

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

**TITLE:** Foundations of the Christian Story

**TERM:** Fall 2018-2019

**PROFESSOR:** Kenneth Woo

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: 5

UNLIMITED X  
NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course surveys the history of Christianity from the late first century to the eve of the Reformation. Doctrinal and ecclesial developments will be considered within wider cultural contexts, with special attention to different ways of interpreting the biblical witness to Christ and life in Christ, and how they contribute to a shared, yet dynamic, Christian theological heritage.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

Students will be able to describe key figures and events of early and medieval Christianity within their cultural and political contexts. Students will be able to discuss theological issues that shaped, and continue to shape, Christian faith and traditions. Students will gain a historical framework for understanding the development of Christian doctrine, practices, and institutions that will prepare them for further theological study.

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:**

#### **Required:**

Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, vol. 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (HarperOne, 2010) ISBN 006185588X

*The Desert Fathers: Sayings of the Early Christian Monks*, trans. B. Ward. (Penguin, 2003) ISBN 0140447318

Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation*, (St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1993) ISBN 0881414271

Anselm of Canterbury, *The Major Works*, trans. B. Davies and G. R. Evans (Oxford University Press, 1998) ISBN 0192825259

Frederick C. Bauerschmidt, *Holy Teaching: Introducing the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Brazos, 2005) ISBN 1587430355

Other texts provided online (MYPTS).

#### **Recommended:**

Elizabeth A. Clark, ed., *Women in the Early Church* (Liturgical Press, 1983) ISBN 0814653324

Denis R. Janz, ed., *A People's History of Christianity, Vol 1: From the Early Church to the Reformation* (Fortress, 2014) ISBN 145147024X

Kevin Madigan, *Medieval Christianity* (Yale, 2015) ISBN 0300216777

Patricia Cox Miller, *Women in Early Christianity: Translations from Greek Texts* (Catholic University of America, 2005) ISBN 0813214173

Robert Louis Wilken, *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God* (Yale, 2005) ISBN 0300105983

Frances Young, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010) ISBN 0801039150

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

Class participation (10%); Midterm exam (20%); Two short papers (20% each); Final exam (30%)

**ATTENDANCE:** Required.