



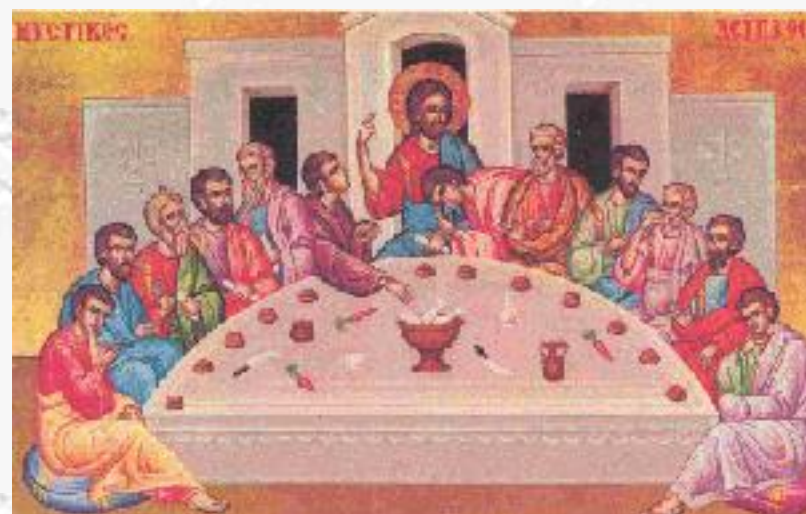
Religion 220: Faith of Christians: Fall 2012

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Office Hours: T-Th 1 - 2:30 and by appt.



Links	Selected handouts
Merriam Webster Online Dictionary	Ten Commandments for Essay Writing
Christianity: Some Definitions	Twenty Rules Not to Follow
The Bible Unbound	Film Viewing Guidelines
Just War Theory	The Academic Study of Religion
Sources for the Reformation	Questions for Studying Ritual
Resources for Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Aspects of Ritual Observed in Two Films
Seven Dimensions of Religion	Components of a Successful Assignment
	Timeline: Christianity
Glossary of Terms	Themes in Mark and Paul

I. Course Aims:

- To understand the origins and development of Christian traditions
- To introduce students to the many varieties of Christian beliefs
- To learn some of the major concepts (for example, salvation) important to Christians
- To learn some of the major practices (for example, baptism) important to Christians
- To increase appreciation of Christianity as *both* a historical religious tradition, *and* as a living tradition whose history has been written, adapted, preserved and developed by a multitude of individuals and communities in the past and present.

II. Texts

- Bible (Old and New Testaments). You may use *almost* any translation of the Bible. I recommend the NAL Bible, which is available in the bookstore. Please consult with me before using another translation.
- Sandra Frankiel, *Christianity* (Harper San Francisco, 1985)

- Robert Van Voorst, *Readings in Christianity* (Wadsworth, 1997)
- A variety of readings on E-Res and Course Reserve



III. Course Requirements

- Discussions and weekly interpretation papers: 30%

All students will write 1-2 page papers each week to aid in preparing for discussions of the texts. Active participation in discussions is a critical component of this class. Missing more than two unexcused classes or two weekly papers will lower your final grade by one full point (B becomes C, for example). That being said, you should not come to class if you are sick. It is your responsibility to notify the professor in advance and to write a short response to the reading to be handed in at the next class.

- Midterm and Final exam: 15% and 15%

Midterm and final exam questions will be given in advance. The final exam will be take-home and will be due on the day of the scheduled final exam. The final exam must be typed and double-spaced.

- 3 Short papers and a compiled research paper: 40%

The research paper is an opportunity for you to pursue a topic in greater detail than class time allows. It will give you the chance to read, analyze, and write clearly about a subject that interests you. Each student is expected to choose a particular aspect or variety of Christianity that they would like to learn more about. This paper will be written in three stages. For details of each short paper and their compilation into a research paper, see [Short Papers/Research Paper Guidelines](#).

Course Outline

PART I: ORIGINS

Week 1: Aug. 31, Sept. 3, 5, 7: Introduction; Jesus and his followers

Reading:

The gospels of Mark, chapters 1-2; Matthew, chapter 7; Luke, chapter 8

[Aspects of Christianity](#)

[Assignment 1a](#)

Matthew 1:18 - 2:23; John, chapter 1; Matthew 5:21-48;

Mark chapters 13-16

Gospel of John, chapters 13-21

E-Res, Frankiel, *Christianity*, 6-20

Van Voorst, *Readings in Christianity*, pp. 282-3 (Albert Schweitzer)

Characteristics of Jesus in the gospels

Assignment 1

Week 2: September 10, 12, 14: Paul and the Roman world

Reading:

Paul's letter to the Corinthians: 1Corinthians chapters 1-2; chapters 13-15

Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapters 1-10,

Van Voorst, *Readings in Christianity*, 25-55

Unamuno, *The Agony of Christianity*, chapters 1 and 2 (E-Res)

Agony

Schweitzer and the Historical Jesus

Assignment 2

Week 3: September 19, 21: The Early Church: Constantine and Augustine

NO CLASS MONDAY, SEPT. 17: ROSH HASHANAH

Reading: Van Voorst, 68-92

Second and third century questions

Genesis 1:1-31

Augustine, *Confessions*

Book 8

Book 13

Augustine, *City of God*

Book XIV, chapter 28

Book IV, chapter 4

Book XV, chapters 1-2

Choose two readings from Van Voorst, 99-110

Unamuno Insights



[Timeline: Rome Becomes Christian](#)

[City of God: Themes](#)

[Augustinian political philosophy](#)

[Assignment 3](#)

Week 4: September 24 and 28: The Medieval Catholic Church: Sacramental Christianity

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26: YOM KIPPUR

Reading: Van Voorst, 136-146

[Augustine Insights](#)

[Sacraments](#)

[Sanctity](#)

[The Medieval Catholic Church](#)

[Letter of Bishop Clement \(ca. 96\)](#)

[Irenaeus of Lyon, Against Heresies \(ca. 180\)](#)

Choose one reading from Van Voorst, 152-157

[Assignment 4](#)



PART II: FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Week 5: Oct. 1, 3, 5: Faith and Universalism

First Short Paper on Early Christianity due Wednesday, Oct. 3

Reading: Van Voorst, 143-55, 286-294, 297-8, 312-315

Guest lecture Wednesday: Maxine Walker: The Eastern Orthodox Church

[Writings of St. Francis](#)

Choose one reading:

McFague, *Models of God*, 59-78 (E-Res)

Tillich, [Christianity and the Encounter with the World](#)

[Assignment 5](#)

Week 6: October 8, 10: Sin and Redemption

[Map of Europe, 1346](#)

[Timeline: Development of Christianity to about 1300](#)

Reading: Rita Nakashima Brock, "Losing your Innocence but not your Hope", in

Maryanne Stevens, ed., *Reconstructing the Christ Symbol*, 30-53 (E-Res)

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics: A selection*, 110-133 (Course Reserve)

OCTOBER 11-12 : READING DAYS

[Writing Religious Studies Essays: A Guide](#)

Week 7: October 15, 17, 19: MIDTERM; The Afterlife

Film: *Bonhoeffer*

Reading: Selections from Dante's *Paradiso* (P/Class)

[Afterworld Terminology](#)

[The Ghent Altarpiece](#)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, ["Who Am I?"](#)

MIDTERM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Week 8: October 22, 24, 26: Martin Luther and Protestantism

Reading: Van Voorst, 157-170; 179-180; 187-190; 192-195; 200-203 (Luther), 172-175; 209-211 (Anglicans); 195-197; 203-205 (Calvin)

[Martin Luther: The Three Walls](#)

[Outline: The Protestant Reformation: Background and Martin Luther](#)

[Outline: Radical and Political Reformations](#)

Van Voorst, 285-6 (Barth)

Barth, *Christian Dogmatics*, selection 1 (on the Bible; in P/Class)

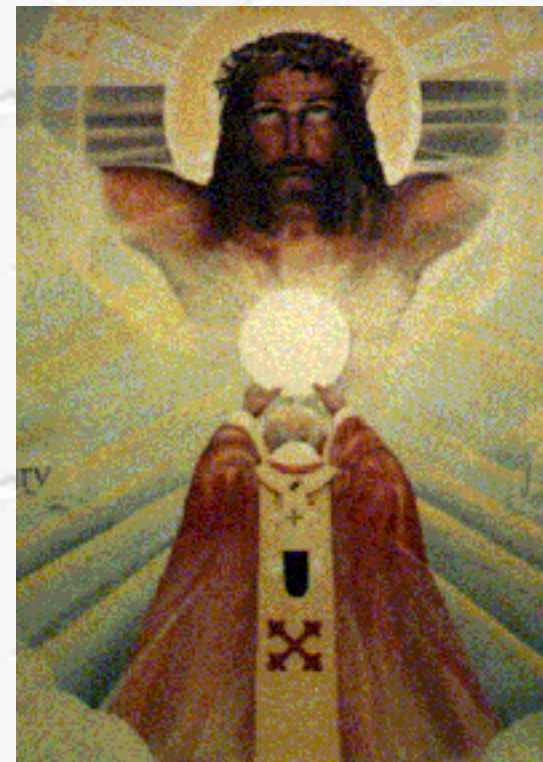
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Selections from the Bible (handout)

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Cheap Grace/Costly Grace"](#)

[Excerpts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer II](#)

[Assignment 6](#)

PART III: VARIETIES



Week 9: October 29, 31, Nov. 2: The Counter Reformation

[Outline: the Counter Reformation](#)

Reading: Van Vorst, 181-186; 197-200; 206-209

[Modern Christianity: Catholic and Protestant](#)

Reforming the Reformation: [What does it mean to be "radical"?](#)

[Readings in Liberation Theology](#)

Week 10: Nov. 5, 7, 9: Radical Christians then and now

Film: Protestant Spirit USA

Second short paper due on the Protestant Reformation Monday, Nov. 5

For Wednesday:

Gustavo Gutierrez, *A Theology of Liberation* 149-178 (E-Res)

[Instructions on Certain Aspects of the Theology of Liberation](#) (1984)

For Friday:

Reading: Van Vorst, 301-310

[Natural Law Theory and Same-Sex Relationships](#)

[The Ethics of Genetic Engineering](#)

**Two page response paper due one of these topics: same sex marriage or genetic engineering
How does the Christian tradition deal with new science, new social science understandings?**

Week 11: November 12, 14, 16: Pentecostalism and the Quakers

[The Society of Friends: Outline](#)

[The Autobiography of George Fox](#), chapter II

***Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* (E-Res)**

[Evangelicals, Pentecostalism, Fundamentalism: Outline](#)

[Evangelical Terms](#)

"Joyful Speaking for God: Pentecostal Women's Performances" (E-Res)

Reading: Bauman, *Let Your Words Be Few*, 20-42 (E-Res)

[United Pentecostal Church International: The Way We Worship](#)

[Assignment 8](#)

-----**THANKSGIVING BREAK**-----

Week 12: November 26, 28, 30: Mormons and Unitarians

[Unitarianism: Outline](#)

[Toleration Act: 1689](#)

[About Unitarians](#)

[Unitarians: The Flaming Chalice](#)

[Some Statements from Unitarian Web Sites](#)

Reading: Thomas O'Dea, *The Mormons*, 119-154

[Latter Day Saints: Outline](#)

Third short paper due on modern Christian groups Wednesday, Nov. 28

Week 13: Dec. 3, 5, 7: Women, Church, and government



[Mormons and Unitarians](#)

[Christianity: Some Definitions](#)

Reading: Rosemary Ruether, "Can a Male Savior Save Women?" from *Sexism and God-Talk*, 116-138 (E-Res)

Film: *A Priest Indeed*

Jacquelyn Grant, "Woman's Experience Revisited" from *White Woman's Christ and Black Woman's Jesus*, 195-222 (E-Res)

McHaffie, "Readings in Her Story" (E-Res)

[Women in Church Government: A Sampler](#)

[Chronology of Women's Ordination](#)

[Chronology of LGBT Ordination](#)

[Assignment 10](#)

Week 14: December 10, 12, 14: What is Christianity? Christians and others

Reading: Robert Wilken, "You Can't Go Home Again", from *The Myth of Christian Beginnings*, 158-185 (E-Res))

[Christianity: Major Ingredients](#)

Films: *Rise Up and Walk*

[Impediments to Women's Full Participation in Christian Churches](#)

FINAL PAPER DUE DECEMBER 14 in class.

[Timeline: Development of Christianity to about 1300](#)

[Timeline: Development of Christianity 1300 -- present](#)

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS WILL BE HANDED OUT DECEMBER 14. EXAM IS DUE AT THE SCHEDULED EXAM DATE OF DECEMBER 18.