RELIGION IN FRANCE FROM ROME TO ROUSSEAU
TUFTS IN TALLOIRES
RELIGION 107 / HISTORY 157
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Course Description

This course explores the fascinating history of religion in France from the second to the eighteenth century. The rich religious geography of the Haute-Savoie region offers opportunities to examine pivotal developments, influential movements, prominent figures, and intense controversies in Christian Europe, and to consider the implications of Christian dominance for minority Jewish communities. Students will analyze the intersections among religion, society, culture, and politics in (and beyond) France by reading primary source texts from the local area and through field trips to relevant sites in Annecy, Lyon, and Geneva. The Talloires Priority (founded as a monastery in 1031) provides a perfect environment in which to reflect on the importance of religion in French and European history.

Proposed Reading List

Primary Source Selections:
Irenaeus of Lyon, Against the Heresies (c. 180)
Selections from Gregory of Tours, History of the Franks (c. 594)
The Conversion of Peter Waldo (c. 1218)
Jeanne de Jussie, The Short Chronicle: a Poor Clare’s Account of the Reformation in Geneva (c. 1535)
Marie Dentière, Epistle to Marguerite de Navarre (1539) and Preface to a Sermon by John Calvin (1561)
Selections from Carter Lindberg, The European Reformations Source Book (1517-1598)
François de Sales, Introduction to the Devout Life (1609)
Jean Jacques Rousseau, On the Social Contract, Book IV (1762)

Portions of the Following Secondary Sources:
Euan Cameron, Waldenses: Rejections of Holy Church in Medieval Europe (2001)
Carter Lindberg, The European Reformations (2009), esp. chapter 11 “The Reformation in France”
Joseph Bergin, Church, Society, and Religious Change in France, 1580-1730 (2009)

Grading Criteria

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
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<td>Short (1 Page) Analyses of Primary Source Readings (5 total)</td>
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<td>Two Short 4-5 Page Essays based on primary sources (20% each)</td>
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<td>In Class Group Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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Provisional Course Schedule

Week 1: Religion in France from Rome to Middle Ages

Session 1: Religion under the Roman Empire
Introduction to and interactions among Roman Religions, Judaism, and Christianity in the first and second centuries. Case studies: the Martyrs of Lyon (c. 177) and Irenaeus of Lyon (c. 180).

Session 2: The Rise of Christendom
Religion, politics, and society in the early middle ages. Case studies: the conversion of Frankish monarchs Clovis and Clotilda (480-511) and the Coronation of Charlemagne (800).

Session 3: Christianity, Culture, & Conflict
The “Christianization” of Europe through missions & monasticism. Case studies: the Carolingian Renaissance (c. 775-900) and the founding of the Talloires priory (1018).

Week 2: Spirituality and Society in Medieval France

Session 1: Piety and Heresy in Lyon and Languedoc
The rise of papal power, increasing protests against corruption within the church, the prosecution of “heresy,” and the persecution of Jews. Case studies: Pierre de Vaux (Peter Waldo) and the Poor of Lyon (1140-1218) and the Cathar Crusade (1209-1255).

Session 2: The “Babylonian Captivity of the Church”
Papal schism, the Avignon papacy, and consequences for European Christianity. Case studies: Robert of Geneva’s (1342-1395) election as Clement VII, the first Avignon “anti-pope” of the Western schism; and the decadence of the priory at Talloires.

Session 3: Field trip to Lyon (if feasible)

Week 3: Protestant Reformations in and Beyond France

Session 1: “By Faith Alone”: Martin Luther and the Dawn of a New Era
Introduction to the events and principles of the Protestant Reformation. Case study: Martin Luther’s treatises of 1520.

Session 2: John Calvin, the Genevan Reformation, and the Reformed Tradition
Spread of the Reformation to Switzerland through the teachings and activities of French theologian John Calvin. Case Study: Calvin’s Geneva.

Session 3: Reformation and Religious Violence in France
Influence of Calvin on the Huguenot movement in France and the outbreak of the French Wars of Religion. Consequences of the Reformation for European politics. Case Study: The martyrdom of five evangelical students at Lyon (1553) and the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (1572-3).
Week 4: Catholic Renewal and Counter-Reformation in and Beyond Annecy

Session 1: Catholic and Protestant Women Debate the Reformation
Consequences of the Protestant Reformation for European social structures (including the church), with a particular focus on women's roles and family life. Case study: debate between French/Genevan Protestant reformer Marie Dentière, and the Franciscan nun Jeanne de Jussie (1530s) who fled Geneva for Annecy.

Session 2: Field Trip to Geneva (scheduling of day/time to be determined in conjunction with Tufts in Talloires staff)

Session 3: “The Rome of Savoie”: Catholic Reformation in Annecy
The main themes and impulses of the Catholic Reformation and its implications for European Christianity. Case study: The council of Trent and the Counter-Reformation in Annecy, especially the ministry of François de Sales, Bishop of Geneva (1527-1622)

Week 5: Local and Global Expressions of Protestant & Catholic Reform in the 17th century

Session 1: Field Trip to Annecy (scheduling of day/time to be determined in conjunction with Tufts in Talloires staff)

Session 2: Catholic Missions in the New World
Catholic efforts to spread Christianity beyond Europe and implications for indigenous populations. Case study: French missionaries in New France, especially Marie Guyart de l’Incarnation (1599-1672) and the Jesuit martyrs, including Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649).

Session 3: Huguenot Migrations to the New World
Ongoing conflict between Protestants and Catholics in France, implications of the Edict of Nantes (1598) and its revocation (1685), and emigration of Huguenots. Case study: discussion of religious toleration and persecution in and beyond early modern France.

Week 6: Religion in the Age of Revolution

Session 1: Religious Origins of the French Revolution?

Session 2: Revolution, Freedom of Religion, and the Dechristianization of France?
Revolutionary policies toward the Catholic church and persecution of clergy, the establishment of the Cult of Reason and Cult of the Supreme Being, the rise of “secular” religion, and the reestablishment of Catholicism. Case study: effects of the French Revolution on religious life in Annecy.

Session 3: Reflecting on the Religious History of France
Review of the semester and discussions of religion in contemporary France.