

Early Church History

Syllabus | MS-321-M | Ministerial Studies - 3 credits

Lead Instructor



Hello! I am Lisa Quintana, the Lead Instructor for this course which means that I attend each class to facilitate the guest lecturers, occasionally teach, conduct the exams and do the grading.

lquintana@citychurchonline.org
or T. 608-221-1528, x312. Follow me on Twitter [@LisaQthinks](#)

Academic Dean

Dr. Greg Pecheck is the Academic Dean for Christian Life College, Madison. He gets the great lecturers to come teach and he teaches, as well. He's been preaching for decades!

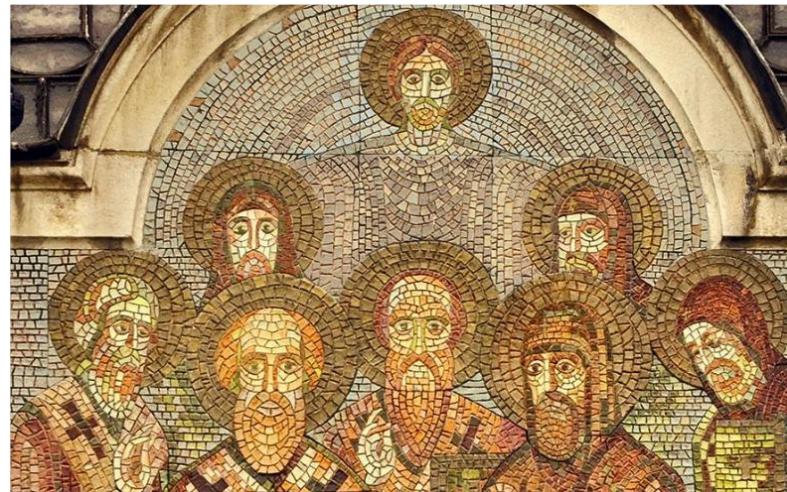
Questions about CLC-M? Email:

gpechacek@citychurchonline.org



Class: when/where?

Thursday evenings, January 29, to May 14, 2026, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Abundant Life Christian School, 4901 E. Buckeye Rd., Madison, (upstairs room 202).

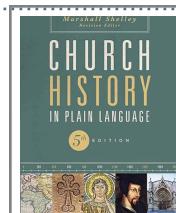


Why Take This Course?

Studying Early Church History will grow your love for how Christianity developed as you learn about the Church Fathers and other important individuals who impacted the growth of the Church. From Pentecost to the Reformation, learn about the ideas that shaped the first 15-centuries of the church in an engaging narrative.

Textbook You Need to Purchase

1. *Church History in Plain Language* by Bruce Shelley, 5th edition (Zondervan, 2021)
2. You should also have a good “word-for-word” (no paraphrased versions) translation of the Bible, i.e. ESV, NET, or NASB.





Learning Objectives

1. This course will provide you with an overview of the significant individuals and groups which have shaped the direction of church history.
2. You will examine the influence and rapid growth of Christianity.
3. Your devotional life will be enhanced by connecting your understanding of Scripture and life experiences with major figures and events in church history.
4. You will be enabled to converse intelligently about current church issues from an historical perspective.
5. You will be inspired to continue seeking your personal role in participating in the life of the Church and serving Christ's command of the Great Commission.

Additional resources for your further research into church history can be made available to you by asking the lead instructor for recommendations.

Assignments & Requirements

1. **Weekly Discussion Posts** – 10 points each. Credit students will answer questions in Google Classroom by **midnight on most Thursdays** (access to Google Classroom is emailed).
By **midnight that following Sunday**, respectfully interact with another classmate's post. We want you to interact with the material and learn from each other. Grammar, spelling and punctuation will be noted.
Late entries will incur a points deduction.
2. **Term Paper** – Students will write a 2500 - 3000 word essay on an important issue or character from early church history (approximately 8-10 pages, double-spaced, font type Times New Roman, 12pt.) All writings should be done in the **MLA style**. Ask lead instructor for writing tips, resources, etc.
Topics include (but not limited to):
 - Roman culture & the class of Christianity
 - How persecution affected the early Church
 - Early Christianity in Africa
 - The Trinitarian & Christology Debate through the Creeds
 - Augustine: the most important figure in the Church?
 - Monasticism & its effects
 - Tertullian's *Apology* - Christianity within a hostile society
 - Choose an ecumenical council (i.e., Nicaea) - unpack its main debates & the consequences established as orthodox
 - The *Didache* is an early Christian manual - read it & look for evidence of Christianity's Jewish roots. What presumptions of practice & belief does it make? What new elements are in it?
 - Pope Leo I builds an argument for the primacy of the bishop of Rome on his reading of Matt. 16. Read his "Sermon III" & analyze his interpretation. What assumptions is he making? Are there other interpretations available? What effects did this have?
 - The Great Schism - its theological & political tensions
 - St. Francis' movement (late 12th C) for evangelical poverty & today's "prosperity theology" - the divergent views on wealth**DUE: May 7, 2026**
3. **Mid-term & Final Exams** – There will be two in-person exams based on the assigned reading & weekly lectures.
4. **Reading** – **Report every week** on Google Classroom the quantity of assigned reading completed by midnight Thursday.
5. **Attendance** is mandatory. More than 3 excused absences will adversely affect your grade. **Email the lead instructor** if you are going to be absent. Unexcused absences = a grade deduction.
6. **Class participation** - contribute to discussions to earn points.



Class Grade Points

Midterm	25%
Final	25%
Term Paper	25%
Weekly Posts & Reading	20%
Class Participation	5%

College Grading System

Letter Grade	Scores	Description	GPA
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

Our Adjunct Faculty

We are blessed to draw from some of the best Bible teachers/pastors in the Madison area to teach this Fall semester:

Paul Allen
YWAM - Madison
MA, University of the Nations

Tom Flaherty
Lead Pastor, City Church
BA, University of Wisconsin
MCM, Olivet Nazarene University

Isaac Fleming
Traveling Pastor (currently at Living Water Church)
BA, Ohio Christian University
MDiv, Asbury Theological Seminary

Biju George
Instructor/Preacher, Sharon Fellowship, Kenosha
BA, Div., India Bible College, India
M.Th., Faith Theological Seminary, India

Bob Grahmann
Sr Ambassador/Missions & Bible Study IVCF
MDiv, New Brunswick Theological Seminary
ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary
PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Manohar B. James
Founder, Redeem India (High Point Church)
BA, Gospel for Asia Biblical Seminary
MDiv, Gospel for Asia Biblical Seminary
PhD, Asbury Theological Seminary

Karrie Landsverk
Pastor, Living Gospel Church, Rio
BA, Edgewood College
MA, Christian Leadership University
PhD, Christian Leadership University

Craig Lehnher
Educator, Abundant Life Christian School
BA, Wheaton College
MA, UW Madison

Greg Pechacek
Associate Pastor, City Church
BS, North Central Bible College
MAR, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
DMIN, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Lisa Quintana
Christian Apologist/Lead Instructor, City Church
AA, Christian Life College-Madison
BA, California State University
MA, Biola University - Talbot School of Theology

Devin White
Associate Pastor, High Point Church
BA, Grand Valley State University
MTS, Chandler School of Theology
PhD, Emory University

Course Costs & Expectations



CREDIT

The current cost of 3 credits is \$400. The first half of tuition is due the first class (or before), and the final half before the fourth class. (Other arrangements may be made if done with prior approval.) Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount. Students who register and pay in full at least 2 weeks before the first class will receive an additional \$25 discount. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 credits towards an Associate of Arts degree in Christian Studies from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

AUDIT

This course may be audited for a lecture fee of \$170. Students who pay in full at or before the first class will receive a \$25 discount. Students who register and pay in full at least 2 weeks before the first class will receive a \$50 discount. Audit students have no requirements, but are urged to keep up with the reading and participate in class discussions to get the most benefit of the course.

All fees must be paid in full by the 4th week of the semester. CLCM grads can also audit for only \$50 per course.

Application Fee - for 1st time applicants only:

“Registration and Application fee” of \$25 which must accompany the application of **new students** for enrollment or audit.

EXTENSIONS

There will be **no extensions** in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. “Incompletes” occur when class work is not completed during the semester. An incomplete will automatically become F 30-days after the semester ends.

DROP DATE: February 26 - to receive a partial refund and/or to change registration status from credit to audit.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research (using AI instead of your own brain), the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of research materials.



<https://m.facebook.com/ChristianLifeCollegeMadison/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

All dates and assignments are tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the Lead Instructor according to the development of the course material. Be alert in class for any announcements of changes.

Date	Lecture Topic	Assignment	Lecturer
<i>January 29 Week 1</i>	Part 1: The Time of Jesus & the Apostles	Shelley: Chap. 1 & 2 (the Jesus movement & wineskins)	Paul Allen
<i>February 5 Week 2</i>	Part 2: The Age of the Catholic Church	Shelley: Chap. 3 & 4 (Catholic Christianity & Persecution); Discussion Question	Tom Flaherty
<i>February 12 Week 3</i>	The Rise of Orthodoxy & the Formation of the Bible	Shelley: Chap. 5 & 6; Discussion Question	Lisa Quintana
<i>February 19 Week 4</i>	School for Sinners; Apostles to Intellectuals	Shelley: Chap. 7 & 8; Discussion Question	Karrie Landsverk
<i>February 26 Week 5</i>	Early Christianity in Asia & Africa	Shelley: Chap. 9 ; Discussion Question	Isaac Fleming
<i>March 5 Week 6</i>	Part 3: Age of the Christian Roman Empire (conversion of the empire & Trinity doctrine)	Shelley: Chap. 10 & 11 No question - study for exam	Bob Grahmann
<i>March 12 Week 7</i>	Writer's Workshop (after the exam/optional)	Mid-Term Exam	Lisa Quintana
<i>March 19 Week 8</i>	Christ in the Creeds: Beginnings of Monasticism	Shelley: Chap. 12 & 13; Discussion Question	Devin White
<i>March 26 Week 9</i>	Augustine & Peter: Beginnings of the Papacy	Shelley: Chap. 14 & 15 <i>Paper Topics Due</i>	Craig Lehnerr

Date	Lecture Topic	Assignment	Lecturer
<i>April 2 Week 10</i>	Spring Break		n/a
<i>April 9 Week 11</i>	Eastern Orthodoxy & Mission to the Barbarians	Shelley: Chap. 16 & 17; Discussion Question	Manohar James
<i>April 16 Week 12</i>	Gregory the Great & Charlemagne & Christendom	Shelley: Chap. 18 & 19; Discussion Question	Craig Lehnher
<i>April 23 Week 13</i>	Papacy, Crusaders & Scholasticism	Shelley: Chap. 20 & 21 No more questions - work on your paper	Biju George
<i>April 30 Week 14</i>	Apostolic Lifestyle & Decline of Papacy	Shelley: Chap. 22 & 23	Bob Grahmann
<i>May 7 Week 15</i>	Wyclif & Hus	Shelley: Chap. 24 Papers Due	Greg Pechacek
<i>May 14 Week 16</i>	n/a	Final Exam	Lisa Quintana

Course Workload

In a 3-unit college class, it is expected that approximately 100+ hours of course work is involved. This includes the lectures time in class and homework. For a 16-week semester, this equals to about 6-hours of work per week, and depending on your reading speed, expect about 3 hours of homework per week. Most of this will be reading and posting on Google classroom. You also will be conducting research on your term papers.

The Lead Instructor may allow a weekly post to be skipped so that you can study for exams or do writing/research. Keep an eye out on Google for announcements!

For questions or clarifications, please email the Lead Instructor: lquintana@citychurchonline.org.