

History 185 A: Spring 2005

219 Dwinelle
Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-11:00
Susanna Elm
tel: 2-2238
Office: 2310 Dwinelle Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 2-3

Reader: Jennifer Heindl (heindl@mac.com)

SYLLABUS

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY TO THE 13th CENTURY C.E.

The course deals with the origins of Christianity and the first eleven centuries of its expansion into a major institutional, social, and intellectual force shaping Western Europe. The central themes are the mechanisms and conditions shaping this expansion, rather than a chronological account, in order to present this process as a model of “institutionalization” (or not!) of religious movements. The emphasis will be on patterns of crisis and reform, i.e., on conflicts arising within the church itself and as a result of its dealings with the "outside" world, and how these crises were resolved. The course is based on the study of primary sources and will include problems of historical method. Requirements, beyond a basic familiarity with Roman and Medieval history, are one midterm, one final, and a book review (due April 19).

The syllabus will on occasion refer to books that are on reserve only (as indicated by the books cited in brackets!) – they are on reserve only (rather than ordered) because I want to spare your pocket-books and not because these books are irrelevant or secondary in importance!! If you are unsure or feel overwhelmed, please make use of my office hours!

The reader will be at **Ned's** and can be ordered through **Odin's**!

A) Introduction

I. General Topics of the Class and Approach (Jan 18):

- The Roman Empire and Christianity:
Continuity (Jan. 20. – Jan. 25.)
or Decline and Fall (Jan. 27)

Readings:

Fontana, *The Distorted Past*, 1-73.

P.B. Brown, *Rise of Western Christendom*, 1-33.

Genesis, Opening pages / Gospel of John, opening pg.

Daniel, Book 1-6

AND:

Please read the Gospel of Matthew, Mark and Luke and compile references to expansion as assigned in class. Any English translation of the New Testament is fine.

Due February 8

B) The Origins of Christianity and the Apostolic Age

- I. The New Testament as a Historical Source (Feb 1 and 3)
Reader section A (including Bible as Literature, 17-42)
(Shyler Brown, p. 5-44; Metzger, Text of NT: 2-92, 179-185,195-206); Tyson,134-209, Fredrickson, 3-8
- II. The Spread of the Message in the Synoptic Gospels
(Feb. 8)
Bring written references to your Gospel!
Reader: Bible as Literature, 209-229.
(Shuyler Brown, 45-71; Kee/Hanawaltdt, 34-43)
- III. The Jewish Background of Christianity (Feb. 10)
Fredrickson, 65-93; Tyson, 48-102
- IV. The Composition of the Earliest Communities
(Feb 15)
(Meeks, 1-17, 52-65; Tyson, 233-284; Pagels, 3-47); Tyson 235-281, 356-368
- V. The Beginning Expansion: The Acts of the Apostles and Paul (Feb.17.)
Please read the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's Letter to the Galatians
Shyler Brown, 72-119; Meeks, 18-51; Tyson, 287-331.
- VI. The Weak and the Strong (Feb 22)
Paul's **I. and II. Letter to the Corinthians;**
(Meeks, 111-139; Meeks, Paul); Tyson, 322-326

C) From the Apostolic Age to the Conversion of Constantine

Reader section C

- I. From Jerusalem to Rome:
The Hellenistic Background Philosophy and Mystery Cults (Feb. 24, March 1)
(Meeks,111-129); Tyson, 109-130, 353-375, Fredrickson, 27-36; (Kee, 70-81);
Garnsey/Humfress
- II. Dominus et Deus, Lord and God: a Conflict of Loyalties (March 3)
Reader: Martyrdom of Justin; Martyrs of Lyon and Vienne.
Tyson, 390-408; Kee, 87, 127-136; Meeks, 150-173

III. The Christian Minority and its Reaction to an Hostile Environment:
Martyrdom, Asceticism (March 8)

Reader: Pliny's Letter, Tacitus on Nero, Martyrdom of Perpetua. St. Antony.
(Meeks, 130-149; MacMullen, Christianizing, 10-42; Kee, 81-109); Tyson, 390-414
Brown, 54-92

March 10 : Midterm

D) The Christianization of the Roman Empire

I. The Conversion of Constantine: Motives and Consequences (March 15)

Reader: Lactantius, Constantine's edicts, Arians, Donatists;
Garnsey #; Rosenwein, # Cameron, 30-65; MacMullen, 43-58; Kee, 137-156

II. Pope versus Emperor: Another Conflict of Loyalties (March 17)

Reader: Geary: 240-243; Ambrosius; etc. Brown, Rise, ; Hollister, 34-44

Spring break!

III. Christianizing the Aristocracy (March 29)

Brown, Rise, 145-215;
(Markus, 105-140; MacMullen, 68-73; Kee, 157-168)

IV . Power and Persuasion: Councils, Laws, and Saints (March 31)

Macmullen, 59-67, 86-101; Rosenwein ** Ehrmann **

E) The New Christians

I. The Near East: Islam on the Horizon (April 5)

Brown, Rise, 112-132, 184-197; Garnsey/Humfress **

II. Christianizing the Germanic Tribes (April 7)

Brown, Rise, 39-52 ; (Hollister, 22-33, 48-56;
Kee, 172-188 and Hollister, 58-63; Kee, 207-219)

III. The Carolingian Realm (April 12-14)

Brown, Rise, 254-298; Hollister, 77-98; Kee, 220-228.

F) Religious Movements: Orthodoxy versus Heresy?

I. Monastic Orders and their Development: (April 19)

Brown, 219-231; Hollister, 145-169, 187- 195; Southern, 214-269,

BOOK Review due April 19

II. The Apostolic Movements in the 10th century - Cathars and Waldensians (April 21-26)
Lambert, 7-52 67-94, 151-64

III. Francis of Assisi (April 28-May 3)

Review Session: May 5-10

Requirements: 1 midterm = 30%
1 book review (1000 words), due April 19 = 15%
1 final exam = 50%
Attendance: 5%

Book to be reviewed: **Montaillou**

Required Readings

The Reader contains most of the primary source material (= original documents), which form the basis not only for the lectures, but also for much of the secondary literature. Please, be sure to read these sources carefully. Also, please bring your copy of the Bible to class in the first part of the course!

Brown, Peter, *The Rise of Western Christendom : triumph and diversity, AD 200-1000.*
Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 2003, Paperback. ISBN: 1577180925

Fredricksen, Paula, *From Jesus to Christ : the origins of the New Testament images of Jesus.*
New Haven : Yale University Press, c1988. ISBN: 0300084579

[Bart D. Ehrman](#), [Andrew S. Jacobs](#), *Christianity in Late Antiquity, 300-450 C.E: A Reader,*
Oxford University Press (September 1, 2003)

[Peter Garnsey](#), [Caroline Humfress](#), *The Evolution of the Late Antique World,* Orchard Academic
(March 1, 2001)

Lambert, Malcolm, *Medieval heresy : popular movements from the Gregorian reform to the Reformation.* Cambridge, Mass., USA : B. Blackwell, 1992. ISBN: 063117432X ;

[Emmanuel LeRoy Ladruie](#), *Montaillou : The Promised Land of Error,* Vintage (July 12, 1979).

[Barbara H. Rosenwein](#), *A Short History of the Middle Ages,* Broadview Press (October, 2001),

Tyson, Joseph, *The New Testament and early Christianity.* New York : Macmillan ; London : Collier Macmillan, c1984. SBN: 0024218901

ONLY on RESERVE:

Brown, Shyuler, *The origins of Christianity : a historical introduction to the New Testament.*
Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1993. ISBN: 0198262078

Pagels, Elaine, *The Gnostic Gospels .* New York : Random House, c1979 SBN: 0679724532 ;

Kee, Howard et al., Christianity : a social and cultural history . New York : Macmillan ; Toronto : Collier Macmillan, c1991 ISBN: 0135780713 ;

Geary, Patrick, Furta sacra : thefts of relics in the central Middle Ages.Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c1990 ISBN: 0691008620

Meeks, Wayne A. The writings of St. Paul. New York, Norton [1972]

Meeks, Wayne, The First Urban Christians : The Social World of the Apostle Paul.Yale University press, 1983. ISBN: 0300032447

.Hollister, C. Warren, Medieval Europe : a short history / New York : Wiley, c1982. ISBN: 0070297290

Metzger, Bruce, The canon of the New Testament : its origin, development, and significance. Oxford : Clarendon Press, 1993. ISBN: 0198269544 ;

MacMullen, Ramsay, Christianity and paganism in the fourth to eighth centuries / New Haven, [Conn.] ; London : Yale University Press, c1997. ISBN: 0300080778