PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Course Coordinator: Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner
Email: m.ehrenschwendtner@abdn.ac.uk
Telephone: 01224-273110
Office: 210, Crombie Annexe
Hours: tbc
Tutor: tbc

Discipline Administration:

Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 272366
divrs@abdn.ac.uk
**TIMETABLE**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture:</strong></td>
<td><strong>9am – 10am</strong></td>
<td><strong>King’s College, KCG5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lecture:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>King’s College, KCG5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tutorial:</strong></td>
<td><strong>10am – 11am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taylor, C28</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tutorial:</strong></td>
<td><strong>9am-10am</strong></td>
<td><strong>King’s College, KCG 16</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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*Students can view their university timetable at*


**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course will introduce you to the first five centuries of Christian life and belief. It traces the rise of Christianity from its origins as a Jewish sect to a position of cultural and religious dominance in the Roman Empire. It also looks at the development of central themes in early Christian theology and spirituality. The course consists of lectures on key topics, workshops on preparing and presenting written work and seminars on early Christian texts. It should also include your own reading and research.

**INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Some awareness of the development of theological understanding and scriptural interpretation in the early church.
2. An understanding of the historical development of the life and thought of the Christian church in the first five centuries after Christ.
3. An awareness of a range of Christian doctrines which were formulated in the early church and which have continued to shape contemporary theological expression.
4. Some awareness of the diversity and debate which characterises the secondary literature concerned with the early church.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

**Introduction: About the Course**

**The Mediterranean Context**

The Graeco-Roman World (Hall, pp. 1-10)

The Jewish World (Chadwick, pp. 9-12)

**Christian Origins**
Who was Jesus of Nazareth?
The Earliest Christian Communities (Hall, pp. 14-24)
Women in Early Christianity (Chadwick, *Church in Ancient Society*, pp. 53-56)

**The Emergence of ‘Catholic’ Christianity**
Tradition (Hall, pp. 59-63; Chadwick, pp. 41-45)
How Christianity Got Its Bible (Hall, pp. 25-29)
Ministry and Structures of Authority (Hall, pp. 29-32, 59-61; Chadwick, pp. 41-52)

**Internal Disputes**
Gnosticism (Hall, pp. 37-45; Chadwick, pp. 32-40)
Marcion (Chadwick, *Church in Ancient Society*, pp. 89-92)
Montanism (Hall, pp. 46-47, 52-53)

**From Persecution to Toleration**
Is the Church for Sinners or Saints? (Hall, pp. 80-94; Chadwick pp. 116-124)
Constantine and the Christianisation of the Empire (Hall, pp. 112-120; Chadwick, pp. 123-129)

**Monasticism**
If You Would Be Perfect: The Development of Christian Monasticism (Hall, pp. 173-182; Chadwick, ch. 12)

**The Christian God**
Christ (Hall, pp. 52-54, 63-65, 70-73, 75-80)
The Trinity (Hall, pp. 52-56, 63-65, 68-73, 77-80; Chadwick, pp. 85-90)

**The Arian Controversy**
The Arian Controversy and its Aftermath (Hall, pp. 121-147, 148-172; Chadwick 113-114, 130-151)

**Christians in a Christian State**
Enthusiasm for the Holy Scriptures: Jerome (Chadwick, *Church in Ancient Society*, pp. 433-445)
Standing Up to the Emperor: Ambrose (Chadwick, *Church in Ancient Society*, pp. 348-378)
Is the Empire the City of God? Augustine and the Donatists (Hall, pp. 191-205, 209-210; Chadwick 216-235)
What Must We Do to Inherit Eternal Life? Augustine, the Pelagians and the Aftermath (Hall, pp. 205-229)

**Christology: How Are Christ’s Divinity and humanity Related?**
Alexandria an Antioch (Hall, pp. 211-222; Chadwick, pp. 192-212)
The councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon (Hall, pp. 223-236; Chadwick, pp. 205-210)

**Seminars (see MyAberdeen):**


**Seminar 2**: Evaluating Web Resources in Church History

**Seminar 3**: Bibliographies and Footnoting

**Seminar 4**: Planning an essay

**Seminar 5**: Christian Apologists: Tertullian, *Apology*

**Seminar 6**: Extracts from *The Passion of Perpetua*

**Seminar 7**: Extracts from Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*

**Seminar 8**: Early Monastic Texts: Athanasius, *Life of Anthony*

**Seminar 9**: *The Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople*


**Textbooks:**

You should read at least one of the following. Passages of particular relevance to the lectures are noted in the course outline above, but you should read the whole book(s) as well.


and/or


SECONDARY READING

Look into chapters of these for slightly more detailed overviews on your essay topics. Specific books, articles and chapters are recommended under the essay topics in the Assessment section of this course guide.


ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

1. One seminar exercise (10%)
2. One essay of about 1500-2000 words (30%).
3. A two hour examination (60%) to be taken in December 2015 off-campus

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

Seminar Exercise: Compiling an annotated Bibliography (800 – 1000 words)
Choose an essay topic from the list below and write it at the top of your assignment. (It will save you time if you use same topic for all this seminar exercise and for the essay.)

Compile a provisional bibliography of at least 8 items for this topic. Give a short summary of the content of each item.

The bibliography must include at least:
- one relevant book that is not from the recommended reading list
- one relevant separate chapter/article from an encyclopaedia or book of collected articles.
- one relevant website

**Essay (1500-2000 words)**
Essays should be between 1500 and 2000 words long, including quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short. **The essay must not necessarily have the same topic as your seminar exercise but it will save you time if you will stick to it.**

**Essay topics:**
Choose one the following topics. You do not have to limit yourself to the reading suggestions listed here.

**Why did Christianity attract hostility from the Greco-Roman world in the first three centuries?**
Stevenson, *New Eusebius*, no. 1, 2, 3, 5, 16—19, 41, 106—119, 135, 139, 155.
Hazlett, W. *Early Christianity*, p. 231—255.

**To what extent were early Christian (c29-500CE) views on women influenced by attitudes in the wider Greco-Roman world?**


**Why was Montanism treated as a heresy?**

*New Eusebius*, No. 85—90.


**Why did Constantine favour Christianity?**


Hall, 118—120, 125—126.


Chadwick, pp. 125-32.


Jones, A.H.M. *Constantine and the Conversion of Europe.* Toronto: Toronto UP, 1978. Esp. ch. 6


**How did the persecutions of the third century affect Christian views about who belongs to the church?**

*New Eusebius*, no. 192—220.
Chadwick, 116—121.
Frend, *The Early Church*, ch. 9, 11.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**
Seminar Exercise: 29\textsuperscript{th} October 2015
Essay: 26\textsuperscript{th} November 2015

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**
Submit one paper copy to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

**EXAMINATION**
The exam (two hours) consists of two sections.
Section A (20 \%): You will be asked to comment on ONE of three extracts from the seminar texts (see above)
Section B (40 \%): You will be asked to answer TWO essay or brief note questions on topics covered in the course of the year.

General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

**RESIT INFORMATION**
100\% exam
Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CGS 6 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7s are not eligible for resits.
Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.