

APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences Date: 10/24/2008

Department/Division proposing course: History

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course:

a. Prefix and Number HIS 390

b. Title Backgrounds to and Early History of Christianity to 150 CE

If title is longer than 24 characters, offer a sensible title of 24 characters or less: Christian Backgrounds

c. Courses must be described by at least one of the categories below. Include number of actual contact hours per week..

- ( ) CLINICAL ( ) COLLOQUIUM ( ) DISCUSSION ( ) LABORATORY (3) LECTURE
( ) INDEPEND. STUDY ( ) PRACTICUM ( ) RECITATION ( ) RESEARCH ( ) RESIDENCY
( ) SEMINAR ( ) STUDIO ( ) OTHER - Please explain:

d. Please choose a grading system: [X] Letter (A, B, C, etc.) [ ] Pass/Fail

e. Number of credit hours: 3

f. Is this course repeatable? YES [ ] NO [X] If YES, maximum number of credit hours:

g. Course description:

This course examines the origins of Christianity from its Jewish, Greek, and Roman influences and charts its development through the first one hundred years of its existence. Special emphases are placed on understanding the diversity of Judaic religious identity as well as the influence of Greek philosophy and religion. The world of Jesus, Paul, and the evolution of this new view of one's relationship to God are analyzed historically through a close examination of the texts of this time in the nexus of Jewish, Greek, and Roman cultural interaction. All students will write a book review, take two essay exams, and participate in regular discussion. Class participation is an expected component of this class and contributes 25% to the final grade for the course.

h. Prerequisite(s), if any:

i. Will this course also be offered through Distance Learning? YES [ ] NO [X]

If YES, please check one of the methods below that reflects how the majority of the course content will be delivered:

- Internet/Web-based [ ] Interactive video [ ] Extended campus [ ]

3. Supplementary teaching component: [X] N/A or [ ] Community-Based Experience [ ] Service Learning [ ] Both

4. To be cross-listed as: CLA 390 THEODORE FIEDLER Theodore Fiedler
Prefix and Number printed name Cross-listing Department Chair signature

## APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

5. Requested effective date (term/year): Fall / 2009
6. Course to be offered (please check all that apply):  Fall  Spring  Summer
7. Will the course be offered every year?  YES  NO  
If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why is this course needed?  
This course has been taught every fall semester since 1985 under the Topics number History 352: Topics in European History before 1789 (subtitle required) for lack of a more suitable alternative. This course has always been cross-listed with Classics 390. The time is long overdue to give this course its own specific number, especially as there are four faculty members in History and Classics who are qualified to teach the course. (See below) The number 390 was chosen because History 390, Technology and Western Culture, had not been offered in more than twenty years and the number coordinates with the Department of Classics course number with which it is cross-listed.
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9. a. By whom will the course be taught? Bruce Holle has taught the course every fall semester since 1985. Also qualified to teach the courses are: David Olster (History), David Hunter (Classics) and J. Francis (Classics)
- b. Are facilities for teaching the course now available?  YES  NO  
If NO, what plans have been made for providing them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What yearly enrollment may be reasonably anticipated?  
50+
- 
11. a. Will this course serve students primarily within the department?  Yes  No
- b. Will it be of interest to a significant number of students outside the department?  YES  NO  
If YES, please explain.  
This course has been popular with various students from a variety of disciplines: History, Classics, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, and a small number of pre-Seminarians. This course draws a wide range of students because it examines the evolution of Christianity during its early centuries from a historical and cultural perspective.
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12. Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course<sup>†</sup>?  YES  NO  
If YES, under what Area? \_\_\_\_\_
- <sup>†</sup>AS OF SPRING 2007, THERE IS A MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW COURSES FOR USP.
13. Check the category most applicable to this course:
- traditional – offered in corresponding departments at universities elsewhere
  - relatively new – now being widely established
  - not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities



ARTS AND SCIENCES  
EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE  
INVESTIGATOR REPORT

<http://www.as.uky.edu/working/collegiate-governance/education-policy-committee/proposals/default.aspx>

INVESTIGATING AREA: Humanities

COURSE MAJOR, DEGREE or PROGRAM: HIS/CLA 390

DATE FOR EPC REVIEW: Dec. 5, 2008

CATEGORY NEW CHANGE, DROP

INSTRUCTIONS: This completed form will accompany the course application to the Graduate/Undergraduate Council(s) in order to avoid needless repetition of investigation. The following questions are included as an outline only. Be as specific and as brief as possible. If the investigation was routine, please indicate this. The term "course" is used to indicate one course, a series of courses or a program, whichever is in order. Return the form to Leonidas Bachas Associate Dean, 275 Patterson Office Tower for forwarding to the Council(s). ATTACH SUPPLEMENT IF NEEDED.

1. List any modifications made in the course proposal as submitted originally and why.
2. If no modifications were made, review considerations that arose during the investigation and the resolutions.
3. List contacts with program units on the proposal and the considerations discussed therein.
4. Additional information as needed.

5. A&S Area Coordinator Recommendation:

APPROVE, APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

6. A&S Education Policy Committee Recommendation:

APPROVE, APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

*Anibal Biglieri*

7.

A&S Educational Policy Committee, Humanities Area Coordinator  
Anibal Biglieri, [biglieri@email.uky.edu](mailto:biglieri@email.uky.edu) 257-4640

Date: 12/05/08

## **Proposed HIS 390: Christians in the Roman Empire**

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, all students should be able to:

- 1. Comprehend and explain the historical development of the Jewish, Greek and Roman cultures from their inception to the first century of the Common Era.**
- 2. Understand the complex diversity of first-century Judaism from religious and cultural perspectives.**
- 3. Evaluate the roles of Greek culture and Roman political structures in the construction of early Christianity.**
- 4. Analyze and explain the diverse roles of Jesus and Paul in the evolution of this new faith.**
- 5. Understand that from the very beginning there have always been many Christianities and that the belief that there was a time when all Christians believed the same thing is a myth. Explain why this is so.**

GREEK, ROMAN AND JEW:  
BACKGROUNDS TO AND THE HISTORY  
OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY TO 150 CE

1707 Patterson Office Tower

Office Hours: MWF 1:30-3 & TTH 8:30-10 & by appointment; if my door is open, please feel free to come in. I am in my office every day.

Office Phone 257-5753

Home Phone 277-0088 (not after 10 PM)

Email [bholl2@uky.edu](mailto:bholl2@uky.edu)

**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

Peter Vardy & Mary Mills, **The Puzzle of the Gospels** New York, 1997

E. Ferguson, **Backgrounds of Early Christianity** 3rd edition Grand Rapids, Mi. 2003

C. Richardson, **Early Christian Fathers** New York, 1970

E. Pagels, **The Gnostic Gospels** New York, 1989

E.P. Sanders, **The Historical Figure of Jesus** New York, 1993

A.N. Wilson, **Paul: The Mind of the Apostle** New York, 1997

**GRADES:**

Hour Exam	25%	10/15/08	6-7:30 PM
Book Review	25%	11/26/08	3 PM
Final Exam	25%	12/17/08	6-8 PM
Class Participation and quizzes	25%	See Below	

**NOTE ON CLASS PARTICIPATION AND QUIZZES**

All students will be expected to have read the weekly assignments prior to coming to class. Oral participation will be measured by the student's ability to meet the following criteria: A) can demonstrate an understanding of the text, B) can articulate the author's argument, and C) can utilize **specific citations** from the text to prove one's point. All students are expected to participate in the six (6) sessions listed in the course outline (see below), but all students may have one unexcused absence with no penalties. A student with an approved excuse, see online: *Students Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/bulletinCurrent/acreg.pdf> p.68) must complete another assignment for the absence. However, any student who has two (2) unexcused absences will receive a negative value for that portion of the total grade. See the page in the syllabus titled **Grade Calculation** for the full implication of this grade.

For quizzes the method is quite similar. The first six weeks following the introduction to the course (Sep. 3, 10, 17, 24 & Oct. 1 & 8) will have five quizzes following the lecture; this has been introduced so as to provide the university with some indication of a student's progress prior to the mid-term exams. All students must complete four of the five quizzes, and the policy on excuses will be the same as with the requirements for student discussions.

The Class Participation portion of your grade will be calculated as follows:

Average of your four best class discussions	= 20%
Average of your four best quizzes	= <u>5%</u>
Total	25%

## OTHER CLASS REQUIREMENTS

As the dates for the exams and the due date for the Book Review are listed on the course syllabus, no **post facto** (after the fact) excuses will be accepted for missing an exam or for failing to turn in the book review on time. The **only exceptions** to this policy are those occasions of need specified in the online publication *Students Rights and Responsibilities*. For situations which meet these criteria, specific make-up procedures will be followed. The student in these cases is always responsible for contacting the instructor; I will not seek you out if you miss an exam or fail to turn in the Book Review. All assignments for the course must be completed by the last day of class work, December 12, 2008. If the Book Review or quiz or make-up assignment for a missed discussion is not completed by this date, the student will receive a negative grade for that portion of the total grade.

Upon enrolling at the University of Kentucky, you have entered a profession. Just as in Medicine or Law, the academic profession operated by its own standards and rules of ethics and conduct. These entail, among other things, entail decorum (see below), respect for one's colleagues, and, above all, the honest representation of one's own work. Unfortunately, cheating and plagiarism have become rapidly growing problems on campuses across the country and at the University of Kentucky. Be very aware that I take cases of academic dishonesty with the utmost seriousness. It is very important for all students to read carefully the policies governing cheating and plagiarism in the online document *Students Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/index.php>). If you have any doubts or questions whatsoever as to whether something could be construed as dishonest, see me or your academic advisor for an opinion. **Be advised that the punishment for cheating or plagiarism in my course is an E for the course.**

This class is a seminar where discussion is an important facet of class routine; order and decorum therefore are necessary for the class to function properly. Here are a few rules for all of us to follow:

1. You may bring beverages to class, but not food.
2. Do not chat or whisper with friends when the instructor or another student is speaking; it is discourteous and disrupts the class.
3. Do not under any circumstance read a newspaper during class.
4. If your cell phone rings, please turn it off and bring it to the instructor. I will return the phone to you at the end of class. All cell phones should be turned off prior to entering any classroom.

5. Students are expected to arrive for class on time and remain until class is dismissed. Students who disregard this policy will be notified personally that their actions are not acceptable. The class begins at 6 PM, and unless I have been notified in advance, no student may enter after 6:15 PM. If you have to leave the class before it is over, please notify me in advance to explain the reasons for missing class. Remember, when you miss a class on Wednesday night, you have missed a whole week of class.