

## CT1010P / DS 1010P

### Early Monastic Wisdom: The Desert and the City

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**Intensive unit:** CT1010P, DS1010P

September 23-27 and November 9

#### Description

This unit is a foundation for further study in Christian Thought and History. It offers historical study of the first five centuries of Christianity with an emphasis on the practice and belief of the community, focussing especially on monastic sources. It examines the formal clarification of doctrine through key primary texts in the light of the wider life of the church, offering an introduction to Christian traditions of theological reflection.

#### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline a chronology of key events within the Christian community c.70-500.
2. Articulate key principles of historical interpretation of ancient Christian texts.
3. Identify key features of the context and method of at least one writer in the early Christian church.
4. Interpret a range of historical sources.
5. Discuss the implications of the above for ministry in the contemporary Christian church.

#### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Essay ( 1500 words)	40%
Research Essay (2500 words)	60%

**Pre-requisite:** N/A

**Lecturer:** Carmel Posa, SGS and Katharine Massam

#### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Athanasius, *The Life of Antony and the Letter to Marcellinus*. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.

Brown, Peter. *The Body and Society: Men, Women and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (New York: Columbia, 1988).

Burton-Christie, D. *The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness in Early Christian Monasticism*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993).

Dunn, Marilyn, *The Emergence of Monasticism: From the Desert Fathers to the Early Middle Ages*. (Blackwell Publishing: Oxford, 2003).

Elm, S. *Virgins of God: The Making of Asceticism in Late Antiquity*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).

Evagrius Ponticus: *The Praktikos and Chapters on Prayer*. (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1981).

\*Harmless, W. *Desert Christians: An Introduction to the Literature of Early Monasticism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

*John Cassian: The Conferences*. Trans. O.P. Boniface Ramsey. Ancient Christian Writers. (New York: Newman Press, 1999).

*John Cassian: The Institutes*. Trans. O.P. Boniface Ramsey. Ancient Christian Writers. )New York: Newman Press, 2000).

Ward, Benedicta, (trans.). *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Vol. 59. (Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1984).

## CT8010P / DS8010P

### Early Monastic Wisdom: The Desert and the City

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**Intensive unit:** CT1010P, DS1010P      September 23-27 and November 9

#### Description

This unit is a foundation for further study in Christian Thought and History. It offers historical study of the first five centuries of Christianity with an emphasis on the practice and belief of the community, focussing especially on monastic sources. It examines the formal clarification of doctrine through key primary texts in the light of the wider life of the church, offering an introduction to Christian traditions of theological reflection.

#### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline a chronology of key events within the Christian community c.70-500 CE and describe their significance.
2. Articulate key principles of historical interpretation of ancient Christian texts.
3. Identify key features of the context and method of at least one writer in the early Christian church
4. Describe and analyse the spiritual teachings within a range of ancient Christian texts.
5. Interpret a range of historical sources.
6. Discuss the implications of the above for ministry in the contemporary Christian church.

#### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Essay ( 2000 words)	40%
Research Essay (4000 words)	60%

**Pre-requisite:** N/A

**Lecturer:** Carmel Posa, SGS and Katharine Massam

#### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Athanasius, *The Life of Antony and the Letter to Marcellinus*. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.

Brown, Peter. *The Body and Society: Men, Women and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (New York: Columbia, 1988).

Burton-Christie, D. *The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness in Early Christian Monasticism*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993).

Dunn, Marilyn, *The Emergence of Monasticism: From the Desert Fathers to the Early Middle Ages*. (Blackwell Publishing: Oxford, 2003).

Elm, S. *Virgins of God: The Making of Asceticism in Late Antiquity*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).

Evagrius Ponticus: *The Praktikos and Chapters on Prayer*. (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1981).

\*Harmless, W. *Desert Christians: An Introduction to the Literature of Early Monasticism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

*John Cassian: The Conferences*. Trans. O.P. Boniface Ramsey. Ancient Christian Writers. (New York: Newman Press, 1999).

*John Cassian: The Institutes*. Trans. O.P. Boniface Ramsey. Ancient Christian Writers. )New York: Newman Press, 2000).

Ward, Benedicta, (trans.). *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Vol. 59. (Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1984).