

Patristic Theology: Historical Theology I
HC 3111A

Time: Fall 2010, Thursdays, 6.15PM-7.55 PM, 2 credits

Instructor: Tarmo Toom; toom@cua.edu

Patristic Theology investigates Christian beliefs and practices in the order of their historical unfolding during the first five centuries. It includes theological issues, such as Christology, soteriology, and ecclesiology; historical events, such as councils, controversies, and creeds; and persons and movements, such as Origen, Augustine, Gnostics, and Donatists. Since the shaping of Christian theology is never divorced from spirituality and biblical interpretation, attention is given to the holistic formation of the Christian faith.

It is recommended that students have studied both the Old and the New Testament before signing up for the Historical Theology. We are going to investigate the theological implications of the apostolic witness presented in the Scripture.

Texts (required):

McGuckin, J. A. *The Westminster Handbook to Patristic Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0664223960

Wilken, R. L. *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0300105988

A file with a set of primary sources will be on RESERVE.

A Recommended Text:

Ludlow, M. *The Early Church*. The Tauris History of the Christian Church. London: I.B. Tauris, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-1845113667

Students are also supposed to have:

Alexander, P. H. et al. (eds.), *The SBL Handbook of Style For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-1565634879

Requirements:

1. Two exams (multiple choice, short answer, “matching”).
2. A 10-page research paper (a real one!) on a selected primary text.