

Concordia Theological Seminary
Continuing Education

THEOLOGY OF THE SECOND CENTURY

James G. Bushur, S.T.M.

San Jose, CA

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Course Description

This course will examine the theology of the second century with special attention to Gnosticism and the theological response of St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons.

Course Outline

I. Theology of Martyrdom

A. Christianity in the Roman Empire

B. Accounts of the Martyrs

1. Ignatius of Antioch
2. Polycarp
3. Martyrs of Lyons
4. Perpetual and Felicitas

C. Theological Response of the Christian Apologists

1. Epistle to Diognetus
2. Justin Martyr

II. Theology of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons

A. Rise of Gnosticism

1. Valentinian Gnosticism
2. Ptolemy's Letter to Flora

B. Irenaeus' Response

1. Creation out of Nothing
2. Recapitulation of all things in Christ
3. Texts on the Church and Sacraments

4. Interpretation of the Scriptures

Pre-Course Assignments

1. Read Assigned Texts

Required Texts

Wilken, Robert Louis. *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1984.

Donovan, Mary Ann. *One Right Reading? A Guide to Irenaeus*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1997.

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