

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2021**

Monday

6:00-8:30 pm

H601 Early and Medieval Church History

Dr. Stephen Lloyd

Course Description:

This course offers a survey of the history of Christianity from its earliest days in Roman-occupied Palestine (c. 33AD) to the eve of the European reformations (c. 1500). There are three areas of focus for this class: 1) the shift of Christianity from a marginal Jewish sect to the official religion of the Roman Empire, 2) the expansion and cultural transformations of Christianity in pre-modern Europe, Asia, and Africa, and 3) the social, political, and religious dimensions of Christianity in medieval in Europe.

Course Requirements:

- Reading: Students should expect 850 pages of required reading, and they should come to class prepared to discuss the reading. Attendance and meaningful class participation is 10% of the final grade.
- Writing: Students will write three papers. In the first paper, students will critique an artistic presentation (painting, play, opera, film, etc.) of Early or Medieval Christianity on the basis of historic evidence (5 pages; 20% of final grade). Students will also be completing a bibliographic essay based on an aspect of the course that interests them (10-12 pages; 30% of final grade). Finally, students will write a paper that responds to the history of Christianity from the perspective of their own respective ministries and/or traditions (6-8 pages; 25% of final grade).
- Presentations: Each student will deliver one presentation on a text from the primary source book. During the presentation, the student will 1) contextualize the text, 2) summarize the main points of the text, and 3) lead classroom discussion about the text (15 % of final grade).

Required Texts:

Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church, revised edition* (Penguin Books, 1993) 978-0140231991

Kevin Madigan, *Medieval Christianity: A New History* (Yale University Press, 2015) 978-0300216776

Readings in World Christian History, eds. John W. Coakley and Andrea Sterk (Orbis Books, 2004) 978-1570755200

MAT Degree Outcomes Addressed by this Course:

- analyze Christian texts, convictions, and practices within the major developments and diversities of Christian tradition
- integrate ecumenical understanding and respect in articulating one's own faith identity and engaging with others

MACM Degree Outcomes Addressed by this Course:

- a firm understanding of...pertinent Church Tradition through the ability to apply that understanding in analyzing and responding to pastoral/ministry encounters
- evidence of being able to work collegially with persons of other Christian ecclesial traditions, based on a general knowledge of their beliefs, understanding of differences with regard to one's own tradition, and a willingness to demonstrate openness and charity in word and action