

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 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Kenneth J. 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*, 2nd ed. (HarperOne, 2010) 978-0061855887, \$22.39
- Benedicta Ward, *The Desert Fathers: Sayings of the Early Christian Monks* (Penguin, 2003) 978-0140447316, \$14.99
- Athanasius of Alexandria, *On the Incarnation*, (St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1993) 978-0881414271, \$15.92
- Anselm of Canterbury, *The Major Works*, trans. B. Davies and G. R. Evans (Oxford University Press, 1998) 978-0199540082, \$11.11
- Frederick C. Bauerschmidt, *Holy Teaching: Introducing the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Brazos, 2005) 978-1587430350, \$21.62
- Other texts provided online (Canvas)

Recommended:

- Elizabeth A. Clark, ed., *Women in the Early Church* (Liturgical Press, 1983) 978-0814653326, \$16.23
- Denis R. Janz, ed., *A People's History of Christianity, Vol 1: From the Early Church to the Reformation* (Fortress, 2014) 978-1451470536, \$35.32
- Patricia Cox Miller, *Women in Early Christianity: Translations from Greek Texts* (Catholic University of America, 2005) 978-0813214177, \$34.95
- Robert Louis Wilken, *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God* (Yale, 2005) 978-0300105988, \$19.79
- Frances Young, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010) 978-0801039157, \$27.07

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Class participation and reading reflections (20%); Two short papers (25% each); Final exam (30%)

ATTENDANCE: Required