



**Course Syllabus**  
**WYH1010– History of Christianity I (to 843 CE)**  
**Wycliffe College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**Winter 2019**

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***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Thomas Power, PhD  
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Office Hours: By appointment

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***Course Identification***

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Course Number: WYH 1010  
Course Format: In-class  
Course Name: History of Christianity I (to 843 CE)  
Course Location: TBC  
Class Times: Tuesdays, 6.45 pm –9.45 pm  
Prerequisites: None

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***Course Description***

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The scope of the course extends from the sub-apostolic age to C.E. 843, a date representing the "Triumph of Orthodoxy" in the East and the end of the Carolingian revival and Treaty of Verdun in the West. Themes include: the geography of Christianity; the relation of Christian faith to its cultural settings; the relation of Christianity to other religions; the development of doctrinal and ethical positions; forms of Christian life, worship, and organization.

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***Course Resources***

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**Required Course Texts/Bibliography**

- Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity*, vol.1 San Francisco: 2010. [Abbreviated below as González] It is available from the University of Toronto Bookstore located College & St. George streets on the St. George campus: <https://uoftbookstore.com> for contact information.
- Alan L. Hayes (ed.) *Church and society in documents, 100-600 A.D.* Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 1995. [Electronic version available here: <http://go.utlib.ca/cat/10498041> (UTORid needed to access).] [Abbreviated below as Hayes]

**Course Website(s)**

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, under Courses in the left-hand menu, find the courses you are enrolled in. Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask your instructor for further help.

***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

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Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
<b>By the end of this course, students will have had an opportunity to demonstrate and enhance the following areas of vocational preparation:</b>	<b>This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:</b>	<b>This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the Wycliffe College outcomes statement for the professional programs:</b>
Locate, identify, and evaluate primary and secondary literature in the subject area, and be able to offer constructive critiques of the same.	Short paper 1 Library Workshop Tutorials on primary sources & secondary works Exam.	M.Div.: 2.2 MTS: 2.2, 2.3
Provide an outline of the main events, locations, ideas, and personalities in the early history of Christianity.	Lectures; tutorials; quizzes; papers; exam.	M.Div.: 1.4 MTS: 1.4
Appreciate the diversity of religious experiences in early Christianity.	Lectures; tutorials; quizzes; papers; exam.	M.Div.:1.4 MTS: 1.4
Make connections between issues and debates that have relevance for Christian life and ministry	Lectures; tutorials; Catechetical resource.	M.Div.:1.4 MTS: 1.4

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements**

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas:

- (1) Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be held based on secondary source readings for Weeks 2-11. Value: 20%.
- (2) Primary Source Analysis: Choose any document in A. Hayes. *Church and society in documents, 100-600 A.D.* Do a critical analysis of its authorship, purpose, context, and importance. Length: 5 pages. If you choose a document covered in Weeks 1-6 the due date is 12 Feb. 2019. If you chose a document covered in Weeks 7-12 the due date is 2 April 2019. Value: 25%.
- (3) Catechetical Resource: Based on the themes and topics addressed in the course, develop a catechetical resource for a church or para-church community. Length: 8-10 pages if in written format. It may be in the form of a syllabus. Video and power point formats may also be submitted. Due date: 2 April 2019. Value: 30%.
- (4) Here there are two choices:
  - i. Examination: Two-hour written examination. It will have two parts: a short-answer format wherein you are asked to explain the meaning and significance of names and terms used in the González text; and a summative essay in which you are asked to give an historical interpretation of a theme or topic covered in the course. The questions will be posted on Quercus in advance. Value: 25%. Date: 9 April 2019.

### **OR**

- ii. Short paper. Based on any theme or topic raised on the course. It should have a thesis statement, an exposition of the main points, and a conclusion. Please pre-approve with the instructor. Length: about 5 pages, 1.5 spaced. Value: 25%. Due date: 9 April 2019.

### **Grading System**

A+ (90-100)  
A (85-89)  
A- (80-84)  
B+ (77-79)  
B (73-76)  
B- (70-72)  
Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

**Late work.** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. One mark per day will be deducted for late submission of work. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the

course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

## ***Policies***

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of assignments before submitting them.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is

entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

***Email communication with the course instructor.*** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

### ***Course Schedule***

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#### **Week 1**

8 Jan. 2019

Course introduction:

Lecture: Geography of Belief & Sources of Study

Lecture: Cultural Context: Greece, Rome, and Judaism.

Tutorial: Historical Study of Christianity

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 1-5.

#### **Week 2**

15 Jan. 2019

Lecture: The Birth of Christianity

Lecture: Paul and the Expansion of Christianity

Tutorial: Information Resources for the Study of Early Christianity

(Library session)

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 7-39.
- Primary: Hayes, 3: Gospel of Thomas.

#### **Week 3**

22 Jan. 2019

Lecture: Early Conflict & Persecution

Lecture: Persecution in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century

Tutorial: Reading primary sources: Pliny/Trajan

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 41-58.
- Primary: Hayes, 1 Pliny-Trajan Correspondence; 8: Cyprian, Treatise to Demetrianus.

**Week 4**

29 Jan. 2019

Lecture: Defense of the Faith

Lecture: Shaping of Orthodoxy

Tutorial: Historical research &amp; writing: Secondary works

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 59-96.
- Primary: 4: Justin, Second Apology; 7: Origen, First Homily on the Song of Songs.

**Week 5**

5 Feb. 2019

Lecture: Christian Life

Lecture: Persecution 3<sup>rd</sup> Century and After

Tutorial: Perpetua

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 97-126.
- Primary: Hayes, 5 Martyrdom of Perpetua; 2: Didache; 6: Hippolytus? The Apostolic Tradition.

**Week 6**

12 Feb. 2019

Lecture: Constantine and the Imperial Church

Lecture: Augustine: Pillar of the Faith

Tutorial: Augustine: Philosopher &amp; Saint

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 129-155, 241-252.
- Primary: Hayes, 14 Augustine, Letter 211 (The Rule); Augustine, Confessions Bk. VIII  
(<https://www.ling.upenn.edu/courses/hum100/augustinconf.pdf>)

**Reading Week 18-22 Feb. 2019****Week 7**

26 Feb. 2019

Lecture: Monasticism as Radical Christianity

Lecture: Reactions: Donatism &amp; Pagan

Tutorial: The Making of the New Testament (Prepare by viewing the Codex Siniaticus <http://www.codexsiniaticus.org/en> and review the material in the links there under “What is the Codex Siniaticus?”<http://www.codexsiniaticus.org/en/codex>)

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 157-197
- Primary: Hayes, 13 Paulinus of Nola, Letter 29; 17 Antonius, The Life and Daily Mode of Living of Blessed Simeon the Stylite.

**Week 8**

5 Mar. 2019

Lecture: Controversy and the Shaping of Christian Doctrine 1

Lecture: Controversy and the Shaping of Christian Doctrine 2

Tutorial: Creeds as Expressions of Faith

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 199-239.
- Primary: Hayes, 9: Acts of the Council of Nicea; 11: Ambrose, Letters.

### **Week 9**

12 Mar. 2019

Lecture: Rise of Islam

Lecture: Threat of Iconoclasm

Tutorial: Just War Theory

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 253-261, 263-293.
- Primary: The Five Pillars of Islam (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/practices/fivepillars.shtml>); Canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council ([http://www.intratext.com/IXT/ENG0835/\\_P4V.HTM](http://www.intratext.com/IXT/ENG0835/_P4V.HTM))

### **Week 10**

19 Mar. 2019

Lecture: Byzantine Christianity

Lecture: Eastern Orthodoxy

Tutorial: Guest Speaker On Icons Symeon Van Donkelaar

(<https://www.vandonkelaar.ca>) Symeon is an artist who paints icons.

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 295-313; Lecture notes to be supplied by Symeon Van Donkelaar.
- Primary: Hayes, 10 Gregory Nazianzen, Letters 101, 102, 202 (Against the Apollinarians); 12 John Chrysostom, Homilies on the Gospel of St. John, 62; 16: Pope Leo I, The Tome.

### **Week 11**

26 Mar. 2019

Lecture: Imperial Restoration

Lecture: Evangelization of the West

Tutorial: The Rule of Benedict

Reading:

- Secondary: González, 315-325.
- Primary: The Rule of Benedict (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/benedict/rule>)

### **Week 12**

2 Apr. 2019

Lecture: Celtic Christianity

Lecture: The Legacy of the Early Church

Tutorial: Sharing of Catechetical Resource Projects

Reading:

- Secondary: T. Power, “Celtic Christianity and the Post-Modern Spiritual Quest” in Thomas P. Power, *Guide for the Christian Perplexed* (2012).
- Primary: Hayes 15: Patrick’s Confession; 18: Penitential of Columbanus.

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