

MTG220.7 Early Church History

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Early Church History (MTG220.7)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Bachelor	One semester	Advanced	Dr. Matthew James Gray

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Core or Elective: Bachelor of Theology Elective: Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Intercultural Studies

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	144 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Pre-requisite: MTG120.5 The Story of the Church, MTG130.5 Exploring the Christian Faith

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS**Brief description of the content of the unit**

This unit develops the students' understanding of the early Greco-Roman Church, from 100-600CE. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, *Engaging God's Story*. The unit aims to help students understand the implications of the early Church's emphasis upon askesis, kenosis and theosis upon every aspect of its existence, and consequently how these concepts can inform students within their own contexts. Key topics include: the Greco-Roman context; the Church's community engagement; early Christian evangelism; persecution and martyrdom; theological debates, such as Gnosticism, and the ecumenical councils; early Christian worship; and desert monasticism.

Learning outcomes for the unit

- 1) Identify the essential facets of the early Church's theology, spirituality and practice
- 2) Investigate with focus one or two key issues within the early Church period, with reference to relevant primary documents and historical scholarship
- 3) Explain the early Church's core underlying themes of askesis, kenosis and theosis without anachronism, while also identifying their significance to the student's own personal and social context

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
1. Primary Document Applications: Explain the relevance of primary document readings for each week's topic, within the student's context. (2000 words equivalent)	1, 3	Weekly	40%
2. Textbook Review: Identify the essential people, movements and concepts from the period. (1000 words)	1	Week 5	20%

<p>3. Research Essay: Investigate one or two major issues within the unit's various topics, with reference to relevant primary documents and historical scholarship. (2000 words)</p>	2	Week 13	40%
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2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Prescribed reading:

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History, Volume One: From Christ to the Pre-Reformation: The Rise and Growth of the Church in Its Cultural, Intellectual, and Political Context*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2013.

Recommended reading:

Ayer, Joseph Cullen. *A Source Book for Ancient Church History*. Glasgow, UK: Good Press, 2020.

Basil the Great. *On Social Justice*. Translated by C. Paul Schroeder. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2009.

Cohick, Lynn H., and Amy Brown Hughes. *Christian Women in the Patristic World: Their Influence, Authority, and Legacy in the Second through Fifth Centuries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

D'Ambrosio, Marcellino. *When the Church Was Young: Voices of the Early Fathers*. Cincinnati, OH: Servant Books, 2014.

Davidson, Ivor J. *Birth of the Church: From Jesus to Constantine, AD30-312*. Chicago, IL: Lion Hudson, 2012.

Hall, Christopher A. *Living Wisely with the Church Fathers*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017.

———. *Worshipping with the Church Fathers*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

Kreider, Alan. *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2016.

Markos, Louis. *From Achilles to Christ: Why Christians Should Read the Pagan Classics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Papandrea, James Leonard. *Reading the Early Church Fathers: From the Didache to Nicaea*. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 2012.

Papandrea, James L. *The Early Church (33–313): St. Peter, the Apostles, and Martyrs*. Notre Dame, IN: Ava Maria Press, 2019.

Pettegrew, David K., Thomas W. Davis, and William R. Caraher, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Archaeology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Rhee, Helen. *Loving the Poor, Saving the Rich: Wealth, Poverty, and Early Christian Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.