



REL E 640
Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lincoln Blumell
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OFFICE HOURS: by appointment (in person and by Zoom available)
CLASS TIME & ROOM: Tuesdays 5:00–7:50 pm MST, JSB 213

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will examine the rise and development of formative Christianity within the Roman Empire between the second and fifth centuries. This examination will primarily be concerned with addressing the following issues: (1) the formulation and articulation of Christian doctrines, theology, and practices; (2) the use of scripture and the emergence of the canon of the New Testament; (3) the formation of “orthodoxy” and “heresy”; (4) interactions between Christians and non-Christians in Graeco-Roman society; (5) developing a greater understanding of an LDS approach and understanding of Ancient Christianity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course it is expected that students will gain a greater understanding of: (1) Christianity in its formative period in the Roman Empire; (2) the sources (textual, archeological, papyrological, epigraphic) pertaining to the study of Christianity during this period; (3) and the skills necessary to engage and assess such sources from both an academic and faith-oriented perspective. To facilitate these learning outcomes lectures are designed to introduce the key primary sources of this period and to help students develop a methodological framework for engaging and interpreting these sources. Assignments, book review, term paper, and class discussion will promote the development and the acquisition of the interpretive skills and knowledge set necessary to better understand the diverse sources used to elucidate formative Christianity.

ZOOM INFORMATION

<https://byu.zoom.us/j/93963706664?pwd=bGxLaUd2ZzdaSjNMcVRPQUZWWTjMzdz09>

Meeting ID: 939 6370 6664

Passcode: BYU640

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Henry Chadwick, *The Church in Ancient Society: From Galilee to Gregory the Great* (Oxford University Press, 2001). ISBN: 978-0199265770

Joseph Lynch, *Early Christianity: A Brief History* (Oxford University Press, 2009). ISBN: 978-0195138030

Michael W. Holmes (ed.), *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translation* (3rd Edition; Baker Academic, 2007). ISBN: 978-0801034688

Kirsopp Lake (trans.), *Eusebius: Ecclesiastical History, Books I–V* (Loeb Classical Library 153; Harvard University Press, 1998). ISBN: 0-674-99169-9

J. E. L. Oulton (trans.), *Eusebius: Ecclesiastical History, Books VI–X* (Loeb Classical Library 265; Harvard University Press, 1994). ISBN: 978-0674992931

John Behr (ed. and trans.), *On the Incarnation: Saint Athanasius* (Popular Patristics Series Book 44; St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0881414097

PSR (= Primary Source Readings) will be provided (in translation) by the instructor via website

Course website can be accessed at: <https://lincolnhblumell.com/rel-e-640/>

***The password for the webpage is: BYU640**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (in order of due date):

Term Paper Proposal	5%
Writing Assignment #1 or #2	15%
Book Review	15%
Term Paper	45%
Proof and Critique Prof. Article	5%
Class Attendance, Participation, and Preparation	<u>15%</u>
Total:	100%

Term Paper Proposal (due Tue. Oct. 3)

Students are required to submit a 2–3 page outline for their paper that includes a concise thesis statement along with an annotated bibliography.

For writing instructions consult “Paper Proposal Instructions” on website

For some recommendations regarding paper topics consult “Advice for Choosing a Paper Topic” on the Course website

Writing Assignments (due Tue. Oct. 10 or Tue. Dec. 12)

Students will submit one 4–5 page writing assignments during the semester. They can either choose to submit Writing Assignment #1 or #2.

For assignment instructions consult “Writing Assignment Instructions” on website

Book Review (due Tue. Oct. 31)

Students will submit a formal book review (approximately 3–5 pages in length).

For book review guidelines consult “Book Review Instructions” on website

Term Paper (due Tue. Dec. 12)

Students will submit a 12–15 (excluding cover page and bibliography; 2000–2500 words) term paper on an approved topic.

For paper guidelines consult “Guidelines for Term Paper” on website

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken most every class period by passing around a class-list for students to sign. It is your responsibility to make sure that you sign your name before you leave each class period. Failure to sign the list on any particular day will count as an absence, even if you were present. If you come to class, sign the attendance roll, and then leave before class is finished your attendance will not be counted for the day. You are permitted 1 unexcused absence during the semester. For each subsequent unexcused absence your grade will be lowered 2% per absence. After 4 unexcused absences you fail the course.

GRADING SCALE

The following scale is based on total percentages required to obtain the listed grades. It is possible that based on overall class performance, schedule changes, or other factors the scale may vary from what is shown below, but any variation would always be in the student's advantage.

A	93 – 100%	C	73 – 76%
A-	90 – 92%	C-	70 – 72%
B+	87 – 89%	D+	67 – 69 %
B	83 – 86%	D	63 – 66%
B-	80 – 82%	D-	60 – 62%
C+	77 – 79%	F	0 – 59%

CLASS ETIQUETTE & POLICIES

It is expected that students will come to class on time and will have completed the assigned readings so that they might be prepared to actively participate in class. Students anticipating a class absence should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor. Disruptive behavior including multiple tardies, cell phone interruption or use (including text messaging), sleeping, and/or other disruptions (talking during class discussion and lectures, reading newspapers) will not be tolerated and may result in a lower grade. If you bring a lap-top computer to class, disruptive behavior also includes playing video games, writing or reading email, and surfing the internet. **You will get far more out of this course if you resist the urge to multi-task during class.**

HONOR CODE

The Honor Code exists to provide an education in an atmosphere consistent with the ideals and principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to maintain the highest standards of honor, integrity, morality, and consideration of others in personal behavior. Academic honesty and dress and grooming standards are to be maintained at all times on and off campus. For specific information see <http://honorcode.byu.edu/>. **It is expected that students will adhere to the Honor Code.** Breaches of the Honor Code will be brought to your attention and then if they are not changed they will be referred to the Honor Code office.

PREVENTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the university prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in its education programs or activities. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment-including sexual violence-committed by or against students, university employees, and visitors to campus. As outlined in university policy, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are considered forms of "Sexual Misconduct" prohibited by the university.

University policy requires any university employee in a teaching, managerial, or supervisory role to report incidents of sexual misconduct that come to their attention through various forms including face-to-face conversation, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. If you encounter Sexual Misconduct, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at t9coordinator@byu.edu or 801-422-8692 or Ethics Point at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours). Additional information about Title IX and resources available to you can be found at <http://titleix.byu.edu>.

ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

Religious Education fully supports all University Policies including those that relate to the sexual harassment and assistance to students with disabilities. For these policies, see <http://reled.byu.edu/policies.php>. Answers to frequently asked questions about Religious Education can also be viewed on that same link. All course materials (including outlines, handouts, syllabi, exams, quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, as well as lecture audio and/or video recordings, etc.) are proprietary. Students are prohibited from posting or making available for others to post or otherwise distribute course-related materials, including notes, to any websites or shared online resources (including Google Drive, OneDrive, etc.) without the express written permission of the professor teaching the course. To do so is a violation of the BYU Honor Code.”