HIST 235 / RS 240

History of Christianity

10:00–11:20 PM | TUES & THURS
with Prof. David Neufeld

This course pursues understanding of the history of Christianity along two paths: by tracing the immense scope of its expansion from unlikely beginnings to emergence as a global religion; and by measuring its intimate influence on individual lives. We will examine a great diversity of Christian practices, ways of live, and forms of political, social and cultural expression.

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/academics/course-offerings
HIST 235/RS 240: History of Christianity  
Winter 2020  
Tuesday/Thursday, 10:00-11:20 a.m.  
CGUC 1302

Instructor: Dr. David Y. Neufeld  
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Office Hours: 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment  
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Course Description

This course leads students to a deeper understanding of the history of Christianity along two paths. First, we will trace the immense scope of this religion’s expansion from unlikely beginnings to emergence as a global religion. We will pay particular attention here to cross-cultural interaction and developments outside of the west. Second, through critical analysis of source evidence, we will measure the influence of larger developments on the experience of local communities and individual lives. This course will provide an introduction to the diversity of Christian beliefs and practices. It will, however, also concern itself with how Christians have related to one another and to their societies. Moving beyond a theological focus, then, we will examine the great variety of Christian ways of life, and forms of political, social, and cultural expression through a historical lens.

In addition to building a base of historical knowledge, this course introduces you to the practices of the discipline of history and encourages you to engage in them yourselves. As historians in training, you will learn how to discern the significance of centuries-old documents, evaluate the reasoning of other scholars, and present original interpretations of the past in oral, written, and visual forms. History requires you to think critically, use information effectively, understand and value difference, and communicate well-informed conclusions. This course will help you develop skills that you will continue to use in the future.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Identify the influence of historical change, context, causality, contingency, and complexity on understandings of the history of Christianity
2. Assess the impact of circumstances, backgrounds, values, interests, and needs on the content of primary sources
3. Critically evaluate the content of other historians’ written argumentation
4. Synthesize evidence from sources of information about the past to produce a historical argument
5. Communicate original and persuasive historical interpretations in oral, written, and visual form
## Course Requirements and Assessments

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<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Content Quizzes/Historical Practice Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analysis</td>
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<td>Secondary Source Analysis</td>
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<td>Annotated Bibliography/Proposal</td>
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| Book Review
  * Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—and How it Died* | 15%       |
| Final Essay/Unessay                            | 30%       |