

THEO 330-M01: Teachers of Early Christianity

Spring Semester 2014

TR 11:00 AM-12:15 PM; Padre Rubio Hall 13

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Goal

The goal of the present course is to study some of the major teachers of early Christianity in depth. (Early Christianity is the period from the end of the writing of New Testament and the beginning of the Middle Ages, roughly A.D. 100 to 600.) In the Greek-speaking East among the great teachers we find the early apologists, the famous schools of Antioch and Alexandria and Cappadocian theologians. In the Latin-speaking West there are traditionally four great fathers, namely Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome and Gregory the Great. Our study also includes historical and hagiographical literature.

Prerequisite: THEO-100: Theological Foundations or its equivalent.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the course involve the reading of selections from early Christian literature representing these great teachers of the early church. First, we will read the *History of the Church* by Eusebius of Caesarea. Then, we will turn our attention to the stories of the martyrs and early Christian apologies. A philosophical work of Ambrose is next, followed by Augustine's *Confessions*. Then comes a letter and a treatise on asceticism by Jerome. Finally, we will read Gregory the Great's life of Benedict of Nursia, and selections from the *Rule of Benedict*. The student will acquire a fundamental understanding of each great teacher in theological and historical context. Each student is expected to prepare for class by reading the required texts and to participate in the discussions.

Course Structure

The course material will be presented in three distinct ways:

- 1) Most of the class sessions will be in the traditional lecture/discussion format.
- 2) Three class sessions will be field trips to the Museo Arqueológico Nacional and the Biblioteca Nacional de España and attendance at one liturgical service of Holy Week.
- 3) Two class sessions will utilize previously recorded online material. The links are indicated at the appropriate dates.

Texts

The following books are or will be available in the campus bookstore:

Eusebius of Caesarea, *History of the Church*, trans. by G. A. Williamson, Penguin, ISBN: 9780140445350.

Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. by Henry Chadwick, OUP 1992, ISBN: 9780192833723.

The following selections are available on Electronic Reserves at the Pius XII Memorial Library:

Ambrose, “Death as a Good” in *Seven Exegetical Works*, FC 65, CUA Press, pp. 69-113.

Jerome, “On the Perpetual Virginity of the Blessed Mary against Helvidius” in *Dogmatic and Polemical Works*, FC 53, CUA Press, pp. 1-45.

Gregory the Great, *Dialogues* Book 2, FC 39, CUA Press, pp. 55-110.

Useful Links

Pius XII Memorial Library: Electronic Reserve System <http://eres.slu.edu/>; password: novella
 Pius XII Memorial Library: Patristics/ Early Church History Resource Guide compiled by
 Ronald Crown http://libguides.slu.edu/patristics_earlychurchhistory.
 North American Patristics Society: Internet Resources <http://patristics.org/resources/>.

Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be four written examinations including the midterm and the final. Normally there are no make-up examinations. However, in the case of illness or some other personal emergency a student may request a make-up examination from the instructor. The final grade will be the average of the four examinations. The following scale is used in this course:

A = 100-96; A- = 95-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-84; B- = 83-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-74; C- = 73-70; D = 69-60; F = 59-0

Departmental Criteria for Grading Standards

A range = *Superior, exceptional, outstanding*. The assignment demonstrates critical, informed, and creative theological inquiry that reflects superior understanding of essential theological/historical concepts. This means the student demonstrates depth of insight beyond what is normally expected. Carefully nuanced reasoning and writing, free from material, structural and grammatical error are presupposed in this grade.

B range = *Good*. The assignment demonstrates ready command of full range of concepts and shows some critical, informed, and creative inquiry that reflects above average understanding of essential theological/historical concepts. This means the student has produced an assignment that is free from material, structural and grammatical errors.

C range = *Acceptable*. The assignment demonstrates satisfactory ability to describe overall picture and essential concepts. This means the student has completed the assignment in a manner involving no significant errors. Material may not be free from structural and grammatical errors. Nuanced reasoning is not demonstrated.

D range = *Below average*. The assignment demonstrates reasoning that is neither carefully nuanced nor coherently presented; writing is insufficient in depth of insight and/or use of texts; presentation is not free from material error in structure, spelling and grammar. This means that the student failed to respond adequately to the assignment and its intentions.

F = *Unsatisfactory*. In one or more of the following ways the student: 1) failed to turn in the assignment; 2) did not respond to the assignment as given; 3) submitted work so thoroughly flawed as to indicate that the student did not make a serious effort, 4) was involved in plagiarism or cheating.

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is required. Students who are frequently absent will have great difficulty passing examinations. Students, who need to miss a class for a good reason, should inform the instructor in advance. In the event of a sudden illness or an unexpected personal emergency, the student should contact the instructor by e-mail.

Academic Integrity Statement

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, tampering with another student's work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty.

Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions. Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. The complete SLU Academic Honesty Policy can be found at the following link: http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf

Uniform Statement on Academic Accommodations

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple

factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [+34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204](tel:+34915545858), send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Assessment Statement

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

Course Outline

January 14	Lecture: Early Church, Late Antiquity, Patristic Period
January 16	Discussion: Eusebius of Caesarea, <i>History of the Church</i> , Books 1-2
January 21	Discussion: Eusebius of Caesarea, <i>History of the Church</i> , Books 3-4
January 23	Discussion: Eusebius of Caesarea, <i>History of the Church</i> , Books 5-6
January 28	Discussion: Eusebius of Caesarea, <i>History of the Church</i> , Books 7-8

- January 30 Discussion: Eusebius of Caesarea, *History of the Church*, Books 9-10
- February 4 Review
- February 6 Exam # 1
- February 7 Field Trip # 1
 Museo Arqueológico Nacional (MAN)
 Calle Serrano 13
 28001 Madrid
 We will meet at the entrance to the museum at 2:00 PM and visit the following collections:
Hispania Romana and *Hispania Visigoda*.
- February 11 Discussion: *The Martyrdom of Polycarp*
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/martyrdompolycarp-roberts.html>
- February 13 Discussion: *Letter from the Churches of Lyons and Vienne*
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/viennalyons.html>
- February 18 Discussion: *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas*
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian24.html>
- February 20 Discussion: Justin Martyr, *Second Apology*
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/justinmartyr-secondapology.html>
- February 25 Review
- February 27 Exam # 2 (Midterm Examination)
- March 3-4 Winter Break
- March 6 Discussion: Ambrose, *Death as a Good* (Pius Library e-reserves)
- March 11 Lecture: Augustine of Hippo
- March 13 Discussion: Augustine, *Confessions*, Books 1-3
- March 14 Field Trip # 2
 Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE)
 Paseo de Recoletos 20-22
 28071 Madrid
 We will meet at the entrance to the library at 2:00 PM and will visit the library's museum which

has an extensive exhibit on manuscript and book production and the history of the book.

- March 18 Discussion: Augustine, *Confessions*, Books 4-6
- March 20 Discussion: Augustine, *Confessions*, Books 7-9
- March 25 Discussion: Augustine, *Confessions*, Books 10-13
- March 27 Review
- April 1 Exam # 3
- April 3 Discussion: Augustine, *On the Good of Marriage*
<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1309.htm>
- April 8 Discussion: Jerome, *On the Perpetual Virginity of the Blessed Mary against Helvidius*
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf206.vi.v.html>
- April 10 Discussion: Egeria, *Description of the Liturgical Year in Jerusalem from her Diary*
<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mikef/durham/egetra.html>
- April 14-18 Holy Week (*Semana Santa*) Each student is expected to attend one Holy Week service and compare it to the description found in Egeria's *Diary*.
- April 22 Discussion: Gregory the Great, *Dialogues*, Book 2 on the Life of Saint Benedict (Pius Library – e-reserves)
 The lecture is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uG1QyIK8Hc>. Initial question: What role do miracles play in Gregory's Life of Saint Benedict?
- April 24 Discussion: *Rule of Benedict*, prologue and chapters 1-11.
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/benedict/rule2/files/rule2.html>
 The lecture is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TswDu-EXHYg>. Initial question: What was the contribution of Saint Benedict to the development of Europe?
- April 29 Class canceled in lieu of earlier museum visit
- May 1 *Dia del Trabajo*
- May 6 Class canceled in lieu of earlier library visit
- May 8 (Thursday) Exam # 4 (Final Examination)

The final examination is a five to ten page essay which you will send to me by e-mail on or before Tuesday, May 8. I will provide the questions for the examination posted on Blackboard on or before April 29.

Field Trips in Madrid

There are two required field trips which take the place of the last two classes:

1) Friday, February 7, 2:00 PM
Museo Arqueológico Nacional (MAN)
Calle Serrano 13
28001 Madrid

We will meet at the entrance to the museum at 2:00 PM and visit the following collections:
Hispania Romana and *Hispania Visigoda*.

2) Friday, March 14, 2:00 PM
Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE)
Paseo de Recoletos 20-22
28071 Madrid

We will meet at the entrance to the library at 2:00 PM and will visit the library's museum which has an extensive exhibit on manuscript and book production and the history of the book.

Students unavailable to visit the museum and library at the scheduled time with the instructor may do so on their own between April 29 and May 6.

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