

**HIST 5133 (001): Readings Colloquium in Early Medieval Christianities  
Fall 2009**

Day/Time: Mondays, 3:30 – until we are well spent, intellectually speaking  
Room: MAIN 423  
Professor: Lynda L. Coon ([lcoon@uark.edu](mailto:lcoon@uark.edu))  
Office: MAIN 416E  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m.; Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.; and happily by appointment  
Office Phone: 575-5896

Course Description:

This readings colloquium focuses on the History of Christianity from the late patristic era through the early Middle Ages (c. 400-850 C.E.). The seminar is organized around pairings of primary and secondary sources. For example, Peter Brown's magisterial biography of Augustine of Hippo (d. 430) is paired with Augustine's most famous work, the *Confessions*. Special topics for the seminar include Christianity and the state, Christianity and paganism, the rise of asceticism, the varieties of monastic practice, and the artistic world of early medieval Christendom. The geographical and chronological range of the colloquium extends from the late ancient Mediterranean to the northern frontiers of a 'Dark Age'. The semester's readings include classics in the field as well as more recent publications.

Required Texts (available for purchase at the Union Bookstore or on Reserve at Mullins):

Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo* (University of California Press, 2000; reprint of 1966 original)  
Henry Chadwick (tr.), *Augustine's Confessions* (Oxford University Press, 1998)  
David Brakke, *Demons and the Making of the Monk: Spiritual Combat in Early Christianity* (Harvard University Press, 2006)  
Robert Gregg (tr.), *Athanasius: Life of Antony* (Paulist Press, 1979)  
Carole Straw, *Gregory the Great: Perfection in Imperfection* (University of California Press, 1991)  
Gregory the Great, *Pastoral Care* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007)  
Peter Brown, *Cult of the Saints* (University of Chicago Press, 1982)  
Gregory of Tours, *Glory of the Confessors* (Liverpool University Press, 1989)  
Michelle Brown, *Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality, and the Scribe* (University of Toronto Press, 2003)  
Bede, *Age of Bede* (Penguin Classics, 1998)  
Mayke De Jong, *The Penitential State: Authority and Atonement in the Age of Louis the Pious* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)  
Celia Chazelle, *Crucified God in the Carolingian Era: Theology and Art of Christ's Passion* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Reserve Password:

09f33h1cl

Course Requirements:

- Vigorous participation in class discussion
- Critical reviews of secondary sources
- Analyses of primary texts in light of the methodologies deployed in secondary sources

Guidelines for Discussion & Papers:

Consult carefully the guidelines for writing critical reviews of secondary texts and analyses of primary sources ([handout](#), 24 August). Each week, students will be provided with discussion questions for the following week's seminar. I require that colloquium participants send me their weekly papers as e-mail

attachments (Word document: [lcoon@uark.edu](mailto:lcoon@uark.edu)) **before** the 3:30 p.m. deadline on Mondays. Students may turn in **one** late paper without penalty. After that, late papers will be penalized one-letter grade for each day late (after 3:30 p.m. on Mondays counts as one-day late).

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion	100 points
Critical Reviews	130 points (13 essays @ 10 points each)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230 points</b>

A	=	207-230
B	=	184-206
C	=	161-183
D	=	138-160
F	=	Below 138

Seminar Schedule:

24 August	<u>Introduction:</u> Peter Brown, “Christendom, c. 600” + Philip Rousseau, “Late Roman Christianities,” Chaps. 1 & 2 of Thomas F. X. Noble and Julia H. M. Smith (eds.), <i>The Cambridge History of Christianity: Volume 3 Early Medieval Christianities, c. 600-1100</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 1-45 ( <i>gratis</i> )
31 August	Peter Brown, <i>Augustine of Hippo</i>
7 September	<b>Labor Day Holiday!</b>
14 September	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i>
21 September	David Brakke, <i>Demons and the Making of the Monk</i>
28 September	Athanasius, <i>Life of Antony</i>
5 October	Carole Straw, <i>Gregory the Great: Perfection in Imperfection</i>
12 October	Gregory the Great, <i>Pastoral Care</i>
19 October	Peter Brown, <i>Cult of the Saints</i>
26 October	Gregory of Tours, <i>Glory of the Confessors</i>
2 November	Michelle Brown, <i>Lindisfarne Gospels</i>
9 November	Bede, <i>Age of Bede</i>
16 November	Mayke De Jong, <i>The Penitential State: Authority and Atonement in the Age of Louis the Pious</i>
23 November	Astronomer, <i>Life of Louis the Pious</i> ( <i>gratis</i> )
30 November	Celia Chazelle, <i>The Crucified God in the Carolingian World</i>