THE MAKING OF MODERN CHRISTIANITY: MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION EUROPE

Contents

Module Convenor and Office Hours 3

Introduction: Module Outline; Teaching; Workload; Assessment 3

Course Programme 4

Part I: Medieval Christianity

General Reading 5

Lecture and Seminar Topics, Essay Titles and Resources 7

Part II: Reformation Europe

General Reading 16

Lecture and Seminar Topics, Essay Titles and Resources 18

Module Staff and Contact Details

‘The Making of Modern Christianity’ is a team-taught module. The convenor for 2015-16 is Dr Susan Royal (susan.royal@durham.ac.uk). The module lecturers are Dr Royal and Dr Marika Rose (marika.rose@durham.ac.uk), both of whom are available to see students by appointment. Dr Royal is also available in her office hours: Tuesdays 12-1, in room 205, Dun Cow Cottage.

Seminars are led by Dr Royal and by Dr Zoltan Schwab (zoltan.schwab@durham.ac.uk).

Introduction

This module examines the emergence of modern Christianity. The medieval and Reformation periods were pivotal for the making of the modern world because the theological, spiritual and moral ideas of both leading intellectual and more popular movements influenced the long-term development of churches, governments and culture, and their impact is still evident in church and society today. This module will examine these ideas but will also explore the ways in which they were profoundly affected by the social, political and economic conditions that characterized the medieval and early modern world. In this module students will have opportunities to engage with primary medieval and Reformation sources.

The module consists of two parts. In Michaelmas Term we will study the European Middle Ages; in Epiphany Term the subject will be the Reformation. There will be revision sessions in Easter Term.

Lectures are at 2pm on Mondays in room 157, Elvet Riverside. Seminars are on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. There are three groups: Seminar Group 1 meets at 3pm on Tuesdays with Dr Royal in Seminar Room C, Abbey House; Seminar Group 2 meets with Dr Royal in Palace Green 28 at 9am on Wednesdays; Seminar Group 3 meets with Dr Schwab at 11am on Thursday, in room 77, Elvet Riverside. All students will be allocated to a group at the beginning of the year, and will also be provided with a full pack of seminar readings.

Please note that neither lectures nor seminars take place every week. The full timetable is on p. 4.

Workload

One formative 2000 word essay (on either part of the course). Due: 7 December 2015. This essay should be handed in at the lecture on 7 December. The essay will be returned at the lecture on 18 January 2016.

Summative assessment

This module, which counts fully for finals, is assessed on:

- One 3000 word essay (on either part of the course) (25%). Due 14 March 2016. This essay will be returned in the week beginning 25 April.
- A three hour examination (on both parts of the course) (75% of assessment).
# Course Programme

12 October  The Making of Modern Christianity: Introduction  
*No seminar this week*  

Susan Royal

---

## Part I: Medieval Christianity

19 October  Christendom, 500-1500  
*No seminar this week*  

Marika Rose

20-22 October  From Monastery to University  
*No seminar this week*  

26 October  Seminar: Poverty, Chastity, Obedience?  

27-29 October  Mystical Theology  

2 November  Seminar: Mysticism, Gender and Embodiment  

3-5 November  Islam and the Formation of Europe  

9 November  Judaism and the Invention of Race  

10-12 November  Seminar: The Crusades  

16 November  The Emergence of the Individual  

17-19 November  Seminar: Christian Anti-Semitism  

23 & 24-26 November  *No classes*  

30 November  Heretics and Witches  

1-3 December  Seminar: Witch-Hunts  

7 December  The Social Logic of Salvation  

8-10 December  *No classes*  

14 & 15-17 December  *No classes*  

---

## Part II: The Reformation Age

18 January  New Worlds: What the Renaissance Did  

19-21 January  Seminar: Erasmus’ Vision  

25 January  Scripture versus the Church: The Struggle for Authority  

26-28 January  Seminar: The Bible in the Reformation  

1 & 2-4 February  *No classes*  

8 February  From Justification to Predestination  

9-11 February  Seminar: The Doctrine of Justification  

15 February  The Battle for the Sacraments  

16-18 February  Seminar: Water and the Spirit  

22 & 23-25 February  *No classes*  

29 February  Resistance, Martyrdom and Compromise  

1-3 March  Seminar: Making Martyrs  

7 March  Building the Kingdom of God  

8-10 March  Seminar: Political Religion in the Reformation  

14 March  Surviving the Reformation  

15-17 March  *No seminar this week*  

---

25 April, 2, 9 May  Revision & Discussion  

MR & SR
SEMINARS, ESSAYS AND RESOURCES
PART I: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY

General Reading
You are encouraged in this part of the course to pursue areas and approaches that particularly interest you. There should be some flexibility within the seminar texts, essay and exam questions for you to focus more on historical or theological questions according to your preference, and to draw in some of the other areas you have studied during your course so far. The list below gives some general historical and general theological texts, as well as some texts which take particular theoretical (e.g. feminist and postcolonial) approaches to historical and theological questions. The core text from which most lecture/background readings are taken is Carol Lansing and Edward D. English (eds), A Companion to the Medieval World (2013). I recommend that you buy a copy of this text.

David N. Bell, Many Mansions: An Introduction to the Development and Diversity of Medieval Theology (1996).
Lisa Bitel and Felice Lifshitz (eds), Gender and Christianity in Medieval Europe: New Perspectives (2010).
Uta-Renate Blumenthal, The Investiture Controversy: Church and Monarchy from the Ninth to the Twelfth Century (1988).
Rémi Brague, Eccentric Culture: A Theory of Western Civilization (2002).
Jacques le Goff, Medieval Civilization (1988).
Jacques le Goff, Your Money or Your Life: Economy and Religion in the Middle Ages (1990).
F. Donald Logan, A History of the Church in the Middle Ages (2002).
David Luscombe, Medieval Thought (1997).
Alexander Murray, Reason and Society in the Middle Ages (1978).
Steven Ozment, The Age of Reform 1250-1550: An Intellectual and Religious History of Late Medieval and Reformation Europe (1980).
R.W. Southern, Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages (1970).
Norman Tanner, The Church in the Later Middle Ages (2008).
Rik Van Nieuwenhove, An Introduction to Medieval Theology (2012).
Michaelmas Term, 2014: Medieval Christianity
Lecture and Seminar Schedule

I: CHRISTENDOM, 500-1500

Background/Lecture Reading:

No Seminar.

Further Reading:
II: FROM MONASTERY TO UNIVERSITY

Background/Lecture Reading:

Seminar: Poverty, Chastity, Obedience?
Reading for Seminar:
Primary Texts:
Rule of Saint Benedict, Prologue, and chapters 1-9, 20-40, 53, 58-60
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/benedict/rule

Secondary Text:

Seminar Questions
• What ideas about God, human beings, and the ideal Christian life can be seen in the Rule of St Benedict?
• What role do monastic communities play in Peter Abelard’s narration of his life story?
• What are the similarities and differences between Peter Abelard’s experiences and the sort of community described by Saint Benedict?
• What contemporary institutions does the Rule of Saint Benedict remind you of?

Essay Questions
• How did monastic communities shape the history of medieval Europe?
• What impact did the emergence of the universities have on the study of theology and its role in the church?

Further Reading:
Giorgio Agamben, The Highest Poverty: Monastic Rules and Form-of-Life, translated by Adam Kotsko (2013) [this is a difficult but fascinating account of medieval monasticism by a contemporary philosopher].
Linda L. Coon, Dark Age Bodies: Gender and Monastic Practice in the Early Medieval West (2010)

Making of Modern Christianity
III: MYSTICAL THEOLOGY

Background/Lecture Reading:

Seminar: Mysticism, gender and embodiment
Readings for Seminar:
Primary texts:
Catherine of Genoa, ‘Purgation and Purgatory’, 66-71
Hadewijch of Antwerp, ‘Vision VII’, 102-104
Secondary text:

Seminar Questions
- What different roles do gender and the body play in these different writings?
- Can you see any relationship between the different understandings of God in these writings and the different forms of life the authors lived?
- What sort of appeals to authority do these authors make in their writings?
- Marguerite Porete was burnt at the stake for heresy after refusing to recant her views; can you see anything in the excerpt that might have caused concern? How (if at all) is this excerpt different from the others?

Essay Questions
- How did changing understandings of mystical theology affect the social status of women in medieval Europe?
- How did the gender of mystical theologians influence the way they wrote their texts and the way their texts were received?

Further Reading:

Making of Modern Christianity


Caroline Walker Bynum, *Did the twelfth century discover the individual?* (1980).


IV: ISLAM AND THE FORMATION OF EUROPE

Background/Lecture Reading:

Seminar: The Crusades
Readings for Seminar:

Primary texts:

Secondary text:

Seminar Questions
- What principles of biblical interpretation are at work in Humbert’s arguments?
- How does Humbert’s understanding of the purpose of the Crusades compare to Ibn Munquidh’s perceptions of the Crusaders?
- How does Ibn Munquidh understand the role of religion in his encounters with the Franks?

Essay Questions
- Were the Crusaders more interested in conquest or conversion?
- What influence did Muslim rule in Spain have on the development of medieval Europe?
- What role did Islam play in the formation of medieval Christian identity?

Further Reading:
- Phillipe Buc, Holy War, Martyrdom, and Terror: Christianity, Violence and the West ca 70 to the Iraq War (2015).
- Thomas E. Burman, Reading the Qur’an in Latin Christendom, 1140-1560 (2007).
- David B. Burrell, Knowing the Unknowable God: ibn Sina, Maimonides, Aquinas (1986).
- Katie Harris, From Muslim to Christian Granada: Inventing a City’s Past in Early Modern Spain (2007).
- L. P. Harvey, Muslims in Spain, 1500-1614 (2006).
- Geraldine Heng, ‘Holy War Redux: The Crusades, Futures of the Past and Strategic Logic in the “Clash” of Religions’ in PMLA 126 (2011), 422-43
- http://www.jstor.org.ezphost.dur.ac.uk/stable/41414113
- Norman Housley, Contesting the Crusades (2006).

Making of Modern Christianity


V: JUDAISM AND THE INVENTION OF RACE

Lecture/Background Reading:

Seminar: Christian Anti-Semitism

Reading for Seminar:

Primary texts:
Giovanni Boccaccio, Tales I, 2 and 3 in The Decameron, translated by John Payne, http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/23700

Secondary texts:

Seminar Questions

• What role does theology play in these texts in Christian attitudes towards Jewish people?
• What anxieties are visible in Christian attitudes to Jews?
• How are Christian attitudes to Jews similar to and different from the Christian attitudes to Muslims in the texts from the previous seminar?

Essay Questions

• How did Judaism influence Christian theology in the medieval period?
• What role did Christian attitudes to Jews play in the emergence of ideas of ‘race’?

Further Reading:
Gil Anidjar, Blood: A Critique of Christianit (2014) [especially chapter 1: “Nation (Jesus’ Kin)”, which is hard work but brilliant, and focuses on the themes of blood and antisemitism in the emergence of racial thinking in medieval Europe].

Making of Modern Christianity
Christine Caldwell Ames, Righteous Persecution: Inquisition, Dominicans and Christianity in the Middle Ages (2008)
George Fredrickson, Racism: A Short History (2002) [chapter 1, ‘Religion and the Invention of Racism’ deals with antisemitism and racism in the medieval period].
David Nirenberg, Communities of Violence: Persecution of minorities in the Middle Ages (1998).
David Burrell, Knowing the Unknowable God: ibn Sina, Maimonides, Aquinas (1986).
Norman Cohn, The pursuit of the millennium: revolutionary millennarians and mystical anarchists of the Middle Ages (1970) [lots of interesting material on the relationship between religious fervour and Christian violence towards Jewish communities].
David Nirenberg, Communities of Violence: Persecution of minorities in the Middle Ages (1998).

Making of Modern Christianity
VI: HERETICS AND WITCHES

Lecture/Background Reading:

Seminar: Witch-Hunts
Reading for Seminar:
Primary text:

Secondary text:

Seminar Questions
• What is the different between witches and other heretics, according to the Malleus Maleficarum?
• What role does gender play in the Malleus’ description of witches and witchcraft?
• How do theology, reason and legal systems at the time influence the structure and content of the Malleus Maleficarum?
• How are the anxieties about witches and witchcraft similar to and different from the attitudes to Jews and Muslims in the texts from previous seminars?

Essay Questions
• Why were witches persecuted in medieval Europe?
• What impact did the witch trials have on the status of women in medieval Europe?

Further Reading:
Michael Bailey, Battling Demons: Witchcraft, Heresy, and Reform in the Late Middle Ages (2003).
Heidi Breuer, Crafting the Witch: Gendering Magic in Medieval and Early Modern England (2009).
Norman Cohn, The pursuit of the millennium: revolutionary millenarians and mystical anarchists of the Middle Ages (1970).

Silvia Federici, Caliban and the Witch: Women, the body and primitive accumulation (2014).


Richard Kieckhefer, Magic in the Middle Ages (2014).

Gordon Leff, Heresy in the Later Middle Ages: The Relation of Heterodoxy to Dissent c.1250-1450, 2 vols (1967).


Making of Modern Christianity


VII: The Emergence of the Individual

Lecture/Background Reading:
Caroline Walker Bynum, ‘Did the twelfth century discover the individual?’ in The Journal of Ecclesiastical History 31.01 (1980), 1-17.

Seminar: The Social Logic of Salvation
Reading for Seminar:
Primary texts:
Secondary text:

Seminar Questions
• How do Julian and the anonymous author of the ‘Dream’ understand the role of Christ in the salvation of humankind?
• What roles do the individual and society play in these two different texts?
• How do these texts compare with the atonement theology of Anselm as described by Adam Kotsko?

Essay Questions
• How was Christian theology changed by the new ideas of the individual which emerged in the later medieval period?
• What social, political and theological factors influenced changing understandings of the relationship between the individual and society?

Further Reading:
Heiko Oberman, *Forrunners of the Reformation: The Shape of Late Medieval Thought Illustrated by Key Documents.* (2002).


Philipp W. Rosemann, *Understanding Scholastic Thought with Foucault* (1999), Study 6 ‘The Scholastic Episteme and its Others’.


