

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: Ryan Ramsey

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:

- Dale Irvin and Scott Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement, Volume I* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2001); ISBN: 978-1570753961, \$39.69.
- Other texts provided online (Canvas)

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Class participation (10%), weekly quizzes (20%), two short close-reading papers (10% each), and two case studies (25% each)

ATTENDANCE: Required