

SPRING 2012
**HISTORY 230: SEMINAR IN ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY:
ASPECTS OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY**

COURSE #28260

**BBC 002
PROF. BERNHARDT**

T 1800-2045



This seminar will address aspects of the rise and spread of Western Christianity from the early Roman Empire into the High Middle Ages. First, we shall read and discuss numerous classic or seminal works of secondary scholarship ranging from the beginnings of Christianity, its interactions with Roman paganism, the creation of its ideas of sexual renunciation and attitudes toward the body, the ideal of the monastic life, and the crises between the Christian Church and the secular world, to the development characteristic high medieval ideas of Christian spirituality. I have designed the seminar and the topics so that both students in Ancient history as well as those in Medieval should be able to find topics for their seminar papers in areas of their primary interest. Moreover, students in Early Modern or Modern European History may find this course provides good background to religious issues in their field. In addition to a final seminar research paper, students will be expected to write academic reviews of books, give short oral reports on assigned or selected topics, and participate in active discussion of the secondary literature. Toward the end of November or beginning of December 2011, I will have a fairly complete list of readings for those who may want to get a head start during the Christmas-January semester break. As this is the only graduate level seminar offered this academic year in Ancient-Medieval History, it is highly recommended that graduate students with a major concentration in Ancient-Medieval History should take this opportunity to take a first or second seminar.