#### **RELI 300A Christian Foundations**

Fall 2015
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 a.m.,
or by appointment.

## TEXTS:

Alister E. McGrath. <u>Christian History: An Introduction</u>. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

## REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Assigned Readings and Quizzes. Readings for each week are listed in the class schedule and should be completed by Monday of that week. Five unannounced quizzes will be given on select Mondays through the semester. Students must be in class for the entire session in order to receive points for the quizzes. Students will receive points for the four highest scores.
- 2. Exams. Three exams will be given during the semester. Guidelines will be distributed prior to each exam. They are scheduled for October 2, November 6, and December 11.
- 3. Weekly reflections. In most weeks a reflection question will be listed for students to respond to. Students will select three of these during the semester, preparing a brief reflection in response. Reflections should be no more than approximately one printed page (250 words). Reflections should be printed and are due on the Friday for which the question is listed unless otherwise noted. They are intended to promote class discussion; no late reflections will be accepted. Students must be in class on the day a reflection is due in order to receive credit for the assignment. The list of reflection questions will be distributed separately.

Students should think of these reflections as mini-essays. As such, each one should have a clear central point, usually called a thesis in academic writing, and use specific examples and evidence from the reading to support that point. The strongest reflections will have a solid central point, clear supporting evidence, and sound writing mechanics. An effective reflection will also show student thinking about the issue being considered, moving beyond simply summarizing, paraphrasing, or copying the text or other sources.

4. Religious Tradition Study. Each student will select a Christian tradition or denomination and prepare a short profile of it. Students are encouraged to select the denomination of their home churches. In cases where students do not have a home church they may select a denomination of interest to them. A set of guidelines for the assignment will be distributed separately. Students will share their findings in discussion groups. Studies are due December 3-4, at the time of each student's discussion group. Grades for studies submitted late and for students who do not attend the discussion group will be reduced.

#### **EVALUATION:**

Quizzes 20 (5 points each) Exams 300 (100 points each) Reflections 30 (10 points each)

Study 60 TOTAL 410

Final grades will be awarded according to traditional percentages: 90% A, 80% B, 70% C, 60% D, and below 60% F. Pluses and minuses in each category will be given at the top and low ends. In keeping with the Registrar's policy of calculating GPAs, there is no A+.

## NOTE ON CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY USE

Students are asked not to bring laptop computers or hand-held devices such as smart phones, I-Pads, or Blackberries to class. Students who desire to use such devices for notetaking must speak with the professor. Students who use such devices for activities not related to the class may be asked to leave.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES:**

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. For more information, go to <a href="mailto:ds.georgefox.edu">ds.georgefox.edu</a> or contact Rick Muthiah, Associate Director of Learning Support Services (ext. 2314 or <a href="mailto:rmuthiah@georgefox.edu">rmuthiah@georgefox.edu</a>).

## ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER:

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) on the Newberg campus provides all students with free writing consultation, academic coaching, and learning strategies (e.g., techniques to improve reading, note-taking, study, time management). The ARC, located on the first floor of the Murdock Learning Resources Center (library), is open from 1:00-10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday. To schedule an appointment, go to the online schedule at <a href="mailto:arcschedule.georgefox.edu">arcschedule.georgefox.edu</a>, call <a href="mailto:503-554-2327">503-554-2327</a>, or email the <a href="mailto:arc@georgefox.edu">arcschedule.georgefox.edu</a>, call <a href="mailto:503-554-2327">503-554-2327</a>, or email the <a href="mailto:arc@georgefox.edu">arcschedule.georgefox.edu</a> for information about ARC Consultants' areas of study, instructions for scheduling an appointment, learning tips, and a list of other tutoring options on campus.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

August 31-September 4 Introduction, Christianity and History

Reading: McGrath, xv-16.

Note: First quiz is August 27.

## September 7-11 **Christianity and Rome**

Reading: McGrath, 16-37.

# September 9 Serve Day

# September 14-18 The Emergence of Orthodoxy

Reading: McGrath, 37-60.

# September 21-25 **The Emergence of Orthodoxy, Part II** Reading: McGrath, 60-70.

# September 28-October 2 The Church in the Early Middle Ages

Reading: McGrath, 71-88.

## October 2 Midterm Examination

# October 5-9 The Triumph of Christianity in the West

Reading: McGrath, 88-118.

# October 12-14 The Decline of the Middle Ages

Reading: McGrath, 118-149.

## October 16 Mid-Semester Holiday

## October 19-23 **The Reformation**

Reading: McGrath, 150-183.

## October 26-30 The Reformation, Part II

Reading: McGrath, 183-213.

## November 2-6 Enlightenment, Pietism, Methodism, and Other Awakenings

Reading: McGrath, 214-235.

## November 6 Midterm Examination

November 8 Final day to withdraw without grade responsibility

# November 9-13 Enlightenment, Pietism, Methodism, and Other Awakenings, Part II

Reading: McGrath, 214-235.

## November 16-20 **Nineteenth-Century Developments**

Reading: McGrath, 235-254.

## November 23-25 Nineteenth-Century Developments, Part II

Reading: McGrath, 254-284.

## November 27 Thanksgiving Holiday

# November 30-December 4 The Last Hundred Years

Reading: McGrath, 285-317.

# December 3-4 **Discussion Groups for Religious Tradition Study**; **Religious Tradition Studies Due**

## December 7-11 Where Are We Now?

Reading: McGrath, 318-348.

## December 11 8:00 a.m. Final Examination

The University policy concerning scheduling final exams will be followed. This includes the following two items:

- 1. Students are required to take final exams at the time scheduled unless they have three or more exams in one day. In such cases, the student may make arrangements with a professor to reschedule at a mutually agreed upon time.
- 2. Students who wish to apply for change of final time must apply by the end of the tenth week of classes. [A] form is available at the registrar's office.