

SYLLABUS REVISED 9/2/2010. PLEASE DISCARD ANY EARLIER COPIES.

RELIGION 840 426 01
MEDIEVAL STUDIES 667 481 01
SEMINAR IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION
THE EVOLUTION OF CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY 300-787 CE (3)

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Office hours: Tuesday 11-1, **and other times available—just ask!!!**
COURSE WEBSITE: www.rutgersonline.net

One Book (available at the Rutgers University Bookstore; it may also be available online for less \$--try www.addall.com): Rubenstein, Richard E. *When Jesus Became God. The Struggle to Define Christianity during the Last Days of Rome.* ISBN 0-15-601315-0

Most of the readings for the course are on the website for the course. Click on the tab for “Doc Sharing”.

Others are online at other websites; the links for these will appear in both this syllabus and in the “Webliography” at rutgersonline.net.

When readings are from an online source, you **MUST** print them out and bring them to class. Since we will often discuss texts paragraph-by-paragraph in the seminar, you need to have a copy in front of you.

The course has three kinds of requirements: reading, discussing, and writing. Evaluation will be based on all three.

Reading:

The instructor evaluates how thoroughly and thoughtfully students are reading in two ways:

1. For each Monday class period that has a reading assignment, there will be a threaded discussion on the course website. I will begin the discussion by proposing a question or series of questions. You must log in to each discussion **at least twice**:

first, to respond to my question(s) *by Sunday at 11:59 p.m.*

second, to respond to at least two of your classmates' responses *by Monday at 11 a.m.*

I will grade your participation in the threaded discussion each week. Standards for grading are posted at www.rutgersonline.net and will be discussed in class. At the end of the semester, your best 8 (out of 11) grades in these discussions will be averaged to determine 25% of your grade.

2. Although I will lecture sometimes—when historical background or particularly difficult concepts require it—an exciting, challenging, rewarding seminar is characterized by exciting, challenging, rewarding **student** discussion of the course material. Your participation (or lack thereof) in class will also reveal how carefully you are doing the reading. Standards for grading participation are posted at www.rutgersonline.net

Please remember to print out and bring online sources to class—it greatly facilitates discussion.

Discussion:

Class participation begins with attendance (see below) and includes a willingness to ask questions in class, active involvement in discussions, responses to questions raised in class, and attention to lectures and discussion. Participation standards are posted at this seminar's site at www.rutgersonline.net **Please familiarize yourself with these standards. Participation is an active and rewarding process which requires more than mere attendance.**

A note about the bare minimum for a seminar—attendance:

Students are required to attend all seminars. Aware, however, that illnesses, family crises, and such can make even the most diligent student miss class, the professor allows 3 absences without penalty. The 3 absences should be used only when you NEED to and are NOT negotiable. Do not use three absences because you just don't feel like attending and then expect a fourth absence when you are ill or have an emergency to be excused. For every absence beyond three, your grade will drop 1/3 of a grade-point (e.g., from A to B+, from B+ to B, from B to C+, and so on). Tardiness: being late to class twice will be equivalent to one absence—see the rules for attendance above. **IF, BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS, YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO CLASS ON TIME, YOU SHOULD DROP THE COURSE.**

Writing:

Preliminary writing assignments and a final paper will be explained in class and at www.rutgersonline.net. Remember that the professor is available (during office hours and/or by appointment) to provide extra assistance with finding a topic, writing rough drafts and outlines, tracking down sources, and other tasks. **It's what I'm here for, folks, and what you're paying for with your tuition. Submission of papers—details will be handed out in class.**

The grade in the course will break down *approximately* as follows:

The two preliminary writing assignments will **NOT** be graded, **but you can get a passing grade on the final paper only if you submit the pre-writing assignments**

Threaded discussions: 25%

Participation in class: 25%

Presentation of final project: 10%

Final paper: 40%

These percentages are approximate. It may become apparent, for example, that people want additional pre-writing assignments; there may be some short presentations early in the semester. Because a seminar is, in some ways, YOUR seminar, we cannot etch everything in stone before the semester starts.

Calendar of Assignments

Sept. 1: syllabus explanation, etc. No assignment.

Sept 6: LABOR DAY—NO CLASSES

SEPTEMBER 8th, A WEDNESDAY IN THE REST OF THE WORLD, IS A MONDAY HERE AT RUTGERS. ATTEND YOUR MONDAY CLASSES!

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Sept. 8: It's a Monday!!! Participate in online discussion

Proto-orthodoxy, Part 1: a general introduction to Christian identity.

Read: Richard A. Norris, Jr., "Articulating Identity," in *The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature*, ed. Frances Young et al. (Cambridge University Press, 2004), 71-90. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Sept. 13: Participate in online discussion.

Proto-orthodoxy, Part 2: separation of "Christianity" from "Judaism"

Read: Daniel Boyarin, "Justin Martyr Invents Judaism," *Church History* 70.3 (2001): 427-461. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Justin Martyr, "Dialogue with Trypho", Chapters 9-30. **Online at**

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf01.viii.iv.ix.html>

Link also posted on the "Webliography" at rutgersonline.

Sept. 15:

Proto-orthodoxy, Part 3: the invention of heretics and heresiology.

Averil Cameron, "Jews and Heretics—A Category Error?" in Reed and Becker, eds., *The Ways that Never Parted*, 345-60. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Kolbaba, Chapter 1, "Heresiology and the Invention of Heretics," 1-22. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses*, Book I, Preface, parts 1 and 2; Book I, chapters 23-26; Book III, Preface; Book III, chapters 1-5. **Online at** <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0103.htm>

Link also posted on the "Webliography" at rutgersonline.

Sept. 20: Participate in online discussion.

Church and Empire before the First Ecumenical Council

In the Bible: Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 13. **If you don't have access to a Bible, you can read the text online at**

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2013&version=NIV>

In the Bible: The Revelation to John, chapter 13 =

<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rev%2013&version=NIV>

Adolf Martin Ritter, "Church and State up to c. 300 C.E.," in *Cambridge History of Christianity* vol. 1, *Origins to Constantine*, pp. 524-537. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

This is not a LONG chapter, but it's a very difficult one. Take it slowly!!!!

Sept. 22: Governing the churches before the First Ecumenical Council

Stuart George Hall, "Institutions in the pre-Constantinian *ecclesia*," in *Cambridge History of Christianity*, vol. 1, pp. 415-433. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Stuart George Hall, "Ecclesiology forged in the wake of persecution," in *Cambridge History of Christianity*, vol. 1, pp. 470-483. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Preview of paper topics, instructions for papers and first writing assignment.

Students should begin taking the Rutgers University Libraries' tutorial on research methods. To do so, go to <http://searchpath.libraries.rutgers.edu/> and follow the instructions. You must submit your "quiz" results for all six modules to Prof. Kolbaba (kolbaba@rci.rutgers.edu) by Oct. 6. **The earlier you do this, the better; it is VERY helpful for putting together a paper topic and, later, writing the paper!!!!** Your efforts in this matter will not be graded, but failure to complete all six modules not only affects your ability to write a great research paper; I will subtract 1/3 grade

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from the final paper grade for anyone who did not complete all six modules and submit evidence to me (kolbaba@rci.rutgers.edu).

September 27: Participate in online discussion.

Councils and their function before the First Ecumenical Council

Reading: Canons of the Council of Ankyra, 314. Available online at

<http://www.voskrese.info/spl/ancycanon.html>

September 29: First Nicea—preliminaries and theological decisions

The first part of Lewis Ayres, "Articulating Identity," in *Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature*, pp. 414-427. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Rubenstein, *When Jesus became God*, 1-67. **Book to be purchased—see top of the syllabus.**

October 4: Participate in online discussion.

First Nicea—the Council (325) to around 350

The second part of Ayres, "Articulating Identity," 428-436. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Rubenstein, 68-148.

First pre-writing assignment due BEFORE CLASS BEGINS in the dropbox for this course at rutgersonline.net.

October 6: To First Constantinople (around 350-380)

Ayres, "Articulating Identity," 436-446. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Rubenstein, 149-231.

Quiz results from all six modules of the library tutorial on research (<http://searchpath.libraries.rutgers.edu/>) due in Prof. Kolbaba's e-mail INBOX (kolbaba@rci.rutgers.edu).

October 11: Participate in online discussion

Where we are at the end of the fourth century

Lim, "Christian Triumph and Controversy," in Brown et al, eds., *Interpreting Late Antiquity*, pp. 196-218. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

October 13: Introducing the "Nestorian" and "Monophysite" controversies—a basic historical outline.

Price and Gaddis, *Acts of Chalcedon*, vol. 1, 7-37. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

October 18: Participate in online discussion

"Nestorian" and "Monophysite" controversies, Part 2

Price and Gaddis, vol. 1, 37-75. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

October 20 and 25: Class does not meet: THIS IS NOT A VACATION!!!! You have TWO things to do this week:

1. It's time to put together a coherent, narrow topic for your research paper, along with a bibliography and plan for research. Each of you will work closely with Professor Kolbaba to get this together. You are REQUIRED to meet with me at least twice in these two weeks—once to discuss your first writing assignment, my comments on that assignment, and ideas you might pursue as you focus your topic. The second meeting should be more detailed and organized,

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with a draft proposal for your paper and a bibliography of sources you will use (no less than 5, no more than 10 items for this early bibliography). You MAY meet with me more often; all you have to do is ask. **On October 27, everyone will submit a final version of the proposal and bibliography.**

2. The reading assignment for discussion in class October 27 is difficult—get STARTED!

Look up words and phrases you don't understand or e-mail the professor for definitions. This is a tough chapter, but it's worth some hard work.

October 27: Second pre-writing assignment due BEFORE CLASS BEGINS in the dropbox at rutgersonline.net

Ephesus I and II

Michael Gaddis, Chapter 8, "Non Iudicium sed Latrocinium [Not a Trial but a Council of Thieves]," in *There is No Crime for Those Who Have Christ*, 283-322. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline**

November 1: Participate in online discussion.

Continued discussion of Ephesus I and II.

November 3: Developments in the fifth century: the "Select Fathers" and the Council of Chalcedon, part 1

Patrick T.R. Gray, "'The Select Fathers'. Canonizing the Patristic Past," *Studia patristica* 23 (1989): 21-36. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Price and Gaddis, **vol. 1: 111-21; 128 #4 – 132 #23; 134 #26 – 136 #46; 140 #53 – 143 #66; 152 # 122 – 153 #134; 155 #149-150; 194 #332 – 195 #337; 222 #530; 269 #851 – 271 #862; 364 #1068 – 365 [end].**

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November 8: Participate in online discussion

Chalcedon part 2

Patrick T. R. Gray, "The Legacy of Chalcedon. Christological Problems and their Significance," in *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian*, ed. Michael Maas, pp. 215-222. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Price and Gaddis, **vol. 2: 1-5; 9 #2 – 13 #15; 29-37; 41 #5 – 46 #22; 50 #38; 53-57 #51; 69-70 #94; 117-120; 164-165; 183-191; 201 #30 – 205 #36. Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

November 10: Aftermath of Chalcedon, part 1, through 2 Constantinople

Gray, "Legacy of Chalcedon," pp. 222-236.

Price and Gaddis, vol. 2: 250-252, **254 #4 – 255 #16. Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

The texts of the Second Council of Constantinople, online at

<http://www.piar.hu/councils/ecum05.htm>

November 15: Participate in online discussion

Justinian and later—Constantinople III and its aftermath.

Patrick T.R. Gray, "Forged Forgeries: Constantinople III and the Acts of Constantinople II," paper delivered at the Byzantine Studies Conference, October 2005. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**

Documents of the Third Council of Constantinople, online at

<http://www.piar.hu/councils/ecum06.htm>

November 17: Iconoclasm--introduction

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Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium: "Iconoclasm," "Icons". **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**
Begin reading Peter Brown, "A Dark Age Crisis: Aspects of the Iconoclastic Controversy," in Brown, *Society and the Holy in Late Antiquity*, 251-301. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**
We will discuss it only next week (11/22), but it's long and tough to understand.

November 22: Participate in online discussion.

Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium, "Hieria, Local Council of" **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**
Brown, "Dark Age Crisis" —finish. **50 pages of TOUGH reading. Allow yourself time.**
Texts of the Council of Hieria 754 online at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/iconocncl754.html> -- NOT the "Excursus" that follows the main text—just the text itself.

NOVEMBER 24—NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

November 29 : Participate in online discussion

Judith Herrin, *Women in Purple. Rulers of Medieval Byzantium*, 34-50. **Doc Sharing at rutgersonline.**
Definitions and anathemas of the Second Council of Nicea, online at <http://www.piar.hu/councils/ecum07.htm> -- only the definition and anathemas; stop before canons.

December 1: Although there is no reading assigned for today, we will probably continue discussion of iconoclasm. Then again, we are often behind schedule by this point in the course, so we may need this day for a buffer. Updates to the syllabus will be announced in class.

December 6 Student presentations (4) *

December 8 Student presentations (4) *

December 10 Student presentations (4) *

December 12 Student presentations (4) *

Final papers due BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.

***Schedule of student presentations will vary depending upon enrollment in the seminar.**