Chaps. 7-12. Presentation: Contributions of The Three Great Cappadocians.
- Feb 21 From Persecution to Establishment. Latourette, 6; Walker Period II, Chaps. 13-14. Presentation: The Challenge of Neo-Platonists and Manichaeism. First Position/ Research Papers (six pages) are due.
- Feb 28 Internal Struggle. Latourette, 7; Walker, Period III, Chaps. 1- 9. Presentation: The Christological Debates. The Black Church and Domestic Abuse.
- Mar 7 Symbolic Expressions of the Faith. Latourette, 8; Walker, Period III, Chaps. 10-19. Presentation: Gregory the Great and the Shaping of Medieval Christianity.
- Mar 14 Mid-Term Examination
- Mar 21 Position of the Church in Medieval Society. Latourette, 10 Walker, Period IV, Chaps. 1-13. Presentations: Feudalism and Key issues of the Investiture.
- Mar 28 Eastern Christianity. Latourette, 10-12; Walker, Period V, Chaps. 1-7. Presentation: The Arab Conquest.
- April 4 The Crusades and Consequences. Latourette, 17. Walker, Period V, Chaps. 8-17. Presentation: Atonement in the Views of Anselm and Abelard. Second position/Research Papers (ten pages) are due.

April 11 Easter/ Spring Break

April 18 Class presentations

April 25 Class Presentations

May 2 Final Examination