

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY
FALL 2016**

**HISTORICAL THEOLOGY 5121A
PATROLOGY
THURSDAYS 09:30-11:30
ST. PETER'S SEMINARY, ROOM 108**

PROFESSOR: DR. R. PEREIRA

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Office hours by appointment.

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A historical and thematic exploration of the contributions made to the Tradition by writers of the first seven centuries known as the "Fathers of the Church". Attention will be paid to their contributions in such areas as the formation of the biblical canon, the development of Christian doctrine, and the picture of Christian life in the ancient period.

B. GOALS:

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge:

- To understand the centrality of the Paschal Mystery and God's action within salvation history and as expressed in the ancient Church.
- To learn of the key writers and theologians from the ancient period of the Church, through study of their lives, writings, and historical context.
- To understand the service rendered to the development of theology in the first centuries, especially in the "Golden Age" of the era.

- To gain a sense of the continuity of orthodox theology, making connections with other branches of theology, such as biblical, systematic and liturgical theology.

Skills:

- To be able to integrate the various realms of theology as found within the ancient Church.
- To be able to enter into theological dialogue, to listen to other opinions, to use philosophical concepts, and be able to see the large footprint of the ancient wisdom of the Fathers in the Church today.
- To be able to apply the historical-critical method to the ancient texts of the Patristic Era.
- To situate the writings in their context and to draw out their theological significance.

Attitudes:

- To embrace a sense of wonder in the mysteries of the faith and to accept that our comprehension will never be complete in light of the nature of theology.
- To embrace the ecumenical and universal spirit found in the ancient Christian Church
- To foster a profound appreciation for the Church Fathers, their holiness, their insight, and their extreme efforts to articulate and defend the faith.

C. ASSESSMENT:

1. Mid-Term Test (30% of final mark)

- Short answer format and in-class
- Date: Thursday, November 3rd

2. Presentation (30% of final mark)

- Seminars will take place during the last part of the course and will be an individual effort. Each student will do one seminar.
- Each seminar will be based upon the life of one Church Father and one theological issue or breakthrough for which he is famous.
- A two-page class summary handout is required for distribution on the day of your seminar (point form is acceptable). Free photocopying is available, if the material is submitted to rperei2@uwo.ca by the *Monday before your seminar*.
- Topic sign-up will be done in-class, based upon a lottery system, on Thursday, September 29th.

3. Final Exam (40% of final mark)

- This is a take-home exam that is absolutely pastoral-based.
- The exam will be distributed on the second last class of the term.
- Due date: TBA

D. READINGS AND TEXTS:

1. Required (on hold at the A.P. Mahoney Library)

- Boniface, Ramsey, *Beginning to Read the Fathers* (New York: Paulist Press, 2012). Either the revised (2012) or original (1985) edition will be acceptable for the course readings.
- All the various books containing the primary documents written by the Fathers. Or, you can use the on-line versions since they are more convenient to access. These English translations are available for free on-line at: <http://www.newadvent.com/fathers/>
- Any student who is competent in ancient languages, is highly encouraged to download the primary documents for free in their Greek or Latin text at: <http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/>

E. STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE (TENTATIVE):

- Part 1:** Introduction to the Course
Introduction to Patrology
- Part 2:** The Apostolic Fathers
St. Ignatius of Antioch
St. Irenaeus on Creation and the Incarnation
St. Clement of Rome on the Hierarchy of the Church
- Part 3:** Origen of Alexandria and Salvation
St. Jerome and the Scriptures
- Part 4:** St. Ambrose of Milan on Baptism
St. Maximus the Confessor on the Divine Liturgy
- Part 5:** St. Gregory the Great on Pastoral Care
Sts. Benedict, Basil, and Climacus on Monasticism
St. Sophronius of Jerusalem and Hagiography
St. John Chrysostom on Repentance
- Part 6:** St. Athanasius on God
St. Cyril of Alexandria on Christ
St. Gregory of Nazianzus on the Holy Spirit
- Part 7:** St. Augustine on the Human Condition
Tertullian on the End Times
St. Gregory of Nyssa on the Eternal Soul

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University's website (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>). Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Seminars cannot be late or rescheduled. Be prepared to present on your scheduled day. A missed seminar (or partially missed seminar) will earn a zero.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.