

CLAS 262-500: Great Books of Christian Antiquity and the Latin Middle Ages

Spring 2019

TR 9:35-10:50

PETR 106

Instructor: Justin Lake

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Course Description: This course surveys some of the most important works of literature, history, and philosophy from Christian Late Antiquity and the Latin Middle Ages. Emphasis is placed on texts written in Latin, the learned language that bound together literate men and women, and created a unified culture in Western Europe during the Middle Ages. We will devote particular attention to two aspects of our readings: 1) Morality: how do our texts dramatize and/or explain the motives and consequences of human action? What constitutes a good life? How do the doctrines of Christianity structure human life? 2) Mentality: what assumptions about personal morality, social structure, and political organization are implicit in our sources, and how have these assumptions changed over time? This is a reading-intensive class. Students should expect to read between 150-250 pages every week.

Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

- assess in writing the historical importance and ongoing cultural relevance of each one of the texts that we have read.
- describe in essays and in response papers the development of ideas about personal morality and man's relationship to religion and society as reflected in the assigned texts.

Core Objectives:

Critical Thinking: Students will enhance their critical thinking skills through close reading of texts that were written for people who were far removed from our own day and had very different views on almost all aspects of life. Students will be challenged to recognize not merely the most obvious differences in shared beliefs and mentalities, but also the unspoken assumptions revealed by our texts.

Communication: Students will develop spoken communications skills through in-depth discussion of assigned readings in class and written communication skills through response papers in which they will be required to engage closely with particular topics (e.g., how does the ideal of Benedictine monasticism in the *Rule* compare to the reality depicted in Jocelin of Brakelond's *Chronicle*?), and through essays on the Mid-Term and Final Exam.

Social Responsibility: This course is organized in part around the study of morality and value ('What makes for a worthwhile life?' 'What is man's proper relationship to God?') in the Middle Ages. Students will be challenged to cultivate an appreciation for the different belief systems of medieval society and to consider with empathy ways of thinking that are alien - and sometimes offensive - to us.

Personal Responsibility: Students will cultivate personal responsibility by reflecting on topics conducive to personal growth, including (but not limited to): the proper relationship between citizen and state; tolerance of dissent in society; and the conflict between ideals and reality in human life.

Prerequisites: none

Required Texts*

Augustine, *On Christian Teaching*, trans. R.P.H. Green (OUP, 2008)
John F. Benton, *Self and Society in Medieval France* (University of Toronto, 1984)
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*, trans. Joel C. Relihan (Hackett, 2001)
Bonaventure, *Life of Francis*, trans. Ewert Cousins (HarperOne, 2009)
Michael Clanchy, ed. and trans., *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Penguin, 2004)
Einhard and Notker the Stammerer, *Two Lives of Charlemagne*, trans. David Ganz (Penguin, 2008)
Haimo of Auxerre, *Commentary on the Book of Jonah*, trans. Deborah Everhart (Medieval Institute Publications, 1993)
Jocelin of Brakelond, *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds*, trans. Diana Greenway and Jane Sayers (OUP, 2009)
Pauline M. Matarasso, ed., *The Cistercian World: Monastic Writings of the Twelfth Century* (Penguin, 1993)
Edward Peters, ed., *The First Crusade: 'The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres' and Other Sources*, 2nd edition (University of Pennsylvania, 1998)
Caroline Smith, trans., *Joinville and Villehardouin: Chronicles of the Crusades*
The Rule of Benedict, ed. Carolinne White, (Penguin, 2008)

** Please note that students are not necessarily required to purchase the specific editions listed above. In some cases quality translations are available for free on-line.

Grading: Your grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

Response Papers:	30%
Mid-Term Examination	25%
Attendance	10%
Final exam:	35%

* **Please note that there will be no opportunity for extra credit.**

Grading Scale: A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = below 60

Response Papers: Students must complete 3 of the 4 assigned response papers (all four may be completed, in which case only the three highest grades will be used). Each paper should be about 750-1000 words, and no longer than 1250 words. Papers will be graded on content (40%) (in particular, how much evidence from the readings has been introduced into the argument), organization/clarity (40%), and grammar/style (20%). For every day that a response paper is handed in late, five (5) points will be deducted from the student's grade.

Attendance and Preparation: Regular attendance is a prerequisite for success in this class. You will receive two (2) free unexcused absences. Every unexcused absence after this point will

result in a two-point deduction from your attendance grade (here counted as ten (10) points), to a maximum of the full ten points.

Absences: Absences will be excused if there is a university-excused absence. Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07> for current policy on university-excused absences. You are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to me to substantiate the reason for the absence.

In accordance with University Student Rule 7.1.6.1 and 7.1.6.2, for illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary.

Make-up exams will be given in accordance with University regulations (Student Rule 7.3); you will normally be expected to make up any missed exam on or before the next available class day. No make-ups will be allowed for unexcused absences (see Rule 7.4). Excused absences will not affect negatively a student's attendance/participation grade, but in the case of an absence you are responsible for completing any missed work and obtaining notes from your fellow students.

Academic Integrity: *An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.* You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek Complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Christians and Pagans

Tuesday, Jan. 15: Augustine, *City of God* 1-2

Thursday, Jan. 17: Augustine, *City of God* 3-5

Week 2: Augustine on Teaching Christianity

Tuesday, Jan. 22: Augustine, *On Christian Teaching* 1-2

Thursday, Jan. 24: Augustine, *On Christian Teaching* 3-4

Week 3: The Waning of Antiquity

Tuesday, Jan. 29: Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* 1-3

Thursday, Jan. 31: Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* 4-5 [First Response Paper Due]

Week 4: Monasticism I: Benedict and the Rule

Tuesday, Feb. 5: Gregory the Great, *The Life and Miracles of Saint Benedict*

Thursday, Feb. 7: *The Rule of St. Benedict*

Week 5: Carolingian Biography

Tuesday, Feb. 12: Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*

Thursday, Feb. 14: Notker the Stammerer, *The Deeds of Charlemagne* [Second Response Paper Due]

Week 6: Biblical Exegesis

Tuesday, Feb. 19: Haimo of Auxerre, *Commentary on Jonah*

Thursday, Feb. 21: Bernard of Clairvaux, *Three Sermons on the Song of Songs*

Week 7: Christian Warfare: The First Crusade

Tuesday, Feb. 26: Preliminaries to Crusade [Peter, pp. 25-45, and Madden, *A Concise History of the Crusades*, pp. 1-36]

Thursday, Feb. 28: Fulcher of Chartres, *Chronicle* [In Peters, pp. 47-101]

Week 8: A Monastic Memoir I

Tuesday, March 5: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Thursday, March 7: Guibert of Nogent, *Memoirs* Book 1

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 11-15

Week 9: A Monastic Memoir II

Tuesday, March 20: Guibert of Nogent, *Memoirs* Book 2

Thursday, March 22: Guibert of Nogent, *Memoirs* Book 3

Week 10: Monasticism in Practice

Tuesday, March 26: Jocelin of Brakelond, *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds*, pp. 3-72.

Thursday, March 28: Jocelin of Brakelond, *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds*, pp. 73-122
[Third Response Paper Due]

Week 11: Royal Biography

Tuesday, April 2: Jean of Joinville, *Life of Louis*, pp. 137-224

Thursday, April 4: Jean of Joinville, *Life of Louis*, pp. 225-336

Week 12: Later Medieval Hagiography

Tuesday, April 9: Bonaventure, *Life of St. Francis*, pp. 1-78

Thursday, April 11: Bonaventure, *Life of St. Francis*, pp. 79-170

Week 13: Peter Abelard

Tuesday, April 16: *History of My Misfortunes*

Thursday, April 18: Selected Letters

Week 14: Scholasticism

Tuesday, April 23: Peter Abelard, *Sic et Non* (Prologue and excerpts)

Thursday, April 25: Thomas Aquinas, Proof of God's Existence (*Summa contra gentiles* 1.9-14)
[Fourth Reponse Paper Due]

Date/Time: FINAL EXAMINATION