

# Course Syllabus

KNH1015HF: *A Global History of Christianity: A Survey*

Knox College, Toronto School of Theology  
Fall 2023



(Basilica, mosaic, c. 450-500 CE, Louvre, Paris, MNE 613)

*This course is offered using a remote delivery method. This format will require a computer with a webcam and microphone as well as access to high-speed internet.*

*If you have questions about what remote delivery might mean for you, please feel free to contact the course instructor or the Knox College registrar.*

*As a further support, the University of Toronto has provided recommended tech requirements for online learning: <https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/covid-19/tech-requirements-online-learning/>.*

## ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor:	Dr. Amanda Pullan, Sessional Instructor
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:amanda.pullan@utoronto.ca">amanda.pullan@utoronto.ca</a>
Office Hours:	Contact the instructor to arrange a time on Zoom (details on Quercus)
TA:	TBD
Email:	TBD

## **Course Identification**

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Course Number:	KNH1015HF
Course Format:	<i>Online</i>
Course Name:	A Global History of Christianity - a Survey
Course Location:	Remote via Zoom
Class Times:	Thursday 6:00pm -9:00pm, <i>Seminar 6-7pm; Lecture 7-9pm.</i> <i>Seminar groups will be assigned after the first week of class.</i>
Prerequisites:	None

## **Course Description**

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The course will introduce students to the method and study of the history of Christianity. It will also provide a knowledge of major events and trends in Christian history, which will be required for other Knox College courses. As a survey course, topics will not be covered in extensive detail or in great depth: rather the course will allow students to place events in their proper chronological order and cultural context, which will allow for more detailed study of topics in later courses at TST and as needed in congregational ministry or further graduate study.

Lecture: 2 hours

Compulsory seminar: 1 hour

## **Course Resources**

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### **Required Course Texts/Bibliography**

All the required texts for the course are available online through the University of Toronto Libraries, or through Quercus.

Students may wish to purchase one of the survey texts suggested below for an overview of main themes.

### **Additional Course Texts/Bibliography**

- Justo L. González, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol. 1 (Harper Collins, 2010)
- John McManners, ed. *The Oxford History of Christianity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002 edition)

### **Zoom (Video-conferencing tool)**

You will need a Zoom account for the course. You can access your UofT Zoom account at [utoronto.zoom.us](https://utoronto.zoom.us). If it's your first time, you will need to access the [support page](#) first.

## Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

To access, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Then, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Kyla Thomson, Assistant Registrar, [kylah.thomson@utoronto.ca](mailto:kylah.thomson@utoronto.ca) for further help.

## Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

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In successfully completing this course, a student will be able to:

### **A. In Respect of General Academic Skills (and noted below \*)**

- Demonstrate ethical behaviour, taking responsibility for the expectations of the course and showing respect and a willingness to listen in the learning atmosphere including class discussions and small groups

### **B. In Respect of the Understanding of the Content of One or more Theological Disciplines**

- Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the topics covered by the course in the survey of Global Christianity
  - Identify major time periods, events, and peoples in the history of Global Christianity
  - Analyze reoccurring themes over time.
- Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the methods used in historical study:
  - Identify and apply the distinction between primary and secondary historical sources
- Demonstrate at an introductory level a willingness and ability to discuss historiographical issues arising from the study of history:
  - Identify one's own biases which are brought to the study of primary and secondary sources
  - Apply critical analysis to the interpretation of texts based on methods demonstrated in class
- Demonstrate the skills necessary for graduate level study of the history of Christianity.
  - Gather and select information from the readings, appropriate to assigned tasks\*
  - Communicate clearly in both oral and written forms, using good organizational formats and proper research formats\*
  - Show a willingness to assess one's own work\*

## **Evaluation**

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### **Requirements**

Students should read all required readings (including primary sources to be discussed in the seminar) before class.

Note: extensive note taking is *not* recommended prior to the lecture.

### **The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in [4] areas:**

Basic Degree Students:

#### **1. Minor paper in essay format (20%) due October 19, 2023, by 12:00pm noon**

Assignment: Read **two** of the starred readings about the Early Church. Write a short paper (2000-word max) analyzing the authors' approach to the history of the early church by considering and responding to the questions provided.

Style Guidelines: Essay should be written in effective English. Any sources used apart from the reading itself need to be referenced using the humanities format and the Chicago Manual of Style (you will need your UTORID and password):

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/16/contents.html>.

Please follow guide for 'bibliographies' and 'notes' and use footnotes instead of endnotes.

Back up copy - please make back-up copies of essays before submitting them.

Evaluative criteria: ability to apply critical analysis to the interpretation of history, identify assumptions/biases (one's own, others); ability to communicate in writing.

#### **2. Midterm (20%) November 2, 2023 (during class time)**

The format of the midterm will be short answers, multiple choice, identify, and true/false.

Evaluative criteria: knowledge of material and content of course; major time periods, events, and people during the introductory part of the course.

#### **3. Seminar Presentation (25%) (during seminars)**

Students will present a 15-minute seminar to their classmates.

The seminar presentation will use a primary source document and will:

- briefly establish key background to the text
- summarize the main idea/s (no more than 2) of the primary source
- explain how their own spiritual background/religious experience compares to the viewpoint expressed in the source.

Evaluative criteria: identify and apply the distinction between primary and secondary sources; gather and select information; apply critical analysis to texts; communicate clearly in oral form

#### **4. Final Examination (35%) December 14, 2023 (during class time)**

Students will use information gathered from the readings and the lectures to construct an historical argument related to the questions. (Exam questions will be essay questions).

Evaluation criteria: ability to construct historical arguments and weigh evidence, analyze reoccurring themes over time, written communication skills

### **Grading System - Basic Degree Students**

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

**Late work (BD).** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. There is no penalty applied if the assignment is submitted up to 24 hours late, after that, a grade is lost per day. The absolute deadline for course work is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Inclusive Language.** *When using language in any form (written, oral, visual), instructor and students shall strive to respect one another by choosing language in ways outlined in the Knox College Language Policy:* [https://knox.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Knox-College-Policy\\_Use-of-Language-Policy-and-Glossary\\_221003.pdf](https://knox.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Knox-College-Policy_Use-of-Language-Policy-and-Glossary_221003.pdf)

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (link provided on course schedule): <https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/>

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019> .

**Obligation to check email.** All students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. (Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password.) Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.



**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

**Video-recordings.** Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted, or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

**Generative AI Tools including Chat-GPT.**

- 1) Tests:  
Students may not use any aids or Generative AI tools for any course tests (Midterm and Final Exam). This qualifies as an academic offense.
- 2) Assignments:  
Students may not copy or paraphrase from any generative artificial intelligence applications, including Chat-GPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course. This qualifies as an academic offense.

Students are discouraged from using generative artificial intelligence tools as they work through the other assignments in this course, and any use of these tools must be documented in an appendix for each assignment. The documentation should include what tool(s) were used, how they were used (i.e. "prompts"), and how the results from the AI tool were incorporated into the submitted work.

**Course Schedule**

<p><b>Week 1</b> Thu. Sep. 14</p>	<p><b>Course Overview &amp; Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Lecture: The Classical Inheritance of Christianity (60 BCE – 30 CE)</b></p> <p><i>Seminar: Why History? &amp; Library Orientation &amp; Avoiding Plagiarism</i></p> <p>Students should familiarize themselves with University of Toronto policy on plagiarism: <a href="https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/">https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/</a></p>
<p><b>Week 2</b> Thu. Sep 21</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Early Church – Identity and Persecution (100 CE – 300CE)</b></p>

	<p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W.H.C. Frend, "Persecutions: genesis and legacy" pp. 501-523 in <i>Cambridge History of Christianity</i> (hereafter <i>CHC</i>), Vol. 1 (2006)</li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1 in McManners, ed. <i>Oxford History of Christianity</i> (hereafter <i>OHC</i>)</li> <li>• Chapters 5-7 in González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i>, Vol. 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> The Historical Method</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b> Thu. Sep. 28</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Early Church – Inside and Outside the Empire, (300-400 CE)</b></p> <p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philip Jenkins, Chp. 1 in <i>The Lost History of Christianity</i> (2008)</li> <li>• <i>Life of St. Anthony</i> (Primary Source) in Athanasius, et al. <i>Early Christian Biographies</i>, pp. 134-216 [try as much as you can].</li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapters 16-17, González, Vol. 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> The Historical Method &amp; Historians</p>
<p><b>Week 4</b> Thu. Oct. 5</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Early Church – St. Augustine &amp; the Church Fathers (350 – 600 CE)</b></p> <p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Martyrdom of Perpetua</i> (Primary Source)</li> <li>• Robert A Markus, "Life, Culture, and Controversies of Augustine" from J. Cavadini et al eds. <i>Augustine Through the Ages: An Encyclopedia</i> (1999)</li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>St. Basil's rule</i>, a selection (Primary Source)</li> <li>• Chapters 20 – 24, González, Vol. 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> Presentation (Primary Source: Perpetua's Martyrdom)</p>
<p><b>Week 5</b> Thu. Oct 12</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Early Church: Achievements, Crises and Adaptation (350-755 CE)</b></p> <p><b>Required Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>St. Augustine's Confessions</i>, a selection (Primary Source)</li> <li>• <i>The Life of Macrina</i> (Primary Source)</li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Reading:</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 27, “The New Order”, González, Vol. 1</li> <li>• St. Benedict’s rule, a selection (Primary Source)</li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> Presentation (Primary Source: Augustine’s <i>Confessions</i> and <i>Life of Macrina</i>)</p>
<b>Week 6</b> Thu. Oct. 19	<p><b>Minor Paper Due</b></p> <p><b>Lecture: Medieval Christianity – Mission and Institutions (600 – 1220)</b></p> <p><b>Required Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Life of St. Columba</i> (Primary Source)</li> <li>• <i>Njal’s Saga</i> (Primary Source)</li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shepard, “Slav Christianities, 800-100” in <i>CHC</i> Vol 4</li> <li>• Morris, Chap. 6, “Christian Civilization (1050-1400)” in <i>OHC</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> Presentation (Primary Sources: <i>Life of St. Columba</i>, <i>Njal’s Saga</i>)</p>
READING WEEK/No Classes Week of October 23-27, 2023	
<b>Week 7</b> Thu. Nov 2	<p><b>Midterm (held during normal class time)</b></p> <p>No Seminar this week</p>
<b>Week 8</b> Thu. Nov 9	<p><b>Lecture: Medieval Christianity: The Crusades (1096-1291 CE)</b></p> <p><b>Required Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runciman, <i>The First Crusade</i>, Chapters 4, and 5</li> <li>• Dante’s <i>Inferno</i>, Canto 3 (Primary Source)</li> <li>• Julian of Norwich, <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i>, Chapters 1-3 (Primary Source) OR</li> <li>• <i>The Life of St. Elizabeth of Spaalbeek</i> (Primary Source)</li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> Presentation (Primary sources: Dante’s <i>Inferno</i>, Canto 3, Julian of Norwich, <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i>, Chapters 1-3 OR <i>The Life of St. Elizabeth of Spaalbeek</i>)</p>
<b>Week 9</b> Thu. Nov. 16	<p><b>Lecture: Late- Medieval Church &amp; Reformations (1400-1600)</b></p> <p><b>Required Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collinson, Chap. 7 “The Late Medieval Church and its Reformation (1400-1600)”, <i>OHC</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Hendrix, <i>Martin Luther: The Man and His Vision</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015, Preface and Chapter 5</li> </ul> <p>Supplementary Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eamon Duffy, <i>The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England, 1400-1580</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2022, Chapter 6 “The ‘Lewed’ and the Learned: The Laity and the Primers”.</li> </ul> <p>Seminar: Making Historical Arguments</p>
<p><b>Week 10</b> Thu. Nov. 23</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Reformation and Modern: Missions and Expansion (1500-1750)</b></p> <p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark A. Noll, “British and French North America to 1765” <i>CHC</i>, Vol. 7</li> <li>• R. G. Tiedemann, “Christianity in East Asia”, <i>CHC</i>, Vol. 7</li> <li>• Martin Luther, <i>Shorter or Small Catechism</i> (1529) (Primary Source)</li> <li>• Teresa of Avila, <i>The Interior Castle</i> (Primary Source)</li> </ul> <p>Seminar: Presentation (Primary sources: Martin Luther, <i>Small Catechism</i>; Teresa of Avila, <i>The Interior Castle</i>)</p>
<p><b>Week 11</b> Thu. Nov. 30</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Modern Christianity: Enlightenment, Revival, Revolution, and Change (1750-1918)</b></p> <p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Bebbington, “The growth of voluntary religion” <i>CHC</i>, Vol. 8</li> <li>• Jonathan Edwards, Excerpt from “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”, pp. 12-17 (1741) (Primary Source)</li> <li>• Amanda Berry Smith, <i>An Autobiography</i> (1893), Chp. 7 (Primary Source)</li> </ul> <p>Supplementary Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter J. Bowler, “Christianity and the Sciences” <i>CHC</i>, Vol. 9</li> </ul> <p>Seminar: Presentation (Primary Sources: Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”; Amanda Berry Smith, <i>An Autobiography</i>)</p>
<p><b>Week 12</b> Thu. Dec. 7</p>	<p><b>Lecture: Modern &amp; Post-Modern Christianity (1918- present day)</b></p> <p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taylor, Chap. 19, “The Future of Christianity”, <i>OHC</i></li> <li>• Martin Luther King, “Knock at Midnight” (Chp. 6) Excerpt from <i>The Gift of Love</i> (1963) (Primary Source)</li> <li>• Watchman Nee, “The Gate and the New Path” (Chp. 11) Excerpt from <i>The Normal Christian Life</i>, (Primary Source)</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Supplementary Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hugh McLeod, "The Crisis of Christianity in the West: Entering a Post-Christian Era?" <i>CHC</i>, Vol. 9</li> </ul> <p><b>Seminar:</b> Presentation (Martin Luther King "Knock at Midnight"; Watchman Nee, "The Gate and the New Path")</p>
<p><b>Final Exam</b></p> <p>Thu. Dec 14</p>	<p><b>Exam</b></p> <p>Note: The final exam will be held online during normal class time. Details will be confirmed closer to the time.</p>