# Outlook-lakphrc2

**Mississippi Course of Study School**

COS 222 Early Church

Spring 2021

**Course Outline**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Rev. John Robert (J. R.) Hall

Office #: 601-605-3372

Office Hours: TBD (pub. date 03.01.2022)

*Email:* jhall@holmescc.edu

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Required Texts:**

*Gonzales, Justo. The Story of Christianity, Vol I by* Justo Gonzales

Bondi, Roberta. *To Love as God Loves* by Roberta Bondi

Henry Bettenson and Chris Maunder, Editors. *Documents of the Christian Church.*

(Gonzales, Vol. I is also used in COS 322 and Bettenson is used in COS 322 & COS 522)

Web articles and handouts may be assigned as needed.

**Additional Material:**

The student should have access to the United Methodist Hymnal (1989), the UM Book of Worship (1992), and the UM Book of Discipline (2012 or 2016 edition)

**Recommended Texts (for further exploration)**

TBD (pub. date 03.22.2022)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course will present key theological ideas and events from early Christianity. This course is focused on the history and theology of the Church through the first five centuries of the Common Era, beginning with the events in the Book of Acts and ending between the fall of the West Roman Empire and the rise of Emperor Justinian I in the East. The expectation is that you will gain a better understanding of the historical and theological development of the early Church. We will examine a number of first-person documents including some of the earliest Christian and pagan witnesses for the growth of Christianity, stories of martyrdom, the birth of monasticism, and the great theologians, as well as some, whose views on Christ earned them charges of heresy. Using both primary and secondary sources, we will reflect on the significant individuals, events, and articulations of the Christian faith during this period. Synchronous sessions via Zoom are two hours long, with one on Friday evening and another on Saturday morning on the following dates:  April 29-30, May 13-14, and May 27-28 for a total of 12 synchronous hours.  The additional 8 hours of asynchronous assignments will be available via Course Connect. The asynchronous assignments will be available on Monday (May 2 and May 16) – with the primary responses to those assignments due Saturday of that week. Additionally, subsequent dialogue and responses to your colleagues will be due by the Tuesday following both synchronous and asynchronous units (May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24, & May 31).

**OBJECTIVES:**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

* Understand and articulate the doctrine of the Trinity and the historical debates in the early Church around the person and nature of Christ.
* Understand and articulate a doctrine of salvation in light of the controversies of the early church.
* Understand the history and significance of the creeds and ecumenical councils.
* Appropriate historical theology for pastoral ministry.

 **ACTIVITIES AND GRADES**

*Each student is expected to participate in the core activities of this course: reading, listening, talking, thinking, writing, and participating in activities and discussion online.* I will give several assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignments’ worth is listed following the Course Requirements.

**Final course grades will be assigned according to the following table:**

**Total grade 100%**

90-100 **A** (indicates a superior grasp of subject matter, initiative, originality in attacking problems, and full college appropriate presentation)

80-89  **B** (indicates better than average grasp of the subject matter, ability to apply principles with intelligence, and basic college appropriate presentation.)

70-79  **C** (indicates an acceptable grasp of the essentials of the course and basic presentation.)

60-69  **D** (indicates less than average performance in the course.)

<60 **F** (indicates failure to master the minimum essentials of the course.).

**Course Requirements:**

A variety of assignments will be required in order to meet these objectives:

1. **Student Introduction.** Due April 28, 2022. Student Introductions will be public to the class. The Student Introduction is an opportunity for the students to introduce themselves to the instructor and the class. The student should provide a basic personal history including some description of family, employment, ministry setting, hobbies, hopes, and dreams. The Student Introduction should be a minimum of 300 words. As with all other discussion posts, each student will need to reply to a minimum of two fellow students’ primary posts. Replies should be substantive and a minimum of fifty words.
2. **Active class participation** and **Unit Quizzes**.Your success in this class is directly related to your engagement with the material and with your classmates. Please be prepared and ready to ask questions, offer insights, and discuss issues intelligently and thoughtfully. There will be **5 quizzes** throughout the Course of Study term. These will consist of reflections on our readings and either the synchronous or asynchronous assignments. The quiz scores may be adjusted based upon Class Interactions. Quizzes will be completed online.
3. **Personal Reflection Posts.** Each student will be required to post a personal reflection of the learning experience related to each Units’ learning assignments and three reflection posts on the Bondi text. These posts should be a minimum of 250 words. Posts must be submitted in the COS Learning Management System website by 11:59 pm on the appropriate Tuesday. These Personal Reflections will focus upon the student’s personal life, faith, devotional practices, and/or role as a worship leader. Personal Reflections will not be public to the rest of the class.
4. **Learning Discussion Posts.** Each student will be required to post one or two responses to the Units’ assigned reading material and respond to a minimum of two other students’ posts. The primary (initial) post should be a minimum of 250 words each. On weeks with a Synchronous gathering, students will make one primary post by 11:59 PM Thursday night (4/28, 5/12, & 5/26). On weeks with Asynchronous assignments, students will make one primary post by 11:59 PM Saturday night (5/7 & 5/21). With all discussion posts, students will reply to a minimum of two primary posts with substantive replies of a minimum of 50 words. Replies will be due the Monday night of each week (5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, & 5/31). Posts and Replies must be submitted in the COS Learning Management System website by 11:59 pm of the appropriate night.
5. **One Paper**. The student’s final paper will be comparing and contrasting the Early Church’s teachings on one of the available topics with the teachings of the United Methodist Church and another group, denomination, sect, or cult of some Christian derivation. The available topics are the Doctrine of the Trinity, Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, and Ecclesiology. The list of groups is somewhat open-ended; however, the student’s choice should be strongly influenced by the student’s current ministry, cultural geography, or family of origin. The instructor will provide a list of suggested non-United Methodist groups the first meeting of the class. **The paper should be 6 ½ pages to 7 ½ pages doubled spaced (10 to 12 font size and 1” margins).**  The paper will be submitted electronically. {Plagiarism is not acceptable. Failure to cite quotes properly will lower the grade significantly.} The paper is due June 11th no later than 11:59 PM.
6. **Final Reflection**. Due June 7th. The Final Reflection will not be public to the class. The Final Reflection will focus upon the student’s personal life, faith, devotional practices, and/or role as a worship leader. However, it should differ from the focus of the Final Paper or include insights beyond the focus of the paper. The Final Reflection should be a minimum of 500 words.

**Course Grading**:

 1. Introductory Post and Final Reflection = 15%

 2. Discussion Posts = 20%

 3. Quizzes (and Class Participation) = 20%

 4. Personal Reflections = 15%

 5. Final Paper = 30%

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Cheating on tests, examinations, or other class work.
2. Plagiarism (appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work into one’s own written work offered for credit).
3. Counterfeit Work – including turning in as one’s own, work which was created, researched, or produced by someone else.
4. Unauthorized Reuse of Work – the turning in of the same work to more than one class without consent of the instructor involved constitutes academic dishonesty.
5. Collusion – Involvement in Collusion -unauthorized collaboration with another.

**Other Class Guidelines:**

1. Please log in **ON TIME** for Zoom sessions.
2. During class have the **books and /or readings** assigned for that day available. If the reading is accessible from the web, print it out and have it in class so we can refer to it together.
3. There will be many varieties of opinion in this class. **Be respectful** of all ideas and the people expressing them, even if you strongly disagree.
4. Papers must be turned in electronically via Course Connect.
5. Check your **COS email** regularly. Once the course begins, I will only use this email to communicate with you.

**See the Course Calendar for Reading assignments and due dates.**

2022-02-21