

Early Church History (30-451 AD) (CH205)

Australian College of Theology name: *Early Church History (30-451)*

Unit Description

Do you want to know what Cyprian, Origen, Tertullian and Augustine got up to in the early years? Come to gain an awareness of the key theological debates in the early church which are a background to the study of theology. Lessons can be learned from the history of the early church which can be applied to our understanding of ministry today.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will:

A. Know and understand:

1. The major phases and developments in early Church history identified in the unit content
2. The life and thought of selected key figures in early Church history

B. Be able to:

1. Describe the impact of the social, political, religious and cultural context on Christian beliefs, practices and movements
2. Use primary and secondary sources
3. Present an evidence-based perspective or narrative

C. Be in a position to:

1. Apply perspectives from early Church history to their theological studies and in ministry contexts

Content

You will be expected to show knowledge of the content of documents of the periods studied such as are published in *New Eusebius* and *Creeds, Councils and Controversies*, both published by SPCK and edited by J. Stevenson.

1. The First Churches
2. The Apostolic Fathers and Apologists
3. The Early Theological Issues
4. The Expansion and Development of the Church
5. Church and Empire to Constantine
6. The Interaction of Church and Society after Constantine
7. The Christological and Trinitarian Controversies
8. Augustine and his times