

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO AT MTSO

2009 Summer

June 25-26 & August 6-7, 2010

COS 212 – Theological Heritage: Early & Medieval

Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes

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Course overview and objectives:

Welcome to the history and theology of the church in its early centuries! This course will survey the first 1300 years of the church with interest in both its theological development and in the practice of Christian life. We will encounter a variety of fascinating individuals and engage in discussing several pivotal theological issues. Each segment of class will focus on particular themes or individuals so that you can become more closely acquainted with the world and faith of these Christians of our heritage. There will be far more material than you can absorb effectively in one course, but take heart--some of these writings will be worth putting on your shelf for reflection at a future point. Understanding your own faith and applying the insights of the past Christians can transform your life as it has throughout the history of the church.

Course Texts:

Roberta Bondi, *To Pray and to Love: Conversations on Prayer with the Early Church* (Fortress Press, 1991).

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 1

Other materials distributed in class; samples of past Christian writers.

Course Expectations and Assignments:

You are the ones that will determine the success of this course. Your attendance at class--mind and spirit, along with your body--is truly important. To insure that our discussion operates at the best possible level, make certain to complete the necessary reading before class. I have provided advance reading assignments and this will help to familiarize you with important individuals and events. A portion of your grade will be determined from your participation in class (10%). Your interest counts a lot; we love history, right?

Assignments:

I am asking each of you to complete FOUR different assignments that will help you to work with issues of this course in different settings. Two will be completed outside of class, and one in class response at the end of each weekend. Each written assignment

completed outside of class should be typed and submitted by the appropriate due date. Select one of the first two assignments, and complete it PRIOR to the second weekend of class. The other is due by August 23.

1. Biographical Response: Select one of the persons we have considered in this course and develop a sermon or adult study experience based upon this person. Becoming acquainted with someone from the history of the church is one of the best tools available for presenting the rich heritage of our Christian past. Make certain to incorporate appropriate background material to this person's life and faith experience. It also helps if you can incorporate primary materials, e.g. letters, writings, sermons, prayers, etc. from your character. Your sermon and or class outline should be 5-6 pages. I will distribute a list of possible figures during the first weekend of class. (25% of final grade)

2. Church History and the Media: Movies, music, and other multi-media sources often provide valuable resources of history and theology for our local churches. I would like you to select a media resource (I have several materials I will bring to class) and develop a strategy for using this in a church class or retreat. You identify the audience and event, then, provide a thoughtful and thorough outline about how you would use this media resource to introduce important theological and historical issues of our faith. (25% of final grade)

3. In-Class Theological Reflections: At the end of each weekend I will ask you to provide some written response, in class, to our reading and class discussion. This assignment will be open book, open notes—but will require you to complete your own work. I will ask you to reflect on key theological themes and identify the importance of individuals and issues we have discussed. We will practice these response assignments in class so that you have a clear idea of the information I want you to know and how to respond (Combined, 40% of course grade).

A word on writing relevant to all assignments: Learning to write clear and effective prose is a skill worthy of any ministry. I will not be too picky, but if I encounter too many grammar or spelling mistakes, I may return the paper to you. Remember, the COS has a writing coach, Margaret VanSickle; please use her to help with your papers BEFORE you turn them in, if you have questions or concerns. She is available by e-mail: mvansickle@mtso.edu.

Please Note: I expect all of your work to be completed as identified in the syllabus, but if there is a problem and your work will be late, talk to me BEFORE rather than after the fact. In most instances a reasonable penalty will be assessed to late work.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following a

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

Class Schedule:

The Early Church

Weekend #1, June 25-26

Friday: Presentation and Discussion Topics:

Course Introductions

The Church in the Empire: Experiences of the Early Christian Community

History as Biography and Martyrdom in the Early Church (The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas, class hand-out)

The Early Church at Worship

Reading: Gonzalez, 7-57

Saturday a.m.: Presentation and Discussion Topics:

Defending the Faith and Developing a Theological Vocabulary

The Gnostic Threat: Christianity Confronts Culture

Spiritual Contributions of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, Discussion: Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*

The Bible and Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church

Reading: Gonzalez, 58-108; Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*

Saturday p.m.: Presentation and Discussion Topics:

Church, State, and the Empire

The Council of Nicea: the Early Church Wrestles with Christology

Reading: Gonzalez, 113-180

Medieval Christianity

Weekend II August 6-7

Friday: Presentation and Discussion Topics:

The Theology and Spirituality of the Eastern Church

Augustine of Hippo: Grace, Faith, Salvation and Sacraments

On the Eve of the Christian Millennium

Reading: Gonzalez, 180-220

Saturday a.m.: Presentation and Discussion Topics:

Foundations of the Medieval World—Monks and Missionaries

Christian Empire in the East and the West

Social and Religious Structure in the Middle Ages

Reading: Gonzalez, 231-276

Saturday p.m.: Presentation and Discussion Topics:

Crusades: the Legacy of Christian Expansion

Faith seeking understanding: Medieval Christian Thought

The Spiritual Traditions of the Middle Ages, Contributions of Francis and Clare of Assisi

Class Conclusions

Reading: Gonzalez, 277-323; Francis and Clare of Assisi (class hand-outs)

Final Assignment Due by August 23 (Monday), there are no provisions for incomplete work in COS



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 COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO

COS 212

Theological Heritage: Early & Medieval

Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes

Summer Weekends 2010

			Retail Price	Disc.	Clergy Price
Required Books					
_____	<i>To Pray and to Love</i>	Bondi	16.00	20%	12.80
_____	<i>The Story of Christianity, vol. 1</i>	Gonzalez	23.99	0%	23.99

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