FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2021

COURSE NUMBER: GRST 419.2

COURSE NAME: Topics in Late Antiquity: The Development of Christianity in the Near East

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Hybrid

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: **Hybrid: Wednesday Class 9 -10; asynchronous content M/F**

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:
Marica Cassis
marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca
403.210-7995

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 9-10 [beginning January 18] or by appointment.

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

Greek and Roman Studies 419	Topics in Late Antiquity

Topics will reflect developments in current research.
Course Hours: *3 units; (3-0)*
MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
When we consider early Christianity in the Near East, we tend to focus on places like Rome, Jerusalem or Egypt. However, at the same time as Christianity was developing and spreading in those places, a variety of different expressions of Christianity were also appearing in places like modern Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria. This course will start with the common origins of Christianity, and then, in opposition to most courses on early Christianity, move north into Anatolia and Armenia, and east into the Persian Empire. We will look at how Christianity evolved among largely Syriac and Armenian speaking indigenous communities, and how it adapted into both the Late Roman/Byzantine and Parthian/Sasanian worlds.

Students will engage in class discussions, critical reading of scholarly articles and primary sources, lectures, online discussions, and academic research and writing.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions**.** When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement propose an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion).

There will be synchronous Zoom sessions throughout the term on Wednesdays between 9-10, and each will be recorded.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the evolution of Christianity in the Near East.
2. Use a range of research skills to investigate a research project in this topic.
3. Demonstrate an ability to read and analyze primary sources in translation.
4. Articulate the significance of this material in the development of world history.
5. Demonstrate this significance in academic writing.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbook:

Sebastian Brock, *An Introduction to Syriac Studies*, **3rd Edition. Gorgias Press: 2017.**

Additional weekly readings, including peer-reviewed journal articles, will be posted on D2L and are available through the library. We will also rely heavily on the following book, available through the library:

Daniel King, ed. *The Syriac World*, Routledge, 2019.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
February 5	Primary Source #1	20%	No
February 26	Proposal/Bibliography	5%	No
March 12	Primary Source #2	20%	No
April 12	Final Paper/Project	35%	No *BUT Proposal stage is mandatory for me to grade this.
Ongoing	Participation/Group Discussion	20%	No

ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN:
 a) **Primary Source Assignments:** Students will do two of these. In one they will assess a piece of writing from the Syriac/Persian/Armenian world, and in the other they will assess a piece of art or architecture. These will be approximately 5-7 pages each. Aligned Objectives: 1,3,4,5.
 b) **Proposal/Bibliography:** Students will begin researching a topic for their final paper/project. They will turn in a proposal and an initial bibliography in order to receive guidance from me on their projects. This will be about 4-5 pages, including bibliography. Aligned Objectives: 1,2,5.
 c) **Final Paper/Project:** Students will turn in either a final paper (around 15-17 pages) or a creative project and report (5-7 pages) demonstrating applied learning. The proposal is necessary for either. Aligned Objectives: 1,2,3,4,5.
 d) **Participation/Group Discussion:** Students will be graded based on their participation in zoom class discussion and in their contribution to online discussion forums for the course. Aligned Objectives: 1, 3,4.
Detailed instructions for all assignments will be available on D2L.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If students miss a required component of the course, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit and/or make-up for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 2% per day. In short, please just talk to me!

GRADING

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 – 96%	A	95 – 90%	A-	89 – 85%
B+	84 – 80%	B	79 – 75%	B-	74 – 70%
C+	69 – 65%	C	64 – 60%	C-	59 – 55%
D+	54 – 53%	D	52 – 50%	F	Under 50%

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

EXAMINATIONS
There are no examinations in this class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- Readings will be discussed in the zoom sessions every Wednesday. Please note I may adjust some of these readings to respond to student interests.
- Readings and detailed schedule will be available in D2L by the first week of class

Tentative Schedule:

January 11-15: Introduction to Course; Geographical and Linguistic Background

Part 1: Christianity in the Parthian and Eastern Roman Contexts

January 18-22: Cultural and Historical Background

January 25-29: Spread and Reception of Christianity

Part 2: Christianity in the Sasanian and Eastern Roman Contexts

February 1-5 Historical Background

February 8-12 Christianity in Eastern Anatolia and Armenia

February 15-19 Break

February 22-25 Christianity in Sasanian Iraq and Iran

March 1-5 Christianity in Northern Iraq: Duelling Christianities

March 8-12 Architecture, Archaeology and Preservation in these Regions

Part 3: Christianity in the early Islamic Context

March 15-19: Historical Background

March 22-26: Christians in the Islamic courts into the Medieval Period

March 29-April 2: Christian Monasticism and Theology [April 2 – Good Friday]

April 5-April 9: Christian Historiography [April 5 – Good Friday]

April 12-14: Spread of Christianity and Modern Contexts

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html

Papers for this course will be done with Turabian or Chicago style footnotes. Instructions will be provided on D2L

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. These are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make-up for that component.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all assignments electronically the dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in Word (preferred) or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name Assignment Number" (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Let me stress that the most important thing to me is that we function in an environment of mutual respect. We will cover difficult issues relating to Near Eastern history, and everyone should treat each other, and me, in an open and respectful manner. Abuse of the chat function of zoom will be reported immediately.

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/ .

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.). The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

*ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf

https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.

*ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION
It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/ .

*INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY
Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-

protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)
Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

*Media recording for lesson capture

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

*Media recording for the assessment of student learning
The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY
The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf

*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success

- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk