

## **CH 500: EARLY CHURCH HISTORY (4 units).**

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

Early Church History is a survey of the dynamic period in the life of the Church from 100 to 590 AD. It covers how the Church wrestled with doctrinal and philosophical issues, which are of ongoing significance and importance. It introduces the key personalities and the major events that helped shape the Church. It establishes these developments, people, and events as the spiritual heritage of all Christians.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of this course the student will develop 1) a basic grasp on how the Church developed in the first five centuries; 2) a working knowledge of the people, doctrinal issues and the historical context of the early Church period; 3) practical insights in applying the lessons and events of the early Church in preaching, teaching, and resolving current doctrinal disputes; 4) a foundation for continuing study of Church history; and 5) skills in researching the original sources.

### **COURSE FORMAT:**

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week, students and the instructor will interact with the material and each other through threaded discussions and other assignments. Lectures for each lesson will be available online.

### **REQUIRED READING:**

- Bettenson, Henry, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*, 3rd edition, Chris Maunder, ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999
- Clark, Elizabeth Ann. *Women in the Early Church*. In series Message of the Fathers of the Church, vol. 13. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1984
- Froehlich, Karlfried, ed and trans. *Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1984
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*, vol 1 (rev. ed.). San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1975
- Rusch, William G., ed. and trans. *The Trinitarian Controversy*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1980

### **RECOMMENDED READING:**

- Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*, 3rd ed. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1987
- Livingstone, E.A., ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1997

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Weekly threaded discussions (15%)
2. Midterm exam (15%)
3. Three 5-page research papers (30%)
4. Final exam (40%)

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

**RELATION TO CURRICULUM:** Meets M.Div. core requirement in Church History (CHA); Ministry Focus Elective for MAGL program.

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** Yes

Updated July 2007