



READINGS IN THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS

Spring Term 2022

Course Syllabus

1 April 2022

COURSE TITLE

ST CHA301 Reading in the Apostolic Fathers

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time: Saturdays, 11 AM to 12:00 PM EST via ZOOM

Semester: Spring 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Fr. Joseph A. Harmon

Email address: jharmon@anccmail.org

Phone: 551-697-2520

Office hours: Fr. Joseph prefers to be contacted first by email unless the matter is urgent. He will respond to email communications as soon as possible. If you would like him to contact you by phone, please include your number in your email. Also, please indicate if the matter is urgent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

A series of ten early Christian writers will be the subject of this course. Written after what is often called the “apostolic period,” these writers lived between roughly 60 CE and 150 CE. Commonly believed to have been associates or students of the Apostles, modern scholarship has questioned this assertion, instead finding value in their writings as individual witnesses to the developing teachings of the early church.

The writings of the Apostolic Fathers form a bridge between the seminal writings of St. Paul and the gospels and the later writings of the Patristic period. We see in their writings the origins of such concepts as apostolic succession and the authority of bishops in the church, and the beginnings of the formation of what became the New Testament canon. Studying the Apostolic Fathers helps us understand the milieu of ideas and teachings that began to emerge as orthodoxy and to appreciate that this evolution was anything but a straight-line from the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles to what became established Tradition.

This course will consist of ten lectures (approximately 45 minutes each) participants will view before each scheduled Saturday class. The Saturday classes will be a 60-minute review and discussion with the instructor on each lecture topic. Saturday classes will be via Zoom from 11 AM to 12 PM eastern time from April 23 through June 25, 2022.

Participants in this course should:

- Acquire rudimentary knowledge of the Apostolic Fathers and their times;
- Gain appreciation for the historical and theological context framing and influencing the writings of the Apostolic Fathers;
- Learn how the writings of the Apostolic Fathers influenced some of the concepts, teachings and practices that continue to inform the Church today.

REQUIRED TEXTS

In addition to the required text listed below, additional readings may be assigned from supplemental texts. These additional readings will be provided by the instructor as handouts at no cost to the participants.

- **TAF** *The primary textbook for the course will be Rick Brennan's *The Apostolic Fathers: A New Translation* © 2017 Lexham Press, Bellingham, WA). The book may be purchased through Amazon.*

RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT (NOT REQUIRED)

- **RTAF** *Reading the Apostolic Fathers: An Introduction.* Clayton N. Jefford with Kenneth J. Harder and Louis D. Amezaga, Jr. © 1996 Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. Peabody, MA. There is a more current version of this text available through Amazon, however the original version can also be purchased through Amazon and other vendors such ThriftBooks.com.

ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK

A weekly lecture will be available by 6 PM on Sunday of each class week. Participants should plan to view the lecture in advance so they have sufficient time to correlate the lecture with the assigned readings and to be prepared for the Saturday discussion. All participants, including auditors, are expected to participate in class discussions and to complete the assigned readings in advance of each class.

Participants taking this course for credit are required to complete the following:

Topical Paper: A paper of at least 5 but no more than 10 pages, properly formatted and researched with footnotes, exploring a problem or theme based on the writings of one or more of the Apostolic Fathers. The paper topic must be approved by the Instructor no later than the sixth class. Papers will be due on or before July 15th.

Reflection Paper: Two separate papers of at least two but no more than three pages on a topic assigned by the Instructor. Papers are to be properly formatted and will be presented during an assigned class. Papers will be due the Friday in advance of the Saturday class for which they are assigned.

Study Guide: A Study Guide, updated weekly, will provide additional information, brief assignments, and other information.

FORMATTING AND SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Papers must be prepared using Microsoft Word or a Microsoft Word compatible/equivalent word processor. All papers must conform to the following format:

Type font: Times New Roman 12 point. Text should be typed in regular face except for emphasis, which may be done using boldface, underlining, italics or a combination of the three. Headings and subheadings should be no larger than 16 point.

Margins, Paragraphs and line spacing: Papers should use a one-inch margin on all four sides. Using the "Paragraph" dropdown menu, select "0" space before each paragraph and 6 pt. space after each paragraph. Doing this eliminates hard breaks that take up unnecessary space (in other words, there should be no paragraph space holders between each paragraph). Set the line spacing to 1.5.

Page numbering: Insert and center page numbers in the footer of each page (using the page number dropdown menu from the "Insert" menu tab allows you to insert and center page numbers automatically).

Citations and Notes: Documentation of your sources and ideas is essential in academic writing. Please use a standard style for uniform citations; you may wish to consult one of several style books for this purpose. You may use either footnotes or endnotes. My preference is the MLA Style and a summary regarding use of citations may be found [HERE: \(https://pitt.libguides.com/citationhelp/mla8thedition\)](https://pitt.libguides.com/citationhelp/mla8thedition).

An additional resource for writing papers comes from the Writing Studio (Thompson Writing Program) of Duke University and may be found [HERE](https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/academic-style-guide.original.pdf): (<https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/academic-style-guide.original.pdf>).

Submission of your papers: All papers are to be submitted as a PDF file and emailed to the instructor before 5 PM eastern time on the date they are due. Papers that do not meet the formatting requirements outlined above will not be accepted and will be returned for proper formatting.

Plagiarism: Refer to the ANCTI Policies and Procedures for the ANCTI policy on plagiarism.

Late work: If a participant is aware of a situation that will cause work to be submitted late or a presentation not to be made on time, the participant should inform the instructor as soon as possible to request to be excused from the deadline for the work or the presentation date. If excused, the instructor will assign a new due date in consultation with the participant. Unexcused work/presentations will result in no credit for that work or presentation. Unexcused work/presentations submitted late because of an unforeseen emergency will be accepted when a reasonable explanation, as determined in the instructor's sole discretion, is provided.

Other policies and procedures: Participants should consult the ANCTI website's (<https://antci.org>) for additional policies and procedures pertaining to Institute courses.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- Participants are expected to attend each of the ten classes of the course. Perfect attendance, while desired, is not always possible to achieve for reasons beyond a participant's control. Accordingly, a participant may have up to three unexcused class absences. Additional absences will result in a reduction in the participant's grade and absence from more than six classes will result in the participant being automatically withdrawn from the course and the final evaluation will so reflect.
- All participants are expected to actively engage the course material and class discussions. Class participation forms an element of the grade for participants taking the course for credit, but even those not taking the course for credit are encouraged to participate fully as discussion is a vital part of the learning experience.
- Because all classes are conducted via Zoom, participants must mute their microphone once the class has begun and unmute when they wish to ask a question, make a comment or respond to something raised during the class. Care must be taken not to "speak over" one another.
- Participants are expected to always show the utmost courtesy and respect for others participating in the course.

GRADING

Grades for this course will be determined through evaluation of class participation, assignments and presentations, both written and oral.

Participants taking this course for academic credit in the American National Catholic Theological Institute will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis as follows: H (High Pass (A – B)); P (Pass (B- – C)); L (Low Pass (C- – D)) or F (Fail). See the Grading Scale below for letter and numerical grade equivalents. Participants should also refer to the Institute's Policy and Procedures (available on the Institute's website at <https://antci.org>) regarding withdrawal from courses.

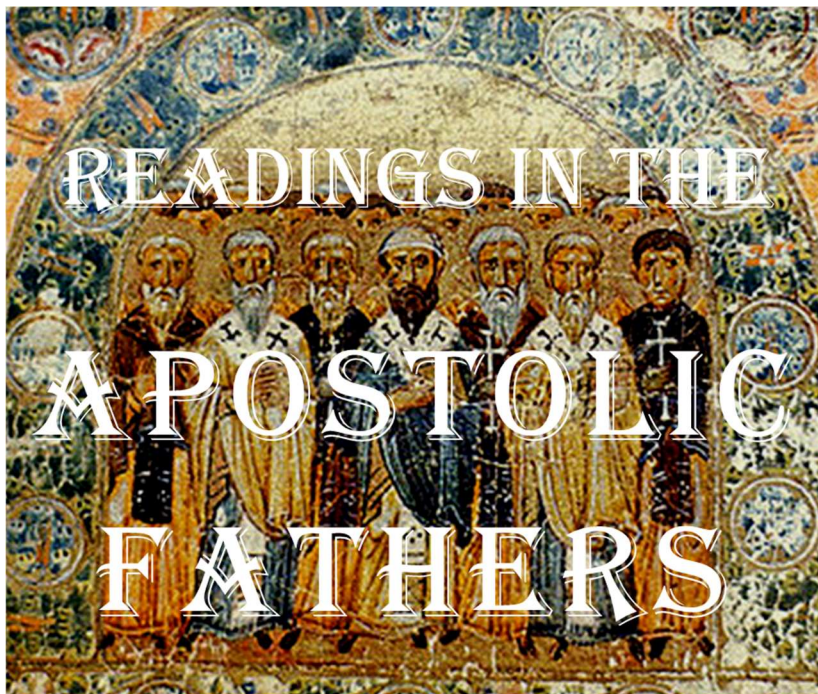
Grading Scale:

Percent Grade	Letter Grade	4.0 Scale
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
62 or less	F	0

Weighted elements of your grade:

Class Participation	10%
Class Presentations	15%
Reflection Paper I	15%
Reflection Paper II	20%
Topic Paper	40%
Total	100%

Final grades for this course will be reported to the Registrar on or about Friday, July 29. Participants should receive their grade and certificate for the course shortly thereafter.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics/Assigned Readings/Homework	Major Deadlines
Class 1 April 23	Course Orientation and Background to the Apostolic Fathers For the Saturday class: View Lecture 1 The First Letter of Clement Read TAF pp. 11-55	
Class 2 April 30	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 2 – Letters of Ignatius of Antioch Read TAF pp. 70 - 121	
Class 3 May 7	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 3 – Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians Read TAF pp. 122 – 130	
Class 4 May 14	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 4 – The Martyrdom of Polycarp Read TAF pp. 263 - 276	
Class 5 May 21	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 5 – The Didache Read TAF pp. 131 - 140	
Class 6 May 28	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 6 – The Letter of Barnabas Read TAF pp. 141 - 167	Deadline for approval of topic paper theme
Class 7 June 4	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 7 – The Second Letter of Clement Read TAF pp. 56 - 69	
Class 8 June 11	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 8 – Writings Attributed to Papias Read See the Handout	
Class 9 June 18	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 9 – The Shepherd of Hermas Read TAF pp. 168 - 262	
Class 10 June 25	For the Saturday class: View Lecture 10 – The Letter of Diognetus Read TAF pp. 277 - 289	