

HISR 9301 SUPERVISED READING COLLOQUIUM: EARLY CHRISTIANITY

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Fall Semester 2008-2009 Session
Professors Butler and Holcomb
Tuesday 2:30 - 5:00 PM
Dodd Conference Room

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of NOBTS is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

CORE VALUES FOCUSED

Doctrinal Integrity, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Spiritual and Character Formation

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HISR 9301 is a doctoral reading and discussion forum addressing the area of early Christian history. It is designed to help students augment their bibliographical knowledge of early Christianity in preparation for qualifying and

oral examinations. Pertinent primary and secondary sources will be read, reviewed, and discussed by colloquium participants. Attention will be given to development of reading skills and to the construction of critical book reviews. Students are expected to attend all sessions of the colloquium, present carefully prepared reviews following the guidelines detailed below, and participate faithfully and vigorously in discussions.

COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

The colloquium will convene on the following Tuesdays:

August 19 – Overview of syllabus and of early Christian historiography --
Semester assignments

September 9 – Examination and critique of selected book reviews published
in professional journals

September 16

Trudy Penton - review of Chadwick, *The Early Church*
Bill Hughes - review of Von Campenhausen - *The Fathers of the Church*
Christopher Black - review of Hazlett, *Early Christianity*

September 30

Trudy - review of J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*
Bill - review of Joseph F. Kelly, *The World of the Early Christians*
Christopher - review of Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*

October 14

Trudy - review of Filoramo, *A History of Gnosticism*
Bill - review of J.N.D. Kelly, *Jerome: His Life, Writings, and Controversies*
Christopher - review of Frend, *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church*

November 4

Trudy - review of Michael Grant, *Constantine the Great: The Man and His Times*

Bill - review of J.N.D. Kelly, *Jerome: His Life, Writings and Controversies*

Christopher - review of Brown, *Augustine of Hippo*

November 11

Trudy - review of Goodspeed, *The Apostolic Fathers: An American Translation*

Bill - review of Eusebius, *The History of the Church*

Christopher - review of Augustine, *The City of God*

GUIDES TO READING, RESEARCH, WRITING

Adler, Mortimer and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book*. New York: MJF Books, 1972.

Bloom, Harold. *How to Read and Why*. New York: Scribner, 2000.

Clark, Thomas and Bruce Woods, Peter Blocksom, and Angela Terez, eds. *The Writer's Digest Guide to Good Writing*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, 1994.

Kennedy, X.J. and Dorothy M. Kennedy. *The Bedford Guide for College Writers*. Second edition. Boston, MA: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Seyler, Dorothy U. *Read, Reason, Write*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1984.

Storey, William Kelleher. *Writing History*. Third edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

BOOK REVIEW GUIDELINES

The review should be eight to ten double-spaced typewritten pages in length and contain

- 1) a bibliographical entry at the top of the first text page of the review,
- 2) a brief (one paragraph) biographical sketch of the author,
- 3) a summary (three or four pages) of the contents of the book,
- 4) a statement of the author's purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized,
- 5) a statement regarding the book's uniqueness (e.g., form, arrangement of materials, author's approach to the subject matter, new discoveries/insights, level of research and argumentation),
- 6) a description of the author's style (how the author uses words). Is the text clear, dynamic, expressive, readily accessed, or is it cumbersome, opaque, filled with technical jargon?
- 7) a description of the author's biases/point of view. Do the author's point of view and foundational judgements appear to be grounded in solid research and critical reflection?
- 8) a concluding evaluation of the book including a statement regarding its appropriateness and value for this colloquium.

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Reading List

- Augustine. *The City of God*. Trans. Marcus Dods. New York: The Modern Library, 1993.
- Brown, Peter R.L. *Augustine of Hippo*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967.
- Chadwick, Henry. *The Early Church*. Baltimore, MD: Penguin Books, 1967.
- Crouzel, Henri. *Origen*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1989.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *After the New Testament: A Reader in Early Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Eusebius, *The History of the Church*. Trans. G.A. Williamson. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1990.
- Filoramo, G. *A History of Gnosticism*. Trans. Anthony Alcock. Oxford: Blackwell, 1990.
- Fox, Robin Lane. *Pagans and Christians*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1989.
- Frend, W.H.C. *Martyrdom and Persecution in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981.
- Gamble, Harry Y. *Books and Readers in the Early Church*. New Haven, CT: Yale University, 1995.
- Goodspeed, Edgar J. *The Apostolic Fathers: An American Translation*. New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1950.
- Grant, Michael. *Constantine the Great: The Man and His Times*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994.
- Grant, Robert M. *Gnosticism and Early Christianity*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966.

_____. *Greek Apologists of the Second Century*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1988.

_____. *The Sword and the Cross*. New York: Macmillan, 1955.

Greenslade, S.L. *Schism in the Early Church*. London: SCM Press, 1953.

Hazlett, Ian, ed. *Early Christianity: Origins and Evolution to A.D. 600*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1991.

Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Revised ed. New York: HarperCollins, 1978.

_____. *Jerome: His Life, Writings and Controversies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

Kelly, Joseph F. *The World of the Early Christians*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997.

Von Campenhausen, Hans. *The Fathers of the Church*. Combined Edition of *The Fathers of the Greek Church* [1955], and *The Fathers of the Latin Church* [1960]. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

Wilken, Robert L. *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1984.