

RLST3000: Christian Traditions Preliminary Syllabus, Fall 2019

** This syllabus is provisional, course details may change at the discretion of the instructor.*

NOTE: Important announcements, instructions and updates will be communicated via colorado.edu email. It is your responsibility to check your messages and keep current. Course materials will be posted on [Canvas](#).

Time & Location:

T/Th 11–12:15pm, [University Club](#) 13

Instructor:

Prof. Brian A. Catlos

[Humanities](#) 282

(303) 492-1634

brian.catlos@colorado.edu (you must put **RLST3000** in the subject line; your mail **MUST** come from a colorado.edu address)

Office hours: T 9:30–10:30am & W 9–10am, and by appointment (in any event, even during office hours you are advised to email ahead to reserve/confirm your meeting).

Overview:

This course will serve as an introduction and historical overview to the Christian religion, beginning with its most remote origins and through to the Reformation. Although emphasis will be placed on “Western” Christian traditions, every effort will be made (given the constraints of time) to survey the various traditions of global Christianity.

The textbook will provide an overall narrative framework on which topical and thematic lectures are overlaid, and which is complimented by the primary sources provided for each section.

You should expect to spend between 10 and 12 hours per week on this course including classroom and outside activities.

It is the students’ responsibility to keep up-to-date with any syllabus changes or other announcements made in class. **Be sure to fill in an enrollment form the first time you attend.**

Format

Classes will combine lecture and discussion format. Recorded versions of the lectures will be posted at the end of each week, including any new material we did not have time to cover in lecture. Beginning about week 3 we will incorporate formal discussions into class time; this will involve reading material ahead of class and preparing brief presentations.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory, punctuality is required and attendance/participation is graded. Two unexcused absences are permitted; each subsequent absence will reduce the final grade by 10 points (no maximum).

Electronic devices are not to be used in class, except with the permission of the instructor.

Required Texts

Gonzalez, Justo L., *The Story of Christianity. Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation*. 2nd Edition. New York: HarperOne, 2010. **JG**

Meister, Chad & J. B. Stump, *Christian Thought: A Historical Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2010. **CM**

Additional required readings will be posted online as the course is underway.

Course Completion and Evaluation

Graded assignments consist of 2 mid-terms, 1 essay (12–14 pages) and a final exam, plus quizzes, participation and discretionary assignments.

The syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Make-up/alternate tests/ paper extensions will be granted only in exceptional/document cases and at the instructor's discretion.

Mid-Term Tests 25%

These will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Essay 30%

This is a 12- to 14-page research essay, based on lecture material and course readings, as well as outside research. Each paper will examine one aspect of Christian tradition (e.g.: a belief, attitude, ritual, religious figure, institution, practice, etc.) and trace its development through history and across the Christian world. A list of topics will be provided. The essay will be completed in stages through the term – timely completion of all “benchmarks” is mandatory.

Final Exam 25%

The final examination will be held during the scheduled exam period, and will cover material from the whole course.

Participation 20%

Your participation mark is based on your performance in in-class discussions.

You **must** score better than 60% on the essay and better than 60% on the final to pass the course.

Extensions are granted **only** for documented illness or similar circumstances. Papers must be handed in on time or late penalties will be applied. There will be no assignments for “extra credit.”

Accommodations whether for religious observation or accommodations recommended by Disability Services will be honored, but you must confirm your request with the instructor within the first week of class or when you are granted the accommodation (whichever comes first). Accommodations for athletic and other extra-curricular activity will be given maximum consideration, but must be requested within the first week of class.

Schedule of Classes, Fall 2019

The online lectures are posted on [Canvas](#) and should be viewed prior to the corresponding class. Check each week for Supplemental Readings on Canvas

Date	Theme	Readings	Assignments
T 27-Aug	Introduction		
Th 29-Aug	1 Religion & Christianity, Scripture & History	[Canvas]	Essay Topics Posted
T 3-Sept	2 The Old Testament in Context		
Th 5-Sept	3 The Emergence of Judaism		
T 10-Sept	4 Judaism in the Time of Jesus		
Th 12-Sept	5 Religious Revolution	CM9–82; JG 1–23	
T 17-Sept	6 The Early Churches	JG 25–68	
Th 19-Sept	7 Church & Empire	CM83–135; JG 59–128	
T 24-Sept	8 Unity & Division	CM135–199	
Th 26-Sept	9 (Un)orthodoxies	JG 129–246	Declare Essay Topic
T 1-Oct	Midterm 1		
Th 3-Oct	Research Orientation: Librarian, Frederick Carey	Norlin E113	bring a laptop
T 8-Oct	10 Order and Disorder	CM201–250	
Th 10-Oct	11 The Church in the West	JG 263–315	Research Plan Due
T 15-Oct	12 Christian Europe		
Th 17-Oct	13 The New Church		1 st Essay benchmark
T 22-Oct	Midterm 2		
Th 24-Oct	Essay Workshop		2 nd Essay benchmark
T 29-Oct	14 The Age of the Papacy	JG 315–356	
Th 31-Oct	15 East and West		3 rd Essay benchmark
T 5-Nov	16 The Road to the Holy Land		
Th 7-Nov	17 Christians in the Holy Land	CM251–316	4 th Essay benchmark
T 12-Nov	18 The End of the Crusades		
Th 14-Nov	19 Heretics and Infidels	JG 357–406	5 th Essay benchmark
T 19-Nov	Thanksgiving Break		
Th 21-Nov	Thanksgiving Break		
T 26-Nov	20 Christianity, Jews and Muslims, A		
Th 28-Nov	20 Christianity, Jews and Muslims, B		
T 3-Dec	21: Crisis & Change	JG 407–446, CM317–386	Rough draft due
Th 5-Dec	22: The Reformation	CM387–488	
T 10-Dec	23: The New Age		Essay Due
Th 12-Dec	Conclusion/Review		

Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 17, 1:30–4pm

CU final exam policies: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>

Academic Integrity

All work submitted for this course must be original and your own work; all sources must be properly and clearly cited. Use of improperly attested material in essays or unauthorized material in exams constitutes plagiarism and may, at the instructor's discretion, result in removal from or a failing grade on the course.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed (see above). Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class if you require religious accommodations you should contact the professor via email within the first week that you are registered, specifying the accommodations you require.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).