

**Alabama Course of Study
Birmingham-Southern College
Spring Session 2019
March 15-16 and April 5-6
Assignments and Course Requirements**

Course: COS 222 - Theological Heritage II: Early Church
Instructor: Roger Short
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Outcomes:

This course focuses on the history and theology of the Church through the first five centuries. Using primary sources, students will reflect on significant individuals, events, and the articulation of the Christian faith during this period. Students will be able to:

- Understand and articulate the doctrine of the Trinity and the historical debates in the early Church around the person and nature of Christ.
- Understand and articulate a doctrine of salvation in light of the controversies of the early church.
- Understand the history and significance of the creeds and ecumenical councils.
- Appropriate historical theology for pastoral ministry.

Primary Texts (Required Reading):

- Bondi, Roberta. *To Love as God Loves*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1987. (ISBN 9780800620417)
- Gonzalez, Justo. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2nd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. (ISBN 9780061855887)

Reference Text (Not Required):

- Bettenson, Henry, and Chris Maunder. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, USA, 2011. (ISBN 9780199568987)

Pre-Course Assignments:

- Read [The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation](#), chapters 1-28 (pp. 1-313), taking notes on the important issues. Bring the notes to class sessions, but do not submit them to the instructor for grading.
- Read [To Love as God Loves](#), taking notes on the important issues. Bring the notes to class sessions, but do not submit them to the instructor for grading.
- Christian Salvation - Write a paper describing the doctrine of salvation as you understand it. In the paper illuminate the similarities and differences between

salvation as you understand it and salvation as understood by Mani the Prophet, Augustine of Hippo, Pelagius, and Irenaeus of Lyon. You may use reliable sources of information other than the texts required for this course, but if you do, then provide your entire list of references on a separate sheet of paper.

Grading: No credit will be given for a paper that fails to describe the student's understanding of the doctrine of salvation or fails to address salvation as understood by at least three of the four historical persons listed above (Mani the Prophet, Augustine of Hippo, Pelagius, and Irenaeus of Lyon). Passing credit will be given for a paper that describes the student's understanding of the doctrine of salvation and addresses salvation as understood by three or more of the four historical persons listed above (Mani the Prophet, Augustine of Hippo, Pelagius, and Irenaeus of Lyon) in eight or fewer pages of typed, double-spaced, relevant, sensible writing. The highest grade will be given for a paper that describes the student's understanding of salvation and addresses salvation as understood by all four of the historical persons listed above (Mani the Prophet, Augustine of Hippo, Pelagius, and Irenaeus of Lyon) in eight or fewer pages of typed, double-spaced, relevant, sensible writing and that demonstrates mastery of the required reading from the primary textbooks and/or from other documented sources. **This writing assignment must be delivered to the course instructor on Friday, March 15, 2019.**

Mid-Course Assignment:

- Early Church Councils - Write a paper describing four ecumenical councils of the first five centuries, i.e., Council of Nicea (325 A.D.), Council of Constantinople (381 A.D.), Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.), and Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) In the paper include the major doctrinal issues addressed, the theological arguments voiced, and the summary decisions made by each of the councils, respectively. You may use reliable sources of information other than the texts required for this course, but if you do, then provide your entire list of references on a separate sheet of paper.

Grading: No credit will be given for a paper that describes fewer than three of the four ecumenical councils listed above, their respective major doctrinal issues, theological arguments voiced, and summary decisions. Passing credit will be given for a paper that describes three or more of the four ecumenical councils listed above, their respective major doctrinal issues, theological arguments voiced, and summary decisions in eight or fewer pages of typed, double-spaced, relevant, sensible writing. The highest grade will be given for a paper that describes all four of the ecumenical councils listed above, their respective major doctrinal issues, theological arguments voiced, and summary decisions in eight or fewer pages of typed, double-spaced, relevant, sensible writing and that demonstrates mastery of the required reading from the primary textbooks and/or from other documented sources. **This paper is due on the second Friday that the class meets, April 5, 2019.**

PreCourse / MidCourse / PostCourse Work Policy

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All PreCourse and MidCourse work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late PreCourse/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:
 1. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**
 2. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**
 3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of “F” will be given in the course.
 4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**
- **PostCourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.

About Students' Original Writing:

Please submit the completed assignments to the instructor. Keep a copy of your work. Type your work if possible. Please do not use binders of any kind. Use the Alabama Course of Study cover sheet and staple your work in the top left corner. Write using your own words. Don't merely quote from authors. **When you do quote, paraphrase, or allude to the textbooks, please use internal documentation, giving the page number of the material that you are referencing, for example: “The earliest Christians did not consider themselves followers of a new religion” (González, 27).**

Course Grading:

- 25% of each student's final grade will be determined by the grade earned for the “Christian Salvation” writing assignment.
- 25% of each student's final grade will be determined by the grade earned for the “Early Church Councils” writing assignment.
- 25% of each student's final grade will be determined by the grade earned for in class participation and in-class assignments.
- 25% of each student's final grade will be determined by the grade earned by taking a comprehensive final examination on the last day of classes.