CLAS 217 Introduction to the Church Fathers

Donald Carlson

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INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH FATHERS
THEOLOGY / CLASSICS 217
SPRING 2014
8:30 am - 9:45 am, TR
Logan Hall 100

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office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course will provide students with an overview of the spirituality, theology, and praxis of the early church, as expressed in the writings of the Church Fathers. We will consider such topics as ancient Judaism, the variety of early Christianities, and the emergence of the Great Church. We will also examine the Church’s defense against pagans and heretics, her confrontation with the Empire, and the development of key doctrines. Students will also be introduced to a variety of other topics, including ancient religion, a bit of Greek philosophy, some Roman history, and ancient biblical exegesis, since these areas comprise the context within which the Fathers thought and wrote. By the end of this course students will be able to:

○ discuss and articulate particular aspects of the legacy of patristic thought and its impact on upon Christian theology and spirituality.

○ critically engage secondary sources on patristic literature

○ demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively

REQUIRED TEXTS

P. Maier, Eusebius: the Church History (2007)
S. Hall, Doctrine and Practice in the Early Church (2005)

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Your final grade is determined by the overall average score of Review Quizzes (50%) and the Comprehensive Final Exam (50%). Review quizzes and cannot be rescheduled for students who were absent. Your two lowest-scoring review quizzes will be dropped.

GRADING SCALE