

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

History of Religions II

Phil 1317

Dr. Bryan C. Maine

NOTE: This is an online 6-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

Course Description:

A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Students should have an understanding of how to access and use Brightspace and MCC email.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Dr. Bryan C. Maine

MCC E-mail: bmaine@mclennan.edu

Office Location: MAC 340

Office Hours: by appointment through Zoom (<https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/3600373850>)

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*

Author: Diarmaid MacCulloch

Edition: Reprint Edition

Publisher: Penguin Press

ISBN: 9780143118695

Any documents posted on Brightspace (B)

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources

and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found [here](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf) (https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

*** [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)**
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

All communication will be conducted through the student's McLennan email address. Students should check their email account regularly as some information could be time sensitive. Failure to check one's email account does not count as a valid excuse for making up missed work.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

This course will be divided into 13 Learning Units. Each unit is composed of two textbook reading assignments. After completing the reading assignment, students will complete a quiz over each assignment. Students will also participate in class discussion through the use of discussion boards. Students will also complete two exams that will assess the students' ability to assimilate and articulate information.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communications Skill (COM)** -- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** -- to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Read, analyze, and critique religious texts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse beliefs, practices, and values of selected religious traditions.

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- Trace and present orally or in writing the origin and historical developments of selected religious traditions.
- Communicate understanding of selected religious traditions, orally or in writing.
- Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Dates	Topic
Orientation Unit To Learning Unit 3 Due July 17	Orientation Unit
	Learning Unit 01: Early Christianity and Persecution
	Learning Unit 02: Establishing the Boundaries of the Faith and Defining the Canon
	Learning Unit 03: Empire and Councils
Learning Unit 4 To Learning Unit 7 Due July 24	Learning Unit 04: Worship, Monasticism, and Augustine
	Learning Unit 05: Christianity in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia
	Learning Unit 06: Papal Monarchy, Crusades, and Medieval Theology
	Learning Unit 07: Monasticism, Mysticism, and Calls for Reforms Essay Exam I Due
Learning Unit 8 To Learning Unit 10 Due July 31	Learning Unit 08: Protestant Reformations
	Learning Unit 09: Anabaptism and the English Reformation
	Learning Unit 10: Catholic Reform and Counter-Reformation and Beyond Europe
Learning Unit 11 To Learning Unit 13 Due August 8	Learning Unit 11: The Enlightenment, Liberalism, and Protestant Response
	Learning Unit 12: North American Christianity and Liberation Theologies
	Learning Unit 13: Vatican I & II and World Christianity Essay Exam II

Course Grading Information:

1. **Textbook Quizzes:** After completing the assigned textbook readings for each learning unit, you will take two online quizzes. The quizzes will consist of 10 questions. Each quiz will have a timer of 10 minutes, so **please read the assignment reading in advance rather than hunting through the assignment for the answers.**

2. **Class Discussion:** Each week will have one discussion starter thread. Students will engage discussion by reading a passage and reflecting upon it. For each discussion thread, students must post an **original substantive post** on one day and then on a different day provide an **original substantive response** to another student's post. **However, each component of the discussion assignment must be completed by the assigned due date to receive credit. Students who waited until the due date to complete the assignment are advised to submit all components on the same day in order to receive partial credit.** For each discussion thread, 55% of the grade will come from the student's original post, 15% will come from their response to another student's post, 15% will come from posting their original post and response to a classmate on separate days, and 10% will come from the quality of writing.

3. **Exams:** Over the course of the semester, there will be two essay exams. For each exam, students will be provided a list of essay questions. From the list, students will choose one essay question to answer.

- The essay will be between 750-1000 words.
- It must include an introduction with thesis and conclusion.
- Your answer will be based on the assigned readings and discussion board participation.
- Your essay must include a bibliography of all sources used. Your essay must also include in-text citations for sources paraphrased and directly quoted.
- It will be submitted online through Brightspace where it will be run through Turnitin which will check for plagiarism.

Assignment Values

Textbook Quizzes: 50%
Class Discussions: 25%
Exams: 25%

Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100%
B = 80 - 89%
C = 70 - 79%
D = 60 - 69%
F = 59% and below

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

This course is **not a self-paced course**. Students are expected to complete all assignments within the timeframe given. Late work will **not** be accepted for any reason. All assignments must be completed in the week in which they are due. Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of an MCC approved excused absences, but they are strongly discouraged. Students should make

every effort to complete the exams on time. Students are responsible for contacting the professor in advance about any upcoming absences that cannot be avoided.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to learning and to treat each other with respect. This means completing assignments in a timely manner and showing respect for other's viewpoints. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

Students are expected to abide by the MCC Academic Integrity Statement. With regard to cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty, the term "**cheating**" **includes, but is not limited to:** (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or examinations, papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the professor in writing or; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the MCC faculty or staff. **The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to,** the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Plagiarism includes the failure to place three or more words from an outside source in quotation marks. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing on their assignments will receive a **zero** for that assignment and will be reported to Student Discipline.

Online Attendance Policy:

Students must complete a minimum of 75% of all assignments to meet the requirements of this class attendance policy. There are 44 total assignments in the course (textbook quizzes, discussion threads, and exams); therefore, students must complete 33 of the 44 assignments to meet the attendance policy of this course. Failure to complete 75% of the assignment will result in the student failing the course due to "absences" despite having a passing grade.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)**

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

Accommodations/ADA Statement

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

*** Click Here for more information about Title IX**

(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

* *You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*



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Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

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For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.