Origins of Christianity

Hist 4320 Fall 2018

CRN # 16477

Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-1:50pm

Dr. Elizabeth Makowski

Course Description:
This course will survey the development of the institutional church from the founding of the first primitive communities of believers to the rending of Christian unity in the 16th century. It will focus on popular belief and practice, the ebb and flow of papal power, dealings between church and state, and the growth and diversification of those special centers of spiritual and temporal power, the monasteries. Major challenges to, or departures from, orthodox teaching, will be discussed in some detail. The Christian legacy to the arts and to architecture, will be also be dealt with.

This course features a term paper as well as a series of unannounced quizzes. Detailed guidelines for the papers will be distributed no later than the second week of class.

Course Objective:
To give students an appreciation of the breadth and diversity of the Christian religion and (by focusing on primary document analysis) an understanding of how historians do their work; to provide them with an up-to-date knowledge of electronic and traditional resources for the study of the history of Christianity; to promote confidence in oral presentations and research.

The page found at the following link constitutes a supplement to this syllabus. Please take a moment to visit the page and familiarize yourself with the department’s general expectations for this course:
http://www.txstate.edu/history/about/syllabus-supplement.html

Required Reading:
Students will read translated excerpts from the work of some of the great apologists, leaders, reformers, and dissenters of the times. These primary sources will be distributed by the instructor or they will be available on the Web. The following two books must be purchased:


Course Exams/Writing Assignments/Grading Policy and Attendance:
- Unannounced quizzes, based on primary documents, lectures and textbook readings as reflected in the review questions. The grades that you earn on these five "mini-exams" will be averaged and that grade will constitute 50% of your course grade. Note that a quiz can never be taken after the fact, but that the lowest quiz grade will be automatically dropped.
- Term paper worth 25% Submitted via TRACS.
- The final exam worth 25%
- Regular attendance is essential and a medical/legal excuse is required for late submission of papers.

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Cell phones must be silenced during class. Exiting and reentering the room during class is disruptive and, save for emergencies, unacceptable.