

Faith Program

COURSE OUTLINE

PAT 101– Nicene & Post Nicene Fathers
WINTER 2010 FRIDAY, 6 – 7:15 PM
INSTRUCTOR: Nivine Markos

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Patrology is the science dealing with the life, acts, writings, sayings, doctrines & thoughts of the early church fathers. Patrology also focus on ensuring the authenticity of these acts, publishing them and translating them in modern languages. This 3-week course will help you understand the development of patristic literatures in the early centuries of Christianity. You'll also study some of the early literature samples for example the Apostolic Creed as well as early, mainly Apostolic, fathers life and sample writings for example St. Clement of Rome.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the importance of studying the life & writings of early church fathers.
- Determine the different classifications and eras of patristic literature.
- Identify the different writers in the eras of patristic literature.
- Develop and understanding for the significance of the existence of certain literature such as the Apostolic Creed in the era it was written and the age we live in.
- Examine the life & writings of some of the Apostolic Fathers.
- Demonstrate competence in applying your understanding of the course material in answering questions about the significance of Patrology in our Coptic Orthodox faith.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXT

1. NICENE & POST NICENE FATHERS Booklet – Servants' Preparation Program. Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Research Paper:** February 12th, 2010; 40% of final grade. Life & Literature of St. Athanasius the Apostolic.
2. **Final Exam:** February 5th, 2010; 60% of final grade. A comprehensive final will be given covering materials from the lectures primarily.

C. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Title Page and Documentation: The title page should include the name of the course, name of the instructor, title of the paper/assignment, student's name, and the date due. Students are expected to honestly reflect use of materials other than their own. The Church does not tolerate plagiarism in any form. Any sources used in the paper should be properly documented as a reference or bibliography at the end of the paper.

Papers must be typed and double-spaced. Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments in hard copy or electronic form. Proper spelling, grammar and style are expected.

Class policy on late assignment: For each day late, the grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade. Extensions will be considered if the circumstances are extreme. No final assignments or examinations will be accepted later than Friday February 19th, 2010. Requests for an extension of the due date must be submitted to the course instructor prior to the due date for the assignment.

Assignments may be handed in at the course session. Only hardcopies are accepted, no email copies will be graded.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

1. **Research Paper:**

- a. The paper must contain a brief biography, examples of Saint's writings and sample literature.
- b. Incorporate the concepts you learnt in this course to determine the era of patristic literature that Saint belong to, the classification of his writings in terms of time, language, place & material.
- c. All references must be included.
- d. The paper **must not** exceed 4 pages.

2. **Final Examination:**

This will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. The test will cover all material from the lectures primarily.

3. In order to pass this course, you need to earn an overall grade of not less than 75%.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS

SESSION I January 15

- Overview of course and assignments
- Overview of Patrology
- The Apostolic Creed & Didache.

SESSION I January 22

- Apostolic Fathers Literature
- St. Clement of Rome.
- St. Ignatius of Antioch
- Quadratus
- Epistle to Diognetus

SESSION I January 29

- St. Polycarp of Smyrna
- Epistle of Barnabas
- Papias of Hierapolis
- The "Shepherd" of Hermas