This course meets on Mondays, 11:10-2:00, DSPT 18

This syllabus and related documents are posted at http://moodle.gtu.edu

This class is one of the History Area doctoral seminars designed to allow students to demonstrate general competence in the history of Christianity. It presupposes that you have done some lower level work in early Christianity but it does not presuppose that this is your field of specialization.

The goal of this class is to help you to develop the competence to teach an introductory course in this period of Christianity. You will demonstrate this by writing a series of essays that address some basic issues in the construction of such a course.

Class topics are arranged partly in chronological order and partly by theme. When the class is assembled there may be revisions to be determined by needs and interests of those in the class.

Attention: Some of the hyperlinks in this version of the syllabus are not functioning. I am working on the problem and there will be functional links before the class begins.

Feb. 3
Introduction to the class
Visit the following web sites and spend some time exploring:
The North American Patristics Society http://moses.creighton.edu/NAPS/
The Online Resource Book http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html

Feb. 10
The Religious World of the Late Antiquity
Antonía Tripolitis, Religions of the Hellenistic-Roman Age
If you need some general reading on Late Antiquity you can go to http://www.nipissingu.ca/department/history/muhlberger/orb/OVINDEX.HTM and read Overview of Late Antiquity and read Chapter 1: The Classical Prologue.

Feb. 17
The Second Century
Christians and Roman Society
History and Heresy
Philip A. Harland, Associations, Synagogues and Congregations: Claiming a Place in Ancient Mediterranean Society
The Sophia of Jesus Christ, http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/sjc.html

Feb. 24
Martyrs and Ascetics
Correspondence of Trajan and Pliny the Younger (on Moodle)
Martyrdom of Polycarp.
Athanasius of Alexandria, Life of Antony, in Ehrman and Jacobs
Gregory of Nyssa, The Life of Macrina,
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/macrina.html - life
Jerome, Life of Paul the Hermit, http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm

Mar. 3
Ministry and Office
Ignatius of Antioch, Epistle to the Ephesians,
From Ehrman and Jacobs:
Canons of Hippolytus
Testament of the Lord
Aphrahat, Demonstration 10: On Pastors

Mar. 10
Christian Literature and Exegesis
Frances M. Young, Biblical Exegesis and the Formation of Christian Culture
Origen, On First Principles, Commentary on the Song of Songs, (excerpts on Moodle)
John Chrysostom and Cyril of Alexandria on the same passage (Jn. 1:12). (on Moodle)
From Ehrman and Jacobs:
Tyconius, Book of Rules
Diodore of Tarsus, Commentary on Psalms
Gregory of Nyssa, Homily on the Song of Songs

Mar. 17
Jews and Christians in Roman Egypt
Septuagint, Wisdom 8:1-8 (on Moodle)
Philo of Alexandria selections (on Moodle)
Clement of Alexandria, Exhortation to the Newly Baptized,
http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/clement-baptized-uni.html
Origen, *Commentary on John*, Book VI, 
Synesius of Cyrene (selections on Moodle)
Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on Luke* 2:4-8 (on Moodle)

Mar. 24 Spring Break

Mar. 31
Roman Africa
Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*
Letter from the Roman Clergy to the Carthaginian Clergy, 
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf05.iv.iv.ii.html
Cyprian, On the Lord’s Prayer, 
http://www.ccel.org/fathers2/ANF-05/anf05-114.htm - P7129_2334049
Augustine of Hippo. *On Christian Doctrine*, Book I, 
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/augustine/doctrine.iv.ii.html

Apr. 7
Current Scholarship on the Councils of Nicaea (325) and Constantinople I (381)
From Ehrman and Jacobs:
*Creed and Canons of Nicaea*
*Creed and Canons of Constantinople*
Gregory the Theologian (of Nazienzen), *First and Second Theological Orations*. An electronic version is available at: http://www.ccel.org/fathers2/NPNF2-07/TOC.htm
http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/

Apr. 14
Imperial Religious Policy from Diocletian to Heraclius
John Curran, *Pagan City and Christian Capital: Rome in the Fourth Century*
From Ehrman and Jacobs:
Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*
Zosimus, *The New History*
Julian, *Letters on Religion*
Ambrose, *On the Death of Theodosius*
*Theodosian Code: On Religion*
*The Novellas*
If you need to brush up on Justinian and Heraclius, De Imperatoribus Romanis is a good electronic source http://www.roman-emperors.org/

Apr. 21
Bright Monday No Class

Apr. 28
The Christological Controversies
From Ehrman and Jacobs:
Nestorius, *Letter to Cyril of Alexandria*
Cyril of Alexandria, *Third Letter to Nestorius*
*Canons of Ephesus*
*Definition and Canons of Chalcedon*
*Tome of Leo I of Rome* http://www.piar.hu/councils/ecum04.htm - *The letter of Pope Leo to Flavian, bishop*
*Definition of faith of the Council of Chalcedon*, http://www.piar.hu/councils/ecum04.htm - *Definition of the faith*

May 5
The Post-Chalcedonian East
John Meyendorff, *Imperial Unity and Christian Divisions*
From Ehrman and Jacobs:
*Christian Art and Architecture*
Constantinople II, Dogmatic canons www.piar.hu/councils/ecum06.htm
*Definition of the Second Council of Nicaea concerning the ikons* http://www.piar.hu/councils/ecum07.htm - *Definition*
If you want some assistance with the history you can go to http://www.nipissingu.ca/department/history/muhlberger/orb/OVINDEX.HTM and read chapters 4 and 5.
John of Damascus, *On Heresies* (excerpt on the “Ishmaelites”) (on Moodle)

May 12
The Post Roman West
Bede on Gregory the Great, http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/bede-greggrea.html

**Course Requirements**

Required Texts:
Frances M. Young, *Biblical Exegesis and the Formation of Christian Culture* (Hendrickson, 1-56563-735-6)
These are conveniently available at http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20/about
This class will be partly lecture and partly discussion of the readings. I expect you to complete the readings and come to class prepared to engage in conversation about them.

Your written work will be the preparation of three essays (6-10 pages) addressing the three questions below. While I am asking for essays rather than a research paper they should contain some bibliography and references to the readings for the course

1. What is the place of the history of doctrine/theology in a course on the history of Christianity?

2. What is Hellenization? How do you identify it and evaluate it?

3. What are the sources and methods of treating the religion of people other than upper class men? What does that contribute to the study of history of Christianity in this period?