

Christian Thought

PHIL 3220, Spring 2017



Good Shepherd Mausoleum of Galla Placidia; Ravenna, Italy

What you will learn in this course

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- define and use basic vocabulary of Christian thought,
- describe and critically analyze the arguments of several significant Christian thinkers,
- identify examples of both diversity and continuity within Christian tradition,
- explain developments and changes in Christian thought in relation to various historical and contextual factors, and
- identify ways in which Christian thought has influenced historical, political, and philosophical developments around the world.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy Program by enabling students better to:

- discuss the general historical development of the discipline of philosophy, including the views of at least three major historical figures of philosophy,
- incorporate a philosophical position in oral and written communications,
- critically outline and analyze philosophical issues, and
- exhibit critical thinking skills.

What this course is about

In this course, we trace the development of important historical trends in Catholic and Protestant Christian thought. Some of the specific areas covered include theology, ethics, mysticism, and political theory. Two areas of special focus will be (1) the role of the body in Christian thought and (2) historical and contemporary Christian attitudes regarding poverty and wealth. Another major emphasis of this course is the influence Christian thought has had on Western philosophy more generally.

Contact info and meeting times

Instructor Dr. Rosemary Kellison

Office TLC 2245

Office hours Mon. 10-12 & 1-3, Tues. 3:20-4:30, Thurs. 1-1:45 & 3:20-4:30, and by appointment

Email rkelliso@westga.edu

Phone 678.839.5514

Classroom Humanities 205

Meeting time Tues./Thurs. 11-12:15

Course website

<https://westga.view.usg.edu>

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXTS

A customized **course packet** is available for purchase at UWG Bookstore. You must purchase this packet. This course packet is referred to as CT on the course schedule below.

Other required readings will be posted as **PDFs on CourseDen**.

You are required to bring the readings to class with you on the days we are scheduled to discuss them.

ASSESSMENT

GRADING OVERVIEW

Participation (16%) To earn an excellent participation grade, you must:

- come to class on time each day.
When you are not in class, you cannot participate, nor can you engage in the very important parts of learning that take place only in the classroom. Therefore, you are expected to attend class every day. Documentation of an illness, emergency, or other approved university-approved reason for absence must be provided in order for an absence to be excused. After two unexcused absence, a 1-point deduction will be taken from your final course grade for each additional unexcused absence. Additionally, because late arrivals and early departures also inhibit your ability to participate, along with disrupting other students' learning, late arrivals and early departures will also lead to deductions from your final course grade.
- be attentive during class, which requires putting away your phones, tablets, and laptops (except to reference assigned readings), staying awake and engaged, and not talking while others are speaking.
- bring the assigned reading to class and be prepared to reference it.
- participate in class discussions in a way that demonstrates familiarity with and critical thinking about the assigned readings and shows respect for fellow classmates.

Your participation will be assessed according to a rubric (available on CourseDen) that measures your conduct and respect for others, use of the readings, quality of reasoning, and frequency of contributions. Participation will be graded three times throughout the semester (once every five weeks); each Participation grade is worth 5.33% of your final course grade.

Daily Reading Quizzes (33%) While completing the assigned reading for each class day, you will respond to a quiz consisting of one or two short-answer questions. These quizzes are intended to help you become a more critical reader and to prepare you for informed participation in class discussion. Your highest 24 (out of 28 total) quiz grades will count toward your final grade; each is worth 1.375% of your final grade. Reading quizzes are due every class day (beginning on Jan. 17) at 11:00 a.m. and will be submitted online through CourseDen. No late reading quizzes will be accepted.

Midterm Take-Home Essay Exams (36%) Three essay exams will be assigned throughout the semester. These open-book, open-note, non-cumulative exams are designed to assess your learning of the material from each portion of the course. Each midterm exam is worth 12% of your final grade.

Final Take-Home Essay Exam (15%) Your final essay exam will be formatted similarly to your midterm exams, but will be slightly longer. Though it will focus on material from the final portion of the course, it is a cumulative exam that will also reference materials from earlier in the semester.

Late exam policy: A 25% deduction will be assessed immediately when an exam becomes late. An additional 25% deduction will be assessed for each consecutive day that the exam is late. (This means that if you turn in your exam 2 days late, and your exam earns an 85%, your grade will be a 35%.)

Grading Scale: A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 0-59

COURSE POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Violation of the honor code will incur serious consequences. Please review the academic honor policy at <http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm> and consult with Dr. Kellison if you have any questions. If you commit a violation of the honor code, you will receive a minimum penalty of a 0 for the assignment. In keeping with UWG's recently revised policy on academic dishonesty, your offense will also be reported to the Student Conduct Specialist in the Division of Student Affairs. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

UNIVERSITY EMAIL POLICY

For privacy and security reasons, you must email professors only from your MyUWG email account. You are expected to check that account regularly.

UNIVERSITY CLOSURE POLICY

Should UWG cancel classes due to inclement weather or any other reason, our course will continue. You are responsible for checking CourseDen and your UWG email for information on how our course will proceed.

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability, you are entitled to accommodations. Contact UWG Disability Services for more information, and email Dr. Kellison your SAR immediately in order to obtain accommodations.

FOR HONORS STUDENTS

Any student wishing to receive honors credit for this course must bring the appropriate paperwork and ask Dr. Kellison for approval immediately; Honors Contracts are due by the end of the second week of classes.

For more details on accommodations for students with disabilities, UWG's email policy, UWG's Honor Code, and UWG's credit hour policy, visit <http://www.westga.edu/~bjames/CommonLanguageForCourseSyllabi.htm>.

COURSE CALENDAR

Subject to change with advanced notice

Date	Reading/Assignment
T 1/10	Introduction to course and syllabus
Ancient Christian Thought	
R 1/12	Gospel of Mark (in CT ch. 1)
T 1/17	Paul, Epistle to the Romans (in CT ch. 1) <i>Quiz 1 due 11 am</i>
R 1/19	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XI.2-3,17; XIV.1-3,6-7 (in CT ch. 2) <i>Quiz 2 due 11 am</i>
T 1/24	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XIV.10-11, 3-24 (in CT ch. 2) <i>Quiz 3 due 11 am</i>
R 1/26	Augustine, <i>City of God</i> XIV.25,27-28; XV.4; XXII.3,21-22,30; and <i>Letter to Boniface</i> excerpt (in CT ch. 2) <i>Quiz 4 due 11 am</i>
M 1/30	<i>Take-Home Midterm #1 due 11:59 pm</i>
Medieval Christian Thought	
T 1/31	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II q. 1, a. 1,4,7; q. 2, a. 8; q. 3, a. 8; q. 5, a. 1,3,7; q. 8, a. 1 (in CT ch. 3) <i>Quiz 5 due 11 am</i>
R 2/2	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II q. 55, a. 1-3; q. 58, a. 2; q. 61, a. 2; q. 62, a. 1; and II-II q. 47, a. 4,6-8 (in CT ch. 3) <i>Quiz 6 due 11 am</i>
T 2/7	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II q. 90, a. 2; q. 94, a. 1-6; q. 95, a. 1 (in CT ch. 3) <i>Quiz 7 due 11 am</i>
R 2/9	Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> , II-II q. 10, a. 1,6,8; and <i>Summa contra Gentiles</i> I.3-4,6-7 (in CT ch. 3) <i>Quiz 8 due 11 am</i>
T 2/14	Catherine of Siena, <i>The Dialog of Divine Providence</i> excerpts (in CT ch. 4) <i>Quiz 9 due 11 am</i>
R 2/16	Julian of Norwich, <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> excerpts (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 10 due 11 am</i>
T 2/21	Caroline Walker Bynum, "The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages," pgs. 181-205 (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 11 due 11 am</i>
R 2/23	Caroline Walker Bynum, "The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages," pgs. 205-38 (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 12 due 11 am</i>
M 2/27	<i>Take-Home Midterm #2 due 11:59 pm</i>

The Reformation and Development of Protestant Christian Thought	
T 2/28	Martin Luther, "An Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation" (in CT ch. 5) <i>Quiz 13 due 11 am</i>
R 3/2	Martin Luther, "Secular Authority: To What Extent it Should Be Obeyed" (in CT ch. 5) <i>Quiz 14 due 11 am</i> <i>Last day to withdraw with grade of W (by 4 p.m., subject to Limited Withdrawals Policy)</i>
T 3/7	Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian" (in CT ch. 5) <i>Quiz 15 due 11 am</i>
R 3/9	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> 1.6, 1.16-17, 2.1, 2.3 (in CT ch. 6) <i>Quiz 16 due 11 am</i>
T 3/14	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> 2.7, 3.20-21 (in CT ch. 6) <i>Quiz 17 due 11 am</i>
R 3/16	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> 3.22-24 (in CT ch. 6) <i>Quiz 18 due 11 am</i>
M 3/27	<i>Take-Home Midterm #3 due 11:59 pm</i>
20 th –21 st -Century Christian Thought on Labor, Poverty, and Wealth	
T 3/28	Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , pgs. 1-16 (in CT ch. 7) <i>Quiz 19 due 11 am</i>
R 3/30	Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , pgs. 16-35 (in CT ch. 7) <i>Quiz 20 due 11 am</i>
T 4/4	Dorothy Day, <i>Catholic Worker</i> and <i>House of Hospitality</i> excerpts (in CT ch. 8) <i>Quiz 21 due 11 am</i>
R 4/6	Mother Teresa, "On Poverty and the Poor" (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 22 due 11 am</i>
T 4/11	James H. Cone, "The Content and Method of Black Theology" (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 23 due 11 am</i>
R 4/13	James H. Cone, "God and Black Suffering: Calling the Oppressors to Account" (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 24 due 11 am</i>
T 4/18	<i>Quiz 25 due 11 am</i>
R 4/20	Frederick C. Harris, "Entering the Promised Land? The Rise of Prosperity Gospel and Post-Civil Rights Black Politics" (on CourseDen) <i>Quiz 26 due 11 am</i>
The Influence of Christian Thought on Modern Western Political Philosophy	
T 4/25	<i>Quiz 27 due 11 am</i>
R 4/27	<i>Quiz 28 due 11 am</i>
F 5/5	<i>Take-Home Final Exam due 11:59 pm</i>