

REGENT COLLEGE  
Distance Education

HIST 560: THE AGONIES & ECSTASIES:  
VARIED PORTRAITS OF THE CHRISTIAN TO 1550 A.D.

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3 Graduate Credit Hours

**Your due date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(See the last page of your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

**A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.**

**Course Description**

This course will be a walk through the Christian centuries with representative guides such as the theologian Augustine, the monk Benedict, the missionary Columbanus, the mystic Catherine of Siena, the reformer Martin Luther and the pacifist Menno Simons. The walk will not only provide helpful knowledge of the past but will inspire and challenge students in their own pilgrimages.

The course will be taught primarily as a lecture course. The purposes of the course are:

- a. to acquaint the student with biography as a genre of historical writing,
- b. to provide the student with significant portraits of Christian saints throughout the history of the church, and
- c. to familiarize the student with the principles and processes related to historical research.

**Course Outline**

CD 1 / MP3 A01-A04	Introduction: Survey of the Post-apostolic Period
CD 2 & 3 / MP3 A05-B04	Hagiography: Martyrs and Hermits
CD 4-7 / MP3 B05-D02	Augustine of Hippo (354-430)
CD 7- 9 / MP3 D03-E02	Benedict of Nursia (480-543)
CD 9-11 / MP3 E03-F06	Columbanus (543-615)
CD 12-14 / MP3 F07-G05	Boniface of Devon (675-754)
CD 14 & 15 / MP3 G06-H06	Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

CD 16 & 17 / MP3 H07-I03	Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)
CD 17-19 / MP3 I04-J03	Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498)
CD 19-22 / MP3 J04-K08	Martin Luther (1483-1546)
CD 23 & 24 / MP3 L01-L07	Menno Simons (1496-1561)

### Academic Requirements and Time Investment

	<u>3 credit hours</u>
Lectures	36 hrs.
Assignment 1 – Research Paper (5,000 words)	60 hrs.
Assignment 2 – Paper on Primary Material (2,500 words)	20 hrs.
Assignment 3 – Two Comparison Essays (1,250 words each)	<u>20 hrs.</u>
TOTAL	136 hrs.

### Assignments

All assignments are due six months from the start date of the course.

#### 1. **Research Paper**

Students will prepare a research paper of not more than 20 typed pages focusing on some outstanding Christian personage, or aspect of that individual, in the history of the church to 1550.

#### 2. **Paper on Primary Material**

Answer any **one** of the following questions. Read approximately 100 pages of primary material and, in response, give evidence of having read the text. The essay *should not* exceed 10 typed pages.

- 1) Write a brief critical commentary on any **four** books of Augustine's *Confessions* or any **two** books of his *City of God*.
- 2) What is St. Benedict trying to do with his Rule of 529 in *The Rule of St. Benedict*?
- 3) What image of St. Francis can you reconstruct from *Little Flowers*? Assume that *Little Flowers* is reliable and select some 100 pages of relevant text.
- 4) Evaluate Antony's profile in Athanasius' biography. What appeals/doesn't appeal to you personally?
- 5) Analyze Palladius' *The Lausiatic History (The Life of the Holy Fathers)*. What do you find attractive and unattractive?

**Note:** Books for Questions 1, 2, and 3 are usually available at your local library, if not, they may be purchased through the Regent Bookstore. Photocopies of the reading for Questions 4 and 5 are available through the Distance Education Department at Regent College. Please call and ask for them.

#### 3. **Two Comparison Essays**

Answer any **two** of the following questions that do not deal with the same topic as the question you answered in the Primary Materials Paper (e.g. you may not answer both question 1 from the Primary list and question 2 from the Comparison list.) Each essay *should not* exceed five typed pages.

- 1) Why might St. Benedict and Pope Gregory I be said to have constructed the foundations of medieval monasticism?

- 2) What are **one** or **two** aspects of Augustine's career that impress you most?
- 3) If Martin Luther and Menno Simons were to sit down and discuss the essence of what it means to be a Christian how might discussion proceed? What points of agreement and disagreement might there be?
- 4) Suppose Antony (250-356) lived into the 6th century and decided to enter a Benedictine monastery. How might he have reacted to the pathway to God spelled out in the Rule? How might the monks have responded to his approach to the Christian life?
- 5) Columbanus and Boniface were both missionaries and persons of stature in the church of their day. Compare and/or contrast their activities.
- 6) Compare and/or contrast the mysticism of St. Francis and Catherine of Siena.

***NB: The Course Evaluation Form is to be returned by your due date***

**Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)**

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable* **and** *unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details <http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable* **and** *unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator **first** for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of "Academic Integrity" in the College Catalogue.

**Evaluation**

Assignment 1 – Research Paper	40%
Assignment 2 – Paper on Primary Material	20%
Assignment 3 – Comparison Essays [20 % each]	<u>40%</u>
TOTAL	100%

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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