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# PATRISTIC THEOLOGY

Pontifical Beda College

Tuesdays, 10.50-12.25  
Year 2 (First Semester 2017-18)  
Dr. David Dawson Vasquez  
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www.romestudy.org/patristics.html

The course will explore the theological understanding of the Christian faith espoused and expressed by the earliest Christian thinkers. Since these writers are often referred to as the Church Fathers, the age is often called the Patristic Era. The course will cover the major writers from the late 1st century through Gregory the Great, treating representatives from both the East and the West.

## SCHEDULE

### 9 OCTOBER

Introduction

### 17 OCTOBER

Apostolic Fathers (Accompanying reading: *The Didache*, Ignatius of Antioch, *Letters*)

### 24 OCTOBER

The Refutation of Heresy (Accompanying reading: Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*)

### 31 OCTOBER

2-3rd century Carthage (Accompanying reading: Tertullian, *On the Prescription of Heretics*; Cyprian, *On the Unity of the Catholic Church*)

### 7 NOVEMBER

2-3rd century Alexandria (Accompanying reading: Origen of Alexandria, *On First Principles*, book 6; *Exhortation to Martyrdom*)

### 21 NOVEMBER

4th century Alexandria (Accompanying reading: Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*)

### 28 NOVEMBER

4th century West (Accompanying reading: Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*)

### 5 DECEMBER

Monastic theology (Accompanying reading: Evagrius Ponticus, *On the Mind's Journey to the Holy Trinity*)

### 12 DECEMBER

Syria (Accompanying reading: Macarian Homilies)

### 9 JANUARY

Papal writings (Accompanying reading: Leo the Great, sermons 1-3, 82; Tome)

### 16 JANUARY

Dionysius the Areopagite (Accompanying reading: *The Celestial Hierarchy*, chapters 1-4)

### 23 JANUARY

Conclusion

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### TEXTS

*Corpus Christianorum*

*Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*

*Sources Chrétiennes*, 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.