

REL E 640: Class Schedule Fall 2023

Week 1	Sept. 4	Introduction; Syllabus; Course Objectives; Mission of BYU; Introduction to Sources		Pre-reading: Blumell, “Scripture as Artifact,” <i>Oxford Handbook of the Early Christian Interpretation of Scripture</i>
		Class Theme	Primary Source Readings	Articles and Text Readings
		Jewish Revolt of A.D. 70 After the NT Jewish Christianity	<i>Didache</i> <i>2 Clement</i> Optional Readings: <i>1 Clement</i> <i>Primary Sources for Jewish Revolt</i> <i>Matthew 24</i> (cf. <i>Mark 13</i> ; <i>Luke 21</i>) <i>JS-Matthew 24</i> ; <i>Revelation 13</i>	Chadwick pp. 5–55; cf. Lynch 24–35
Week 2	Sept. 12	The “Apostolic Fathers”	Papias of Hierapolis Ignatius of Antioch <i>To the Ephesians, To the Magnesians,</i> <i>To the Trallians, To the Romans,</i> <i>To the Philadelphians, To the</i> <i>Smyrneans, To Polycarp</i> <i>Epistle to Diognetus</i>	Chadwick 65–84; cf. Lynch pp. 51–61 Theology Article: TBD
Week 3	Sept. 19	Christianity and the Roman World: From the Early Church to the Emperor Hadrian	Tacitus, <i>Annals</i> 15:44 Pliny, <i>Ep.</i> 10.95–96 <i>Hadrian’s Rescript to Minucius Fundanus</i> Optional Reading: 1 Peter	D&C 86; cf. Lynch 79–85 Theology Article: TBD
Week 4	Sept. 26	Early Christian Martyrdom	<i>The Martyrdom of Polycarp</i> <i>Tertullian, To the Martyrs</i> <i>Origen, On Martyrdom</i> Optional Reading: <i>Martyrs of Lyon</i>	Chadwick 93–99; cf. Lynch 94–96 Theology Article: TBD
Week 5	Oct. 3	Early Christian Apologists Term Paper Proposal Due	Justin, <i>1 Apology</i> Justin, <i>2 Apology</i> Optional Readings: Octavius, <i>Minucius Felix</i> <i>Tertullian, Apology</i>	Chadwick 118–23 Theology Article: TBD
Week 6	Oct. 10	Marcion and the Canon Writing Assignment #1 Due	Epiphanius, <i>Panarion</i> 42 (Marcion) The Muratorian Canon	Chadwick 89–92; cf. Lynch 62–78 Theology Article: TBD

		Gnosticism	Gospel of Truth Ptolemy, <i>Letter to Flora</i> 2 John Optional Reading: Irenaeus, <i>Against Heresies</i> (Selections)	Chadwick 90–92; 100–07; cf. Lynch 51–61 Theology Article: TBD
Week 7	Oct. 17	NOTE: THIS CLASS WILL ONLY BE VIA ZOOM; NO IN CLASS ON THIS DAY (OUT OF COUNTRY) New Testament Texts & Textual Criticism		Blumell, “Textual Criticism.” In T. Petrey, C. Crawford, E. Eliason (eds.), <i>The Bible and the Latter-day Saint Tradition</i> (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2023), 230–241. Blumell, “Luke 22:43–44: An Anti-Docetic Interpolation or an Apologetic Omission?” <i>TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism</i> 19 (2014): 1–35. 1 Nephi 13 Optional Reading: Blumell, “A Text-Critical Comparison of the King James New Testament with Certain Modern Translations.” <i>Studies in the Bible and Antiquity</i> 3 (2011): 67–127.
Week 8	Oct. 24	Apocryphal Gospels	<i>Protevangelium of James</i> <i>Gospel of Peter</i> <i>Secret Mark</i>	Robinson, “The Non-Canonical Sayings of Jesus,” <i>BYU Studies</i> 36.2 (1996–97): 75–91. Theology Article: TBD
		Early Anti-Christian Literature		Optional Reading: Blumell, “A Jew in Celsus’ <i>True Doctrine</i> ? An Examination of Jewish Anti-Christian Polemic in the Second Century C.E.” <i>Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses</i> 36.2 (2007): 297–315.
Week 9	Oct. 31	CHANGE CLASS DAY?? The Church in the Third-Century; Clement of Alexandria Book Review Due	Optional Reading: Clement of Alexandria, <i>To the Newly Baptized</i>	Chadwick 124–29; 161–65; Lynch 105–20 Theology Article: TBD
		Decius, Valerian, and the Christian Church	Dionysius of Alexandria Letter about Edict of Decius Novatian, <i>On the Trinity</i> Optional Readings: <i>Decian Libelli</i> from Oxyrhynchus Cyprian, <i>Concerning the Lapsed Ep.</i> 17, 18, 20, 23, 27, 55;	Chadwick 145–60; cf. Lynch 88–90
		The Roman Church in the Third Century	Hippolytus, <i>Against Noetus</i>	Chadwick 132–34

Week 10	Nov. 7	Tertullian, Origen	Tertullian, <i>Against Praxeas</i>	Chadwick 135–44; cf. Lynch 97–104 Theology Article: TBD
		Eusebius of Caesarea: Ecclesiastical Historian & Apologist	Ecclesiastical History BKS. 1–4	
Week 11	Nov. 14	Eusebius of Caesarea: Ecclesiastical Historian & Apologist	Ecclesiastical History BKS. 5–10	Theology Article: TBD
		The “Great Persecution”	Lactantius, <i>Mort.</i> 11–13 <i>Acts of Phileas</i> Optional Reading: <i>Martyrs of Palestine</i>	Chadwick: 175–85; cf. Lynch 121–30
		Constantine I	Constantine Primary Source Documents Edict of Milan	Chadwick 185–89 ; 382–93; cf. Lynch 121–30;
Week 12	Nov. 28	Prelude to Nicaea & the Council of Nicaea Proof and Critique Prof. Article due.	Nicaea Primary Source Documents	Chadwick 166–69; Lynch 160–76; Chadwick 195–211; Blumell, “Rereading the Council of Nicaea and its Creed”; D&C 93 Theology Article: TBD
Week 13	Dec. 5	Aftermath of Nicaea	Aftermath of Nicaea Documents	
		Athanasius of Alexandria	<i>On the Incarnation</i> <i>Festal Letter 39</i>	
		Fourth-Century Monasticism & Asceticism	Optional Readings: Jerome, <i>Life of Paul of Thebes</i> <i>Historia Monachorum in Aegypto</i>	
		Julian “the Apostate”	Optional Reading: Julian, <i>Against the Galileans</i>	
Week 14	Dec. 12	Council of Constantinople	Didymus, <i>On the Holy Spirit</i>	
		Theodosius and the Establishment of Christian Orthodoxy	Optional Reading: Imperial Laws and Christianity	
		Writing Assignment #2 Due Term Paper Due Ice Skating at Peaks Arena		