



**Topics in Biblical Studies:
Christianity in Late Antiquity**

REL 3293-0002

Fall 2018

Tu Th 9:30–10:45 AM

Dodd 207

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-3:30, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION. This course is an introduction to the study of early Christian literature and culture (late 2nd–6th century C.E.) within the context of the Roman Empire, and more generally to the issues involved in the study of religion. We will explore the development and variety of Christian groups within their historical contexts, including their religious, political, and social circumstances. Topics will include martyrdom, pilgrimage, material religion (relics), monasticism, theological disputes, and religious conflict. If enough students enroll, we will also reenact a church council as our final exam.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES. This course has been approved to meet FSU's Liberal Studies Humanities and Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) requirements and is designed to help you become a thoughtful patron of and participant in cultural practices. *By the end of the course, students will:*

1. Interpret intellectual or artistic works within a cultural context.
2. Use a cultural, artistic, or philosophical approach to analyze some aspect of human experience.

PREREQUISITES. No prerequisites aside from an inquiring mind. Previous experience in Greek or Latin is not required.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Lynch = Joseph Lynch, *Early Christianity: A Brief History* (Oxford, 2009).
- Ehrman = Bart Ehrman, *After the New Testament: A Reader in Early Christianity* (Oxford, 1998).
- Jacobs = Bart Ehrman and Andrew Jacobs, *Christianity in Late Antiquity, 300–450 C.E.: A Reader* (Oxford, 2003).
- *Recommended:* A Bible. We will use the New Revised Standard Version for this course.

Additional readings will be made available on Canvas or library reserve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Participation in Class Discussion. 20%
 - This class is essentially a seminar. While I will generally begin class with a brief lecture to contextualize our readings, a significant portion of our class meeting will involve active discussion.
 - To prepare for discussion, I recommend the following:
 - Read carefully through our readings for the day.
 - Identify the three main points that you think each author is trying to make.
 - Compose three, thoughtful questions about the reading as a whole. These questions may be factual or related to terminology you don't understand (e.g., "What is *homousios*?" "What is ascetism?"), but you should try to have at least one question that invites speculation and analysis (e.g., "Why does this author vilify Jews?" "How does this author construct the boundaries of Christianity, and why?")
 - The quality of the course will depend on the sustained commitment and contributions of all its members. Attendance and preparation are essential.
- Commonplace Books. 30%
 - Dr. Falcasantos will provide Commonplace Books for you. Commonplace books will be collected several times during the semester. You may use your Commonplace books to record your thoughts and questions as outlined above (but a good Commonplace book will go beyond simply answering your questions). For more on Commonplace books, see <http://www.adamghooks.net/2012/08/how-to-read-like-renaissance-reader.html>.
- Short Essays (3). 30%
- Council Reenactment (Final Exam). 20%

COURSE POLICIES

- According to federal definition, a credit hour consists of "one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit." Students work at different paces, but most find it necessary to devote more time than specified in the federal definition. My expectation is that you will spend at least three hours preparing for class for every hour that you are in the classroom. Look ahead at your readings as some will take more time than others.
- Readings are listed in the course schedule according to the date they will be discussed. Be sure to read and annotate the assigned readings before coming to class and bring copies of the readings to class for reference.
- This class covers material about which many students have strong convictions and opinions. In order for this class to be successful, it is essential that everyone show respect for one another. One of the most important aspects of a liberal arts education is learning to engage viewpoints with which we may disagree with respect and a willingness to listen.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. More than two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade for this class by half a letter grade for each additional absence. Excused absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You must contact me in advance regarding an excused absence and provide appropriate documentation, except in the case of emergency. If you experience an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible regarding your absence. In such cases, it is also a good practice to contact the Dean of Students at 850-644-2428.
- You are still responsible for all readings and assignments missed due to an absence. In the event of an extended emergency absence, please be in touch with the Dean's office so that we can provide you the appropriate support.
- Late assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangement.
- Electronic devices: Technology can be a great benefit to the classroom environment, but it can also be a great distraction. Laptops and tablets may be used for note taking, reviewing course readings, and

course-related research. Checking email or social media and surfing the web are highly distracting to the entire class, so please don't engage in these activities. Cell phones are NOT allowed and must be silenced and stored out of easy reach during class.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (FSU Academic Honor Policy at <http://academichonor.fsu.edu/policy/policy.html>).

The policy of the Dept. of Religion is that all violations of the FSU honor code, even first offenses, will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of the Faculties. Additional sanctions may be imposed by FSU as part of the procedure for resolving academic honor allegations.

PLAGIARISM IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE. Using someone else's ideas or words without proper documentation, allowing someone else to write your essay, or taking an essay from another person or place (i.e., the Internet) is plagiarism. Plagiarism is but one of several forms in violation of the Academic Honor Policy. If you are uncertain about whether a practice would be considered a violation, do not hesitate to ask me. My interest is not in penalizing you but rather in teaching you how to be part of an academic community and to understand your participation in a lineage of learning.

ADA REQUIREMENTS

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center	(850) 644-9566 (voice)
874 Traditions Way	(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
108 Student Services Building	sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
Florida State University	http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167	

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

As stated in the Florida State General Bulletin, University regulations stipulate that no student shall be penalized for missing class due to a religious holiday. Please notify the instructor in advance if a religious holiday you plan to observe falls on a day scheduled for class.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and subject to change with advance notice.

Additional numbers and websites that you might find helpful:

Dean of Students	850-644-2428
Disability Resources	850-644-9566 http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/
Academic Center for Excellence	http://ace.fsu.edu
Reading Writing Center	https://wr.english.fsu.edu/reading-writing-center
Victim Advocacy	850-644-7161 850-644-1234 (after hours) https://dos.fsu.edu/vap/
FSU Police	850-644-1234
Counseling Center	850-644-8255 https://counseling.fsu.edu
Crisis Help Line	211 (from local land line) 224-6333 (from local cell) 1-877-211-7005 (toll free)

OUTLINE OF COURSE & READING SCHEDULE

Week 1- Introductions

8.28	Course Introductions
8.30	Lynch Ch. 3, “The Greek and Roman Context of Early Christianity” (pp. 24–35) R. L. Wilken, <i>Christians as the Romans Saw Them</i> , Ch. 1, “A Roman Gentleman” (pp. 1–30) Adam Hooks, “How to Read like a Renaissance Reader” (http://www.adamhooks.net/2012/08/how-to-read-like-renaissance-reader.html)

Week 2- Defining ‘Christianity’

9.4	Lynch Ch. 4, “The Jesus Movement in the First Century” (pp. 37–44) D. Boin, <i>Coming Out Christian in the Roman World</i> , Ch. 2, “The Quieter Ones” (pp.15–35) “The Correspondence of Pliny and Trajan”
9.6	Lynch “On Naming Christian Groups,” (p. 53) Ch. 5, “Christian Diversity in the Second and Third Centuries” (pp. 54–61) Ehrman “Internal Conflicts of Christianity” (pp. 193–194) “Proto-Orthodox Heresiologists” (pp. 195–196) “Irenaeus” (Book 1 preface and Chapter 27) (pp. 196–98, 208–209) “The Gospel of Philip” (pp. 187–192) “The Coptic Apocalypse of Peter” (pp. 227–230)

Week 3-

9.11	Ehrman “Acts of Thecla” (pp. 278–284) “Acts of John” (pp. 284–289) Ross Kraemer, <i>Women’s Religions in the Greco-Roman World: A Sourcebook</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004): readings on Montanists, texts 93–7
9.13	Lynch Ch. 8, (Pt. 1) “Christian Intellectuals: Justin Martyr” (pp. 91–97) Ehrman “Justin: Dialogue with Trypho” (pp. 18–24, 107–115) “Epistle of Barnabas” (pp. 98–106) “Melito of Sardis: On the Passover” (pp. 115–130)

Week 4-

9.18	Lynch Ch. 7, “Roman Society and the Christians” (pp. 79–88) Ehrman “Minucius Felix” (pp. 54–57) “Ignatius to the Romans” (pp. 28–30) “Churches of Vienne and Lyons” (pp. 35–41) “Acts of the Scillitan Martyrs” (pp. 41–42)
9.20	Ehrman “Tertullian: Apology” (pp. 75–82, 349–351) “Tertullian: On the Crown” (pp. 352–352) “Tertullian: To His Wife” (pp. 399–404)
9.21	PAPER 1 DUE. Submit on Canvas by midnight.

Week 5- Constructing Authority

9.25	Ehrman “Martyrdom of Polycarp” (pp. 30–35) “Perpetua and Felicitas” (pp. 42–50) Elizabeth Castelli, “Researching and Responding to Violence, Ten Years On,” <i>Ancient Jew Review</i> : http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2016/3/16/researching-and-responding-to-violence-ten-years-on?rq=castelli ***Take special note of the questions Castelli asks half-way down the page, as we will apply them to today’s texts***
9.27	Lynch Ch. 6, “Emergence of a Proto-Orthodox Christian Consensus” (pp. 62–78) Ehrman “New Scriptures” (pp. 309–310) “Muratonian Canon” (pp. 311–312) “Irenaeus, Against Heresies” (p. 313)

Week 6-

10.2	Lynch Ch. 9, “Proto-Orthodox Christian Communities in the Third Century” (pp. 105–20) Ehrman “Development of the Liturgy” (pp. 343–345) “Didache” (pp. 343–7) “Justin Martyr: First Apology” (pp. 347–349) “Hippolytus: The Apostolic Tradition” (pp. 353–356) “The Didascalia” (pp. 356–362)
10.4	Lynch Ch. 8, (Pt. 2) “Christian Intellectuals: Origen” (pp. 97–104) Ehrman, <i>After the New Testament</i> : “Clement of Alexandria: The Educator” (pp. 387–98) “Origen: Homilies on Luke, Homilies on Genesis” (pp. 369–82) “Origen: On First Principles” (pp. 413–30)

Week 7-

10.9	Lynch Ch. 10 (Pt. 1), “Diocletian, the Great Persecution” (pp. 123–124) Ehrman “Cyprian: On the Unity of the Catholic Church” (pp. 340–2) “Novatian: On the Trinity” (pp. 430–435) Jacobs “Lactantius: the Deaths of the Persecutors” (pp. 11–23)
10.11	Lynch Ch. 10 (Pt. 2), “The Conversion of Constantine” (pp. 124–30) Jacobs “Canons of Elvira” (pp. 244–51) “The Origins of Constantine” (pp. 26–30) “Eusebius: Life of Constantine” (pp. 30–44) “Zosimus: New History” (pp. 44–48)
10.12	PAPER 2 DUE. Submit on Canvas by midnight.

Week 8- A Christian Empire?

10.16	Lynch	Ch. 12, “The Governance of the Church” (pp. 144–159) Ch. 13 (Pt. 1), “The Trinitarian Controversy” (pp. 160–167)
	Jacobs	“Arius: Thalia” (pp. 158–159) “Alexander of Alexandria: Letter to Alexander of Constantinople” (pp. 159–165) “Arius: Letter to Alexander of Alexandria” (pp. 166–67)
10.18	Jacobs	“Athanasius: On the Incarnation” (pp. 190–200) “Creed and Canons of Nicaea” (pp. 251–256) Harold Drake, “The Curious Case of George and the Camel,” in <i>Studies of Religion and Politics in the Early Christian Centuries</i> , 173–93

Week 9-

10.23	Lynch	Ch. 11, “The Christian Empire and the Imperial Church” (pp. 131–137)
	Jacobs	“Julian: Letters on Religion” (pp. 48–53) “Ephraim: Hymns against Julian” (pp. 53–57)
10.25	Lynch	Ch. 15, (Pt. 1) “Worship and Piety in the Christian Empire” (pp. 179–185)
	Jacobs	“Christian Art and Architecture” (pp. 466–467) “Paulinus: Song on Felix’s Church” (pp. 468–473) “Christian Art in Late Antiquity” (pp. 474–480)

Week 10-

10.30	Lynch	Ch. 15, (Pt. 2) “Worship and Piety in the Christian Empire” (pp. 185–190)
	Jacobs	“Egeria: Travel Journal” (pp. 333–347) “Victricius of Rouen: In Praise of the Saints” (pp. 350–360) “Lucianus: On the Discovery of Saint Stephen” (pp. 360–365)
11.1	Lynch	Ch. 16, “The Ascetic Movement” (pp. 191–211)
	Jacobs	“Sayings of the Desert Fathers” (pp. 300–307) “Athanasius: Life of Antony” (pp. 368–377) “Theodoret: The Religious History” (pp. 377–389) “The Life of Pelagia” (pp. 404–416)

Week 11-

11.6	Lynch	Ch. 13 (Pt. 2), “The Trinitarian Controversy: The Holy Spirit” (pp. 167–169) Ch. 17, “Fourth- and Fifth-Century Christian Thinkers: Gregory of Nyssa” (p. 214)
	Jacobs	“Gregory of Nazianzus: Third Theological Oration” (pp. 167–177) “Creed and Canons of Constantinople” (pp. 256–259)

11.8	Lynch	Ch. 11 (pt. 2), “The Christian Empire and the Imperial Church” (pp. 137–143)
	Jacobs	“John Chrysostom: First Speech Against the Judaizers” (pp. 227–237) “Epiphanius: Medicine Chest Against Heresies” (pp. 237–241) “Theodosian Code: On Religion” (pp. 70–74) “The Novellas” (pp. 74–77)

Week 12-

11.13	Lynch	Ch. 17 (Ambrose and Augustine), “Christian Intellectuals” (pp. 212–213, 214–220)
	Jacobs	“Optatus: Against the Donatists” (pp. 212–218) “Augustine: Sermon on the Dispute with the Donatists” (pp. 218–225) “Augustine: Confessions” (pp. 80–92)
11.15	Lynch	Ch. 17 (Jerome and Augustine), “Christian Intellectuals” (pp. 213–214, 220–222)
	Jacobs	“Jerome: Letter to Ctesiphon (Against Pelagius)” (pp. 200–210) John Coakley and Andrea Sterk, <i>Readings in World Christian History</i> , vol. 1, pp. 206–213

Week 13-

11.20	Dr. Falcasantos away at Society of Biblical Literature. NO CLASS.	
11.22	Thanksgiving. NO CLASS.	

Week 14-

11.27	Lynch	Ch. 14 (Pt. 1), “Jesus, God/Man” (pp. 170–4)
	Jacobs	“Nestorius: Letter to Cyril” (pp. 179–182) “Cyril: Third Letter to Nestorius” (pp. 182–188) John Coakley and Andrea Sterk, <i>Readings in World Christian History</i> , vol. 1, pp. 165–167
11.29	Lynch	Ch. 14, “Jesus, God/Man” (pp. 174–6)
	Jacobs	“Canons of Ephesus” (pp. 259–61) “Definition and Canons of Chalcedon” (pp. 261–267) John Coakley and Andrea Sterk, <i>Readings in World Christian History</i> , vol. 1, pp. 176–187
11.30	PAPER 3 DUE. Submit on Canvas by midnight.	

Week 15-

12.4	Lynch	Ch. 18, “Conversion and Christianization” (pp. 234–9)
	Jacobs	“Sozomen: Church History” (pp. 483–491) “Acts of the Persian Martyrs” (pp. 492–498) “Passion of Saint Shushanik” (pp. 499–504)
12.6	Lynch	Ch. 19, ““The Eastern and Western Churches Go their Separate Ways” (pp. 240–247) Ch. 20, “Mohammad and Islam” (pp. 248–255)

12.12, 8:00am-10:00am COUNCIL OF TALLAHASSEE (FINAL EXAM)