

PMP COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

This course is designed to survey the history of the church from the time of the apostles up to the time of Gregory the Great, ca. AD 600. The student will be able to outline the main developments of the period and the growth of the church. The course will discuss the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, and the leading heretics and theologians of the period. The student will be able to trace the main events and ideas of the conciliar movement and the early creeds of the church. The course will also discuss various important developments within the church, including believers under persecution, heresies that forged orthodox doctrinal statements, church government, early worship, the monastic movement, the missionary impetus, and the beginnings of the papacy.

Reading assignments

- Due November 30 Earle E. Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church*, pp. 13-162
- December 31 Henry Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church*, Part I (pp. 1-87)
- Due March 31 One of the following Primary Sources:
- 1) *The Apostolic Fathers*, edited by J.B. Lightfoot -OR-
 - 2) *The Confessions of St. Augustine* -OR-
 - 3) *Ecclesiastical History* by Eusebius

Book Reviews

1. Write a three page synopsis of the primary source book you chose. Highlight the importance of the early work besides giving its substance. Due April 8, 2011.
2. Choose a book outside of your original source readings, either that surveys the entire period of the early church (Boer's *Short History of the Early Church* is recommended) or one that develops an idea, trend, person, or event of the era. The book should be at least 200 pages and the review should be at least three typed pages (double spaced). This assignment is exclusive of primary source reading. Due May 31, 2011.

Exams

Mid-term Exam through Emperor Diocletian (Study Question 33) due February 11
Final Exam due June 30

Grading

Exams	55%	Readings	25%
Book Reviews	10%	Class Participation/Review	10%