

SAINTE

PATRICK





Munster Bible College  
**025: Church History I**  
3-8 June 2019

## PROFESSOR

Dr. Dustin Bengé

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an in-depth study of the theological and literary history of the Patristic and the Medieval Church. Special attention is given to the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, the relationship of church and culture, and Christian spirituality.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course the student should be better able to:

- Describe, with a basic understanding, the key events and issues in the history of the Patristic and the Medieval Church.
- Examine primary sources with an historiographical mindset. (Engaging texts critically and thinking historically are essential activities of Christian ministry and scholarship.)
- Develop an awareness and appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Patristic and Medieval Church as she sought to interact with her cultural context.
- Identify some of the figures of the Patristic and Medieval Church as possible mentors in certain areas of spiritual formation.

These course objectives will be achieved in the following ways:

- Readings in the course texts.
- Course lectures and discussion to develop informed and scholarly skills.
- Book review of Michael A. G. Haykin, *Rediscovering the Church Fathers*.
- Two essays which allow the student to reflect on two of the Early Church Fathers.
- Short answer assignment responding to Augustine, *Confessions*.

## DIPLOMA REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. R.S. Pine-Coffin (London: Penguin, 1961; ISBN: 978-0140441147).
2. Tim Dowley, ed., *Introduction to the History of Christianity* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.; Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018; ISBN: 978-15-6445960).
3. Michael A.G. Haykin, *Rediscovering the Church Fathers: Who They Were and How They Shaped the Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011; ISBN: 978-1433510434).
4. Reading pack on Schoology

## **DIPLOMA COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### ***Reading***

Read the three required textbooks. Due by 24 August 2019

Read the reading pack of articles on Schoology. Due by 2 June 2019

### ***Character Essays***

You will choose two figures from the list below and provide a 1,500 word essay on each. Each of these 2 papers will discuss their background, their major contribution in church history, why it is important for Christians to know who they were, and what you have learned from studying their life and thought.

- Irenaeus of Lyons
- Tertullian
- Cyprian of Carthage
- Athanasius
- Basil of Caesarea
- Augustine
- Patrick

Due by 24 August 2019

### ***Book Review***

You will write a critical book review of Haykin, *Rediscovering the Church Fathers*.

This book review should be no more than 2,000 words and should include a summary of the book as well as a critical evaluation of the book's achievement of its goals.

Marks will be deducted for numerous grammar and spelling errors. Papers submitted late without advance permission will receive at best a grade of D. Extensions will be granted in the case of such things as family or personal illness.

Due by 24 August 2019

### ***Assessment of learning***

Meet with your pastor/mentor to talk through ways in which your learning applies to local church ministry and how it has helped them

- reported by a series of questions (on Schoology) to assess the translation of your learning into ministry

Discuss these two questions with your pastor/mentor:

- i. How does this module impact your life?
- ii. How does this module impact your ministry?

Due by 24 August 2019

## ***Assignment from Augustine: Confessions***

You will answer questions below on Augustine, *Confessions*.

Your answers should not exceed 300 words per question and should be well thought through and cohesive. Please provide quotes from your reading of sections in each question.

Due by 24 August 2019

1. Summarize David F. Wright, "Augustine of Hippo" in Dowley, ed., *History of Christianity*, 154–155.
2. *Confessions* 1.1–4:
  - a. How do the *Confessions* begin? Why?
  - b. Why has God made humanity?
  - c. What answer does Augustine give to his own question: "If he does not know you, how can he pray to you?" (1.1)
3. *Confessions* 2: Gary Wills observes that when people think of Augustine's sinfulness they think of sexual sin. If so, they are sadly disappointed because Augustine's most detailed discussion of his sinfulness does not relate to sexual sin at all. Why does he spend so much time talking about his sin of the theft of the pears (2.4–10)? In other words what is the purpose of this chapter in the book?
4. Briefly outline the roles that (a) Monica (321–388) and (b) Ambrose of Milan (339–397) play in Augustine's *Confessions* 1–9.
5. *Confessions* 8.1: What passions had been central in Augustine's life? Why had they been displaced?
6. *Confessions* 8.2–5: Why does Augustine go to such length to narrate the story of the conversion and Christian witness of Marius Victorinus (d. after 363)?
7. *Confessions* 8.5: What kept Augustine from committing himself to Christ? What biblical passages explain for Augustine what was going on in his life at this time?
8. According to *Confessions* 8.6, what was one key factor in leading Augustine to Christ?
9. *Confessions* 8.7: Why had Augustine hesitated to accept Christianity?
10. *Confessions* 8.7–11: Before Augustine embraced God's salvific work in Christ, what did he learn about himself?
11. *Confessions* 8.12: What role did Scripture play in Augustine's conversion?

12. After recounting his conversion, Augustine says of God “You converted me to yourself” (*Confessions* 8.12). Why is this an accurate summary of his experience as recounted in *Confessions* 8 and in light of the biblical passages cited in *Confessions* 8? Be specific in your answer.
13. In the opening sentence of *Confessions* 8.4 Augustine prays to God, “stir us up and call us back, kindle and clasp us, be fragrant to us, draw us to your loveliness.” Similar prayers/statements can be found in 9.1 and 10.27. Discuss what they tell you about Augustinian piety and why this piety is vital for contemporary Evangelicalism.

#### **DIPLOMA GRADING BREAKDOWN**

Reading	10%
Book review	20%
Character Essays	30%
Augustine Assignment	30%
Assessment of learning	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## CERTIFICATE REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Michael A.G. Haykin, *Rediscovering the Church Fathers: Who They Were and How They Shaped the Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011; ISBN: 978-1433510434).
2. Reading pack on Schoology

### *Recommended Reading*

1. Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. R.S. Pine-Coffin (London: Penguin, 1961; ISBN: 978-0140441147).
2. Tim Dowley, ed., *Introduction to the History of Christianity* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.; Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2018; ISBN: 978-15-6445960).

## CERTIFICATE ASSIGNMENTS

### **Reading:**

Read the required books and reading pack

### **2 essays:**

You will choose two figures from the list below and provide a 1,000 word essay on each. Each of these 2 papers will discuss their background, their major contribution in church history, why it is important for Christians to know who they were, and what you have learned from studying their life and thought. These two papers will each be 40% of the final mark.

- Irenaeus of Lyons
- Tertullian
- Cyprian of Carthage
- Athanasius
- Basil of Caesarea
- Augustine
- Patrick

Due by 24 August 2019

## CERTIFICATE GRADING BREAKDOWN

Reading	20%
Essay 1	40%
Essay 2	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## LECTURE OUTLINE

June 3–8: Church History I

Monday, June 3, 7–10pm

Lectures 1–3

1. The Significance of Church History
2. Jesus and the Birth of the Church, pt. 1
3. Jesus and the Birth of the Church, pt. 2

Tuesday, June 4, 7–10pm

Lectures 4–6

4. The Subapostolic Age and their Writings
5. The Empire and the Church
6. Heresies in the Second Century

Wednesday, June 5, 9am–5pm

Lectures 7–11

7. The Church Fathers
8. Church Life in the Second and Third Centuries
9. The Fourth Century: Diocletian and Constantine, pt.1
10. The Fourth Century: Diocletian and Constantine, pt.2
11. Arius and the Council of Nicaea

Thursday, June 6, 7–10pm

Lectures 12–14

12. Church Leaders in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries, pt. 1
13. Church Leaders in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries, pt. 2
14. Augustine

Friday, June 7, 7–10pm

Lectures 15–17

15. Patrick of Ireland, pt. 1
16. Patrick of Ireland, pt. 2
17. Transitions to the Middle Ages

Saturday, June 8, 9am–5pm

Lectures 18–22

18. The Impact of Islam
19. The Western Church, pt. 1
20. The Western Church, pt. 2
21. The Rise of Scholasticism
22. To the Reformation

## GRADING SCALE

96% - 100% A	85% - 89% B	73% - 75% C	63% - 66% D
93% - 95% A-	80% - 84% B-	70% - 72% C-	60% - 62% D-
90% - 92% B+	76% - 79% C+	67% - 69% D+	0% - 59% F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A computer with basic internet access will be needed for this course

## COURSE POLICIES

**Late Work:** Points received for any late assignment will be reduced by 25% for every two days late. Unless every assignment is completed, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Respect for Divergent Viewpoints:** Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed through class assignments and discussion boards. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual property theft or literary theft better known as plagiarism. Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Board of MBC, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

**Special Needs:** As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.

**Grievances and Grade Disputes:** If a student has a concern about a grade that he or she received, the student is expected to request clarification from instructor via email. If the student still has significant concern, he or she may contact the Board of MBC.

**Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer):** This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.

## CONTACT INFO

Email: [dustinbenge@gmail.com](mailto:dustinbenge@gmail.com)

## FURTHER READING

### Augustine

Gerald S. Bonner, *St. Augustine of Hippo, Life and Controversies* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963).

Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo* (Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1967).

Donald X. Burt, *Friendship and Society: An Introduction to Augustine's Practical Philosophy* (Grand Rapids/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1999).

Elizabeth A. Clark, *St. Augustine on Marriage and Sexuality* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1996).

Robert Dodaro and George Lawless, eds., *Augustine and his Critics: Essays in Honour of Gerald Bonner* (London/New York: Routledge, 2000).

Thomas A. Hand, *Augustine on Prayer* (New York: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1986).

Carol Harrison, *Augustine: Christian Truth and Fractured Humanity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).



N. R. Needham, *The Triumph of Grace: Augustine's writings on Salvation* (London: Grace Publications Trust, 2000).

John M. Rist, *Augustine: Ancient thought baptized* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

Gary Wills, *Saint Augustine* (New York: Viking Penguin, 1999).

### **Cyprian**

William S. Babcock, "Christian Culture and Christian Tradition in Roman North Africa" in Patrick Henry, ed., *Schools of Thought in the Christian Tradition* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984), 31–48.

J. Patout Burns, "The Holiness of the Churches" in William Caferro and Duncan G. Fisher, eds., *The Unbounded Community: Papers in Christian Ecumenism in Honor of Jaroslav Pelikan* (New York/London: Garland Publ., Inc., 1996), 3–15.

J. Patout Burns, *Cyprian the Bishop* (London/New York: Routledge, 2002).

Michael A. Smith, "Cyprian of Carthage and the North African Church" in John D. Woodbridge, ed., *Great Leaders of the Christian Church* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988), 59–62.

### **Jerome**

Everett Ferguson, "Jerome: Biblical Scholar" in John D. Woodbridge, ed., *Great Leaders of the Christian Church* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988), 77–80.

J.N.D. Kelly, *Jerome: His Life, Writings, and Controversies* (New York: Harper & Row, Publ., 1975).

### **Patrick**

Máire B. de Paor, *Patrick: The Pilgrim Apostle of Ireland* (New York: HarperCollins, 1998).

David N. Dumville, *Saint Patrick, A.D. 493–1993* (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 1993).

R.P.C. Hanson, *Saint Patrick: His Origins and Career* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968).

R.P.C. Hanson, *The Life and Writings of the Historical Saint Patrick* (New York: The Seabury Press, 1983).

E.A. Thompson, *Who Was Saint Patrick?* (Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 1985).

### **Perpetua**

*The Martyrdom of Perpetua*, introd. Sara Maitland (Evesham, Worcestershire: Arthur James Ltd., 1996).

Joyce E. Salisbury, *Perpetua's Passion: The Death and Memory of a Young Roman Woman* (London/New York: Routledge, 1997).

W.C. Weinrich, *Spirit and Martyrdom. A Study of the Work of the Holy Spirit in Contexts of Persecution and Martyrdom in the New Testament and Early Christian Literature* (Washington, D.C., 1981).

### **Tertullian**

Timothy Barnes, *Tertullian. A Historical and Literary Study* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971).

Gerald L. Bray, *Holiness and the Will of God: Perspectives on the Theology of Tertullian* (Atlanta: John Knox/London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1979).

Gerald L. Bray, "Tertullian and Western Theology" in John D. Woodbridge, ed., *Great Leaders of the Christian Church* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988), 49–54.