

PATRISTIC THEOLOGY

Pontifical Beda College

First Semester 2018-19
Fridays, 10.50-12.25
David Dawson Vasquez
dawson@romestudy.org
www.romestudy.org/patristics.html

LEARNING GOALS

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to

- Identify the general characteristics and major concerns of the different ages of Patristic Theology: apostolic fathers, apologists, third-century theology, fourth-century theology, monastic theology, mystical theology. Be able to give examples of important thinkers in each age.
- Identify important themes in the following: *The Didache*, Ignatius of Antioch, Tertullian, Cyprian of Carthage, Origen of Alexandria, Athanasius, Augustine, Evagrius Ponticus, Macarian Homilies, Leo the Great, Dionysius the Areopagite, Maximus the Confessor
- Identify the context and meaning of the following terms/concerns: The approach to Scripture (spiritual senses of Scripture, allegory, meaning of revelation), progress in holiness (apatheia, penthos, deification), our relationship to Christ (recapitulation, "God became human that humans might become gods"), philosophy and theology (knowledge of God, Athens and Jerusalem, Ancient Rome and Christianity), the meaning of the Church ("no salvation outside the Church", hierarchy, liturgical theology)

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. October 12
Introduction
2. October 19
Apostolic Fathers (Accompanying reading: *The Didache*, Ignatius of Antioch, *Letters*)
3. October 26
The Refutation of Heresy (Accompanying reading: Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*)
4. November 2
2-3rd century Carthage (Accompanying reading: Tertullian, *On the Prescription of Heretics*; Cyprian, *On the Unity of the Catholic Church*)
5. November 9
2-3rd century Alexandria (Accompanying reading: Origen of Alexandria, *On First Principles*, book 6; *Exhortation to Martyrdom*)
6. November 16
4th century Alexandria (Accompanying reading: Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*)
7. November 30
4th century West (Accompanying reading: Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*)
8. December 7
Monastic theology (Accompanying reading: Evagrius Ponticus, *On the Mind's Journey to the Holy Trinity*)
9. Tuesday, December 11 (9-10.35)
Syria (Accompanying reading: Macarian Homilies)
10. December 14

- Papal writings (Accompanying reading: Leo the Great, sermons 1-3, 82; Tome)
11. January 11
Dionysius the Areopagite (Accompanying reading: *The Celestial Hierarchy*, chapters 1-4)
 12. January 18
Maximus the Confessor (Accompanying reading: *The Church's Mystagogy*)
 13. January 25
Conclusion
- Exam: January 30

BIBLIOGRAPHY

TEXTS

Corpus Christianorum
Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
Sources Chrètiennes, Paris: Editions du Cerf
Patrologia, ed. J. P. Migne
 Loeb Classical Library

TRANSLATIONS

The Fathers of the Church, Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press
 Ancient Christian Writers, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press
 Classics of Western Spirituality, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press

INTERPRETATION

Wilken, Robert Louis *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003).

ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/>
<http://www.earlychurch.org.uk/index.html>
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook2.html#fathers2>
<http://www.monachos.net/patristics/sources.shtml>
<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/>
<http://www.synaxis.org/ecf/ecf.html>
<http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/>

SECONDARY MATERIALS

Di Berardino, Angelo. and Basil Studer, eds. *History of Theology, Volume I: The Patristic Period*.
 Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press 1997.
 Drobner, Hubertus R. *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction*. Trans. Siegfried
 Schatzmann. Waco, TX: Baker Academic, 2007.
 Hall, Stuart G. *Doctrine and Practice in the Early Church*. London: SPCK, 1991.
 Hamman, Adalbert. *How To Read The Church Fathers*. New York: Crossroad, 1993.
 Harvey, S. A. & D. G. Hunter (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies*. Oxford: University
 Press, 2008.
 Hazlett, I. *Early Christianity: Origins and Evolution to AD 600*. London: SPCK, 1991.
 Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. Rev. ed. New York: Harper Collins, 1978.

- Lane, T. *A Concise History of Christian Thought*, revised & expanded edition, Edinburgh: T & T Clark 2006.
- McGinn, Bernard. *The Foundations of Mysticism: Origins to the Fifth Century*, Vol. 1 of *The Presence of God*. New York: Crossroad, 1991.
- Quasten, Johannes. *Patrology*. 4 vols. Westminster, MD: Christian Classics, 1983.
- Ramsey, B. *Beginning to Read the Fathers of the Church*. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1985.
- Urban, L. *A Short History of Christian Thought*, revised & expanded edition, Oxford: University Press, 1995.
- Wilken, Robert Louis. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005.