SP17 RS 342 01: History of Christianity
Ursuline College

Instructor: Sister Lisa Marie Belz, OSU, MA, MTS, Ph.D.  
Email: lbelz@ursuline.edu

Office: Dauby 305C (440) 684-6030

Office hours
Face-to-face:  M: 1:30-2:45pm;  T: 9:30-10:15pm;  W: 3-4pm;  Th: 2-2:30pm;  F: 1:30-2:30pm
Virtual office hours (through Desire2Learn “Virtual Classroom” platform): W: 4-5pm;  F: 2:30-3:15pm
and by appointment (face-to-face or virtually)

Course Description:
This survey course engages the student in the study of the historical development of Christian traditions and cultures, from the beginning of Christianity as a fringe movement within late Second Temple Judaism to its global presence today with nearly two billion adherents, more than any other religion in history. The focus of the course is on the core moments and issues which shaped Christianity into the diverse expressions of Christian life and practice in view around the world today. Additionally, contemporary issues are addressed in terms of their impact on Christianity’s continued growth in post-colonial Africa, Asia, and Latin America. (USP Level III, 3 credits)

Pre-Requisites: None

Instructional Objectives:
Knowledge: The student will
1) describe Jewish and Greco-Roman influences upon emerging Christianity;
2) identify significant stages in the history of the Christian movement;
3) assess the contributions of key figures—women as well as men—upon the development of Christianity;
4) examine reasons for the variety of Christian traditions of both East and West;
5) assess the influences of Christianity on the development of Western history and culture;
6) evaluate the growth of Christianity today in post-colonial Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
Skills: The student will be able to
1) employ historical method as a safeguard against religious absolutism;
2) identify scholarly material in both primary and secondary sources.
3) distinguish between speculative claims unsupported by historically reliable evidence and scholarly claims supported by historically reliable evidence.

Attitudes: The student will
1) be sympathetic to the often over-looked contributions of women in the history of Christianity;
2) respect the differences in perspectives among Christian denominations;
3) value ordinary Christian experience in history;
4) appreciate variety, difference, and historical development in Christian thought and practice.

Required Texts:
1) *Introduction to the History of Christianity* (Second Edition)
   Edited by Tim Dowley  Publisher: Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2013

2) *The Story of Christianity: A Chronicle of Christian Civilization from Ancient Rome to Today*
   Author: Jean-Pierre Isbouts  Publisher: National Geographic, 2014

3) *Mystics, Visionaries, and Prophets: A Historical Anthology of Women’s Spiritual Writings*
   Author: Shawn Madigan, CSJ, editor  Publisher: Fortress Press, 2004

Technology Requirements:
You will need the following technology for this web course:
1) A strong internet connection.
2) A computer or electronic device powerful enough to access D2L without any difficulty.
3) Microsoft Word for all documents uploaded to D2L’s dropbox. No other document format will be accepted, unless otherwise stated. You can download Microsoft Office free of charge as an UC student through D2L. *(Please note: Apple’s “Pages” will not be accepted.)*

IS THIS WEB COURSE A GOOD FIT FOR YOU?

Academic Requirements:
1) the completion of Stage II required courses only: There is no previous knowledge of content or familiarity with Christianity that is required in order to take this course successfully.

2) a strong commitment to your own education: In an online course, YOU as the student take the greatest role in the instruction process. Keep up WEEKLY (at minimum) with the syllabus. Check regularly for course news. *(Course news is sent out every Monday.)* If keeping up with the syllabus is not your thing, then a web class is not the best fit for you.

3) a mature sense of responsibility and self-discipline: Online instruction requires greater responsibility on your part as the student. In a very real sense, you become your own instructor. When no one is there to check up on you, do you have the self-discipline that it takes to focus and learn on your own?

4) a growing curiosity: Be curious. Come to this course with a desire to learn something new, something that helps you to understand the world, human beings, and maybe even yourself better than you did
before taking the course.

5) **Sufficient time for an online 3 credit hour course.** While this may not be a course in your major, it is nonetheless a three credit hour college course, and a course that costs as much as a course in your major. This means you can count on a digital class that takes up the same time as a weekly class meeting in any 3 credit college “ground class” (=2 ½ hours). Just like a traditional ground class, this class also requires the extra time it takes you to complete a week’s worth of reading assignments for a 3 credit college course, as well as weekly study time for review, and extra study time for reinforcement of material for quizzes and exams. And, just like a traditional ground class, you will have to invest time in the successful and thoughtful completion of a major semester project. In other words, the successful completion of this online course will require the same time commitment from you as what is required for the successful completion of a traditional ground course.

**Course Requirements:**

1) **COURSE READINGS:**
   All assigned weekly readings are required, unless otherwise noted. Recommendation: Divide up the week’s reading assignment and set page number goals for each day.

2) **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EACH WEEK’S DIGITAL CLASS**
   Each week’s digital class is composed of any combination of the following: **panopto presentations, power points, videos, documentaries, and an online discussion.** The thoughtful completion of all elements assigned in each course week (found under CONTENT in D2L) is required.
   - a) **The week’s digital class opens on Monday (or the Tuesday following a Monday holiday).**
   - b) **All work required for the week’s digital class must be completed by Saturday noon each week.**

3) **WEEKLY ONLINE DISCUSSIONS** (≈10 POINTS each week)
   - a) A discussion prompt will be posted by Monday noon each week. You can find the week’s discussion prompt under CONTENT, then “ONLINE DISCUSSIONS.” It is also sent out each week as a news item (which you should set to be sent to your email), but also found in each week’s digital class. The week’s discussion reviews the material from the previous week, allowing students a full week to work with the material before being required to apply it intelligently and in an informed way in the week’s online discussion.
   - b) **By 11:59pm each Wednesday** post a thread in response to the prompt. (= 5pts)
   - c) **By NOON each Saturday,** respond to at least ONE other student’s post. (= 5pts)
   - d) Both your thread and reply are graded on
     - the extent to which your comment is **genuinely informed** by course reading and digital materials; misinformed guesswork is not given any credit;
     - **proper attention to writing mechanics** (spelling, punctuation, grammar, word choice, syntax).
e) Respectful disagreement is welcome, even necessary for academic discourse. Polite discourse in academia does not require universal agreement. It does require respectful communication. It is unhealthy to regard disagreement as rude as long as the manner and tone of the disagreement are respectful.

f) The week’s online discussion will close by NOON each Saturday. Once a discussion closes, no more posts or comments can be added for points.

4) WEEKLY DIGITAL CLASS REVIEW:
Starting the second week of the semester, each week there will be a 10 point objective review based on assigned readings and digital class material for the week’s class, including the viewing guides for documentaries and videos. While the weekly digital review is timed (15 min. limit), it may be taken as many times as you’d like, until you feel that you have mastered the week’s content. You may return to the digital class review later for any week as a way to study for the Cumulative Reviews (see below), Quizzes, and Exams. D2L will always record only your highest score for any given weekly digital class review, no matter how many times you take it or when. The digital class review for the week is always available on the course home page (beginning the second week of the semester) under “Tasks for the Week.” It can also be found under CONTENT for the week being reviewed and is also included in a separate section under CONTENT (“Digital Class Reviews”) for later review and study.

a) Students with an 8/10 on each weekly digital class review will be awarded TEN BONUS POINTS at the end of the semester.

b) Students with a 9/10 or better on each weekly digital class review will be awarded TEN BONUS POINTS and will be exempted from the objective portion of the final exam; their final exam will be open book.

c) The weekly review is designed in such a way as to discourage uninformed guessing; only students who have both read assigned materials and reviewed assigned digital content will be able to do well consistently.

d) No two weekly digital class reviews are the same. Questions for the weekly digital class review are taken at random from a much larger pool of questions.

e) Correct answers are not provided for the weekly digital class review. You will, however, be told your score and the questions answered incorrectly.

5) THREE GRADED CUMULATIVE REVIEWS (10 pts each)

a) The Cumulative Review questions are drawn at random from previous weekly digital class reviews.

Each cumulative review
• is due by **Saturday noon** of the week assigned
• consists of ten questions
• has a time limit of 15 minutes
• offers **THREE ATTEMPTS**; the score of your highest attempt is recorded by D2L.
• Correct answers are not provided for the cumulative review. You will, however, be told your score and the questions answered incorrectly.

b) Please note the following dates for the graded cumulative reviews:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CUMULATIVE REVIEW</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 (DIGITAL CLASSES 1-4)</td>
<td>due by noon, Sat., Feb. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 (DIGITAL CLASSES 9-12)</td>
<td>due by noon, Sat., April 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 (DIGITAL CLASSES 13-15)</td>
<td>due by noon, Sat., April 29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6) **TWO QUIZZES** (= 25 pts each):

a) **Quiz #1** is due by **noon on Saturday, Feb. 25**. This quiz covers all course material from DIGITAL CLASSES 1-6.

b) **Quiz #2** is due by **noon on Saturday, May 6**.
   This quiz covers all course material from the midterm **through the week of April 3 (= DIGITAL CLASSES 9-15)**.

c) **For both quizzes:**
   • You will be required to use a lockdown browser (provided through D2L).
   • Quiz questions are objective (= true / false, multiple choice, short answer)
   • Quiz questions are taken from assigned readings, digital material, discussions (including viewing guides for documentaries or videos).
   • Questions are also taken from cumulative reviews.
   • Questions are taken at random from a larger pool.
   • You will have a total of forty minutes to take the quiz.
   • You will be given only **one attempt**.
   • No two quizzes are the same: each student will have her/his own randomly-designed quiz.

N.B.: **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE DUE DATE AND TIME FOR THE QUIZ, EXCEPT FOR A VERY SERIOUS REASON, ACCOMPANIED BY WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FROM A DOCTOR OR THE DEAN.**

**A MISSED QUIZ = 0/25 = F**

**YOU CANNOT PASS THE COURSE WITHOUT TAKING BOTH QUIZZES, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF POINTS THAT YOU HAVE EARNED.**

7) **TWO EXAMS**

a) Midterm exam (=50 pts), on **DIGITAL CLASSES 1-6 (=WEEKS 1-6)**
   due by **noon, Saturday, March 4**

b) Final exam (= 50 pts), on **DIGITAL CLASSES 9-16 (=WEEKS 9-16)**, according to the College Final Exam schedule (TBD).

N.B.: **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE DUE DATE AND TIME FOR THE EXAM, EXCEPT FOR A VERY SERIOUS REASON, ACCOMPANIED BY WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FROM A DOCTOR,**
YOU CANNOT PASS THE COURSE WITHOUT TAKING BOTH EXAMS, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF POINTS THAT YOU HAVE EARNED.

8) SEMESTER PROJECT (= 100 pts) DUE by 11:59pm, TUESDAY, APRIL 18
You have a choice of any of the options below for the semester project. See guidelines posted on D2L for each option. Your choice of option and topic are to be submitted to D2L for approval by no later than noon, Saturday, Feb. 18.

a) OPTION #1: a research paper of 7-9 pages
In this assignment, you are asked to explore in depth, using written academic sources only (no web pages or documentaries or other digital content), a topic within Christian history of your choosing and approved by the instructor.

b) OPTION #2: a critical book review (7-9 pages)
In this assignment, you choose either an autobiography or critical biography of a significant person in Christian history. Your choice must be approved by the instructor.

c) OPTION #3: a power point summary of the equivalent of a 7-9 page research project or critical book review. Your power point will be evaluated on design, clarity, and solid and substantial academic content. It will also be shared with the class. The topic of your ppt must be approved by the instructor.

FOR ALL OPTIONS:
• NO information from websites will be accepted. Websites often have outdated material and are limited in the amount of content they can provide.
• Evaluate, interpret, and analyze your sources;
• Your writing mechanics (punctuation, syntax, full sentences, noun and verb agreement, use of plural forms, use of verb tenses, spelling, etc.) must meet the standards as described in the Ursuline Studies writing assessment rubric (posted on D2L);
• Submit an outline with your final project. Your project must follow this outline in a discernable way.
• Include a bibliography on the final page / slide.
• Citations and bibliography should be in MLA format.
• A written project should be no less than 7 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, with normal page margins.

ALL PROJECTS ARE TO BE UPLOADED TO THE DESIGNATED D2L DROPBOX. Written projects should be uploaded as pdfs. PLEASE TITLE YOUR DOCUMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1) YOUR LAST NAME  2) YOUR FIRST NAME  3) THE NAME OF THE ASSIGNMENT:
For example: Smith, Jane, research paper

Students with Disabilities
Students with documented disabilities, including those with physical, psychological and learning disabilities, may be entitled to reasonable accommodations for this course. If you would like to request testing or other accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your situation and possible needs. Effective and timely communication will allow us to work with Ursuline Resources for Academic Success (URSA)
Academic Dishonesty
1) Cases of academic dishonesty will be documented according to procedures outlined in the student handbook.

2) Sharing answers on graded quizzes and exams will result in an “F” for the quiz/exam, and may result in an “F” for the course and/or dismissal from the College.

3) Using material that is another’s, whether from the web, a book, article, or another student, and submitting it as your own constitutes plagiarism, which will result in an F on the assignment and may result in failure from the course, or dismissal from the College.

Be sure to footnote all references, even paraphrased references, to all literature used in your paper. You are responsible for understanding the meaning of plagiarism. Please consult the Ursuline College Student handbook in this matter, pp. 29-31. The College owns licenses to anti-plagiarism applications for all internet material (including e-books and online libraries, as well as exhaustive website searches).

Miscellanea
1) Online class forums and drop boxes may be accessed in advance of the class date but will close at 11:59 pm on the day the assignment is due. Once these submission opportunities are closed, you may not submit late work.

2) Schedule: The instructor reserves the right to alter the reading and activity schedule as may benefit the class.

3) Special Learning Needs: If you have documented special learning needs, please see me at the beginning of the semester in order to receive proper accommodations.

4) Late submissions:
   - Cannot be accommodated for discussion forum postings. Failure to post on time will result in lost points.
   - Each student is presented with ONE late permission coupon on D2L to submit in place of a written assignment. This allows for an extension up to one week without penalty.
   - Without a completed coupon, NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ARE ACCEPTED.
   - An unused late permission coupon will earn ten extra bonus points at the end of the semester if uploaded by noon on Saturday, May 6.

5) Please see me early if you are having difficulties with the class so that I may help you resolve them. It is my goal and expectation that each student will find success and growth in this class, and I am willing to work with you in any way that will facilitate your learning experience.

Grading Scale:
CLASS SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS (subject to revision as needed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
<th>DIGITAL CLASSES, TOPICS, and ASSESSMENTS (Check D2L “CONTENT” for weekly digital classes.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Wk 1: 1/16 | Introductions  
Isbouts, 6-12 | **1. Backgrounds to Early Christianity**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) PANOPTO Orientation Video: Getting Around the Course D2L Page  
2) PPT: In the Beginning: A Short History of Ancient Judaism  
3) A virtual reconstruction of the Temple Mount (6 min.)  
4) “Hidden History of Rome” (50 min.) / Viewing Guide |
| Wk 2: 1/23 | Isbouts, ch. 1 | **2. The Basileia Proclamation of Jesus**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) PPT: The *Basileia* of Jesus vs. the *Basileia* of Rome  
2) “From Jesus to Christ” (Part 1) (53:24)  
3) Online Discussion  
4) Digital class review for weeks 1 and 2 |
| Wk 3: 1/30 | Dowley, 23-45  
Isbouts, 49-72 | **3. Paul’s Gospel to the Gentiles**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) PPT: Paul, the Unlikely Christian  
2) PPT: Women in Paul’s Churches: Deacons, Teachers, Apostles  
3) Online Discussion  
4) Digital class review |
| Wk 4: 2/6 | Dowley, 46-102  
**CUMULATIVE REVIEW #1 on WEEKS 1-4**  
due by noon Saturday, Feb. 11  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “How Christianity Spread throughout the Roman Empire” (45m)  
2) “The Martyrdom of St. Perpetua” (4m)  
3) Online Discussion  
4) Digital class review |
| Week 5: 2/13 | Dowley, 103-159  
Isbouts, 72-76 | **5. The Rise of Latin Christianity (Part 1)**  
Topic for Semester Project due by Sat. noon, Feb. 18  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) "From Jesus to Christ" (Part 4) (51m)  
2) Online Discussion  
3) Digital class review |
|---|---|---|
| Week 6: 2/20 | Dowley, 160-168; 183-199  
Isbouts, ch. 4  
**STUDY GUIDE for MIDTERM** | **6. a. The Rise of Latin Christianity (Part 2)**  
**b. Other Ancient Christian Traditions**  
**QUICK #1 on WEEKS 1-6 due by noon, Saturday, Feb. 25**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) Syriac Christianity: “The First Christianity” (59m) / Viewing Guide  
2) “Ethiopian Christianity” (22m) / Viewing Guide  
3) Digital class review  
4) Online Discussion |
| Week 7: 2/28 |  | **Midterm Exam on WEEKS 1-6**  
due by noon, Saturday, March 4 |
| Week 8: 3/6 | **MIDTERM BREAK—NO CLASS** | Enjoy the week off! 😊 |
| Week 9: 3/13 | Isbouts, chapters 3 and 5  
Dowley, 202-214; 269-274  
Earle, “The Desert Mothers” (D2L) | **9. Byzantium and the Christian East**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “Orthodoxy: From Empire to Empire” (59m) / Viewing Guide  
2) Excerpts from “The Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer” (29m) / Viewing Guide  
3) Digital class review  
(No online discussion this week.) |
| Week 10: 3/20 | Dowley, 169-181; 258-268  
Madigan:  
“Hildegard,” 91-106;  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “Saints and Sinners: A Millenium of Monasteries” (59m) / Viewing Guide  
2) “Hildegard of Bingen” (48m) / Viewing Guide  
3) Digital class review  
4) Online Discussion |
| Week 11: 3/27 | Dowley, 215-258; 275-292  
Isbouts, ch. 6  
Nashef, “I’m a Muslim” (D2L) | **11. Medieval Christianity and the Transformation of Europe**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “Saint Francis: A New Kind of Saint, A New Kind of Art” (48m) / Viewing Guide  
2) “The Dark Ages” (final 11 minutes) / Viewing Guide  
4) Digital class review  
5) Online Discussion |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading and Assignments</th>
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| **Wk 12: 4/3** | **12. Spiritual Mothers in Medieval Christianity**  
*Isbouts, ch. 7*  
**CUMULATIVE REVIEW #2 on WEEKS 9-12 due by noon Saturday, April 8**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “Clare of Assisi” (24m) / Viewing Guide  
2) “Julian of Norwich” (24m) / Viewing Guide  
3) Digital class review  
4) Online Discussion |
| **Wk 13: 4/10** | **13. Reform and Renewal**  
*Dowley, 293-311, 315 (Zwingli); 323-341, 347-365*  
*Isbouts, ch. 8*  
*Madigan, “Teresa of Avila,” 247-265*  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) PPT: The Reformation: Protestant and Catholic  
2) “Luther: Driven to Defiance” (54m)  
3) Digital class review  
4) Online Discussion  
**Because of Easter Break**  
- No digital class review (postponed until next week)  
- No online discussion |
| **Wk 14: 4/17** | **14. Christianity and the Enlightenment**  
*Isbouts, ch. 9 and 10*  
**SEMESTER PROJECT due by 11:59pm, Tues., April 18**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “Fighting Intolerance and Slavery: Christianity in the 17th and 18th Centuries” (48m) / Viewing Guide  
2) Digital class review  
3) Online Discussion |
| **Wk 15: 4/24** | **15. Christianity and Global Empires**  
*Dowley, 425-474*  
*Isbouts, ch. 11*  
*Madigan, “Sojourner Truth,” 288-305*  
**CUMULATIVE REVIEW #3 on WEEKS 13-15 due by noon Saturday, April 29**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) “Dark Continents” (48m)  
2) “The Bamboo Cross: Chinese Christianity on the Rise” (53m)  
3) Digital class review  
4) Online Discussion |
| **Wk 16: 5/1** | **16. Christianity in a Conflicted World**  
*Isbouts, ch. 12 and Epilog*  
*Madigan, “Gabrielle Bossis,” 326-343; “Dorothy Day,” 345-359; “Lopez and Arriola,” 400-412*  
**QUIZ #2 on WEEKS 9-16 due by noon, Saturday, May 6**  
**DIGITAL CLASS:**  
1) PPT: Opening Windows: The Renewal of Vatican II  
2) “Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: The Wings of Spirit” (60m)  
3) “Christianity: Ever Ancient, Ever New” (56m)  
4) Digital class review  
5) Online discussion |
| **Wk 17: 5/8** | **Final Exam (WEEKS 9-16) TBD** |