Professor’s Contact Information:
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   Phone: (704) 940-5842

Schedule of Class Meetings: Monday-Friday, July 22-26 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM each day)

Office Hours: My family and I will be staying in one of the apartments on campus from July 20-28. I can be available by appointment, for lunch, or after class during that time period.

Catalog Course Description: A study of the development of Christian theology during the patristic period. The course considers various modern approaches to patristic theology and centers around the reading and discussion of key patristic theological texts.

Relation to Curriculum: This course can serve as a Church history or theology elective for students in the M.Div., M.A.C.H., or M.A.T.H. programs, or as a general elective for other students.

Course Purpose: This course is designed to give students a working knowledge of the major themes and issues of patristic theology, with special attention to the way the church fathers integrated the various theological loci. Such knowledge should prove helpful in the students’ reflection on their own theology and their ministry.

Course Objectives: In keeping with Gordon-Conwell’s mission statement, the professor intends that upon completing this course, students will:

1. Develop a general understanding of and appreciation for the patristic task of articulating Christian doctrine within the cultural and intellectual context of late Antiquity (related to articles 1 and 2 of the mission statement).

2. Examine the ways patristic theology can correct, augment, and refine our own expressions of the Christian faith (related to articles 1, 5, and 6).

3. Examine the implications of patristic theology for our own individual and corporate Christian life today (related to articles 3 and 5).

4. Develop a better understanding of evangelicalism as the heir of Christianity’s great tradition (related to articles 2, 5, and 6).

Course Requirements: Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments. The successful completion of these assignments will require each student to spend at least 135 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and outside of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course assignments. More specific descriptions of the assignments are given later in this syllabus.
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Required Textbooks:

We will read substantial selections from each of the following works, and all of them are on reserve in the library. The volumes of ANF and NPNF are available online for free, and all the rest can be purchased, but Butterworth is out of print and has to be purchased used. The ones marked with a dollar sign cost less than $20, the ones marked with two dollar signs cost between $20 and $40, and the ones marked with three dollar signs cost more than $40. All but the most expensive of them will be in the bookstore. I suggest that you buy as many of the inexpensive ones as your budget allows and read the rest in the library.


**Course Assignments:**

1. **Reading (20 points):** You must complete 2000 pages of reading. The readings assigned for the class discussions total the equivalent of ~1550 single-columned pages, and the remainder (~450 pages) will come during the research for the research paper. The course schedule at the end of the syllabus shows which readings you must complete prior to (or at least during) each section of the course. This assignment will help prepare you to achieve all four course objectives.

   By Friday, August 16, you must turn in a complete list (including bibliographical information and page numbers for each work) of the reading you have done to fulfill this requirement. Please note that when reading double-columned books, you may count each page as two.

2. **Reflective Paper (30 points):** On the basis of your reading (requirement 1 above) and class discussions, you must write a reflective paper in which you address the following issues:
   - Major ways in which patristic theology articulates the same truths evangelicals seek to articulate today, but does so in ways superior to ours. Explain why the patristic articulation is better and how we can incorporate that articulation of the faith into our proclamation.
   - Major ways in which patristic theology articulates the same truths evangelicals seek to articulate today, but does so in ways inferior to ours. Explain why the patristic articulation is worse or less adequate.
   - Major ways in which our proclamation substantially differs from that of the early church. On these issues, either defend our proclamation or suggest ways we can modify our proclamation in light of patristic theology, as appropriate.
   - Some implications of patristic theology for our individual and corporate Christian life today. (Here the focus is not just on what we should *say* or *proclaim* differently in light of patristic theology, but on what we should *do* differently or do with a different *attitude* if we grasp what the early church was trying to articulate.)

   This paper should be approximately 8-10 pages long and will constitute evidence that you have met course objectives 2-4 above. You must upload it to the Sakai site by Friday, August 2.

3. **Research Paper (50 points):** You must write a 10-12 page research paper. It is expected that the research will involve ~450 pages of additional reading, bringing the course total to ~2000 pages. The paper is due on Wednesday, August 14.

   Selection of topic: You have considerable freedom in choosing your paper topic, with the restriction that it must directly address some aspect of patristic theology and its
significance for us today. You do not need my approval for your choice of topic, but you are more than welcome to confer with me as you choose and narrow the topic.

The task of research: You should consult the document “Writing Theological Papers” available on the Sakai site in order to understand my expectations regarding research papers. Remember that an important part of writing a research paper is the sometimes difficult task of locating and selecting the sources you want to use. This will probably involve several hours of hard work in an archive or library. Do not expect others to do this work for you; this is part of your assignment.

Completed papers should be typed and in correct form (as indicated below.), footnoted where appropriate, with a bibliography of all sources used for the study. If you have not had much experience in writing research papers, you should consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Grading the papers: Your research paper will be evaluated on the basis of five primary criteria:

1) The choice of an appropriately narrow topic and the posing of an appropriate question for the paper to answer (10 points)
2) The depth of the research in both primary and secondary materials (10 points)
3) The quality of the analysis/argument you present (20 points)
4) The organization and clarity of your writing (5 points)
5) The mechanical correctness and elegance of your writing (5 points)

Attention to these matters will not only help you on this paper assignment, but it will also aid you in developing the analytical and communication skills you need for the ministry to which God has called you.

Grading: The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60. A grade of A+ will be given very rarely, when the student’s work is truly exceptional. (At Gordon-Conwell, a grade of A+ and a grade of A are both counted the same way in calculating the student’s GPA. Thus, a GPA above 4.0 is not possible.)

Late work: All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per week beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Work turned in after Friday, August 16 will require that an extension be approved by the Seminary. If you anticipate a problem, contact the professor as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. If you must miss a class period, you should notify me in advance to justify your absence. If you have more than one unexcused absence from class, you will receive a penalty of three points per
additional unexcused absence on your final grade.

**Document Formatting and Citation Style Requirements:** All written assignments should be submitted in either MS-Word or PDF format. (If you use a different word processor than MS-Word, please convert the file to PDF before submitting it.) Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow Turabian style, although APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting on the Sakai site. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

**Course Schedule:**

Because of the compressed format for the class meetings, I urge you to do as much of the reading as possible prior to the first meeting on July 22. The following are the topics and readings we will discuss from July 22-26. (Please note that the works marked with an asterisk are double-columned. In your reading list, report the actual pages read from these books, but count each page as two. E.g. ANF, vol. 3, pp. 696-628 = 66 pages.)

1) **Approaches to Patristic Theology; Background to the Patristic Period**

2) **The Initial Articulation of Christian Orthodoxy (2\textsuperscript{nd} century)**
   - Irenaeus of Lyons, *Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching* (Behr, pp. 39-101)

3) **The Problematic Legacy of Greek Philosophy (3\textsuperscript{rd} century)**
   - Origen, *On First Principles*, books 1-3 (Butterworth, pp. 1-255)

4) **Theology in the Midst of the Arian Crisis (4\textsuperscript{th} century)**
   - Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lectures* (Yarnold, pp. 67-187)

5) **Theology in the Midst of the Christological Crisis (5\textsuperscript{th} century)**
   - Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on John*, books 1-2 (Maxwell, pp. 1-163)*
   - Augustine, *The Enchiridion* (Shaw, pp. 1-141)
6) Toward Medieval Roman Catholicism (6th century)
   Correspondence between Fulgentius and the Scythian Monks (McGregor/Fairbairn, pp. 25-238)

7) Toward Byzantine Orthodoxy (7th century)
   Maximus the Confessor, *On the Cosmic Mystery of Christ* (Blowers/Wilken, pp. 45-176)

**Assignment Due Dates:**

Reflective paper is due by August 2.

Research paper is due by August 14.

Reading list is due by August 16.

All late work is due by August 16, unless you have made prior arrangements for an extension.