History of Christianity

Instructor: Rick Rogers  
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Course Times: TR 11:00-12:15  
Course Location: 112 Roosevelt Hall  
Office Hours: TR 10:00-10:45, 12:30-1:30  
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**DESCRIPTION:** This course is a survey of the history of world Christianity from its Greco-Roman background to its challenges in the 21st century. Topics such as the development of theology, the growth of Christian institutions, popular piety, sects and heterodox groups and the relationship of Christianity and culture are covered. While examining an extensive collection of primary sources, attention is given to key movements like Gnosticism, Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Monasticism, Scholasticism, Protestantism, Pentecostalism and Post-modern Christianity as they have developed in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and North and South America. Throughout the course students will be introduced to the methodologies of critical-historical analysis. To complement their readings, students will watch the library documentary series, *Christianity: The First Two Thousand Years*, and compose an analytical review. Furthermore, students will compose a couple of analytical papers based on assigned readings from an excellent web site called, *The Hall of Church History: Theology From A Bunch of Dead Guys*.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Bradley P. Nystrom & David P. Nystrom’s *The History of Christianity: An Introduction* and Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder’s *Documents of the Christian Church (New Edition)*. In addition, daily lecture and discussion outlines will be provided.

**EVALUATION:** Four Exams (60%), Three Analytical Papers (30%), Participation (10%).

**EXAMS:** All four exams will have in-class and take-home components, consisting of a variety of short-answer essays and two longer essays. All exams are based on the reading assignments from the texts, special online assignments, the lectures and the discussions. If a student misses an exam and contacts the instructor in a timely fashion with a legitimate excuse, an alternative date for a make-up exam will be set.

**CONSULTATION:** Students may consult with the instructor during office hours, and may call or email the instructor anytime. Students should familiarize themselves with the course web site and online Grade Post, where students will be able to keep track of their current grades. Also, on this web site students can access online studies dealing with a variety of issues and biographical materials, some of which will be used in special assignments or in conjunction with exam essays. To access the web site, simply go to Dr. Rogers’ Home Page via the address at the top of this syllabus and click on the History of Christianity link in the schedule.