

CHHI 70203/80203/90203
Unity and Diversity in the Early Church
3 Semester Hours

Instructor: James Duke

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content:

This course introduces the diversity of Christianity by attention to various early Christian movements and conflicts leading to the catch-phrase categories of “orthodoxy” and ‘heresy’. Basic decisions about theological teaching as well as issues relating to social, cultural, and political factors are to be considered. Opportunities for historical and current theological reflection on interpretations today are included.

Class Procedures: Some lecture but primarily group discussion of learnings and questions arising from readings..

Texts for purchase by all

Bart D. Ehrman, *Lost Christianities The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*. Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 0195182499; ISBN-13: 978-0195182491. Pbk \$20.00

Bart D. Ehrman, *Lost Scriptures: Books that did not Make It into the New Testament*. Oxford Press, 2005.: ISBN-10:195182502; ISBN-13 : 978-0195182507; Pbk \$19.99

Justo L. Gonzalez and Catherine Gonzalez. *Heretics for Armchair Theologians*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 0664232051; ISBN-13: 978-0664232054. Pbk \$15.58

Rebecca Lyman, *Early Christian Traditions*. Cowley Publications, 1999. ISBN 1-56101-161-4. Pbk \$15.50

Additional Texts for purchase by advanced (2d Masters and Ph.D.) students

Elaine Pagels, *The Gnostic Gospels*. Random House, Vintage 2004. ISBN-10: 0679724532; ISBN-13: 978-0679724537. Pbk \$13.00

James M. Robinson, *Trajectories through Early Christianity*. Wipf and Stock 2006; ISBN-10:159752736X ;ISBN-13 : 978-1597527361. Pbk 32.00

Requirements: Regular attendance with active and informed contribution to discussion.
Brief statement of 2 observations and 2 questions on each weekly reading
A take-home midterm and take-home final (3 essays 4-5 pages each)

Plus, for advanced students (2d masters & Ph.D) a final research/reflection paper (12-15 pp.) on a topic relating to the course. Ph.D. papers esp. are to be selected in consultation with the instructor.

Grading Procedures:

Class contributions 40%; each exam 30%. For advanced students the percentages will be reduced to allow 20% for their final papers.