

Contextualizing the Body and Belief Course

This course is structured to provide an opportunity to explore key themes in the history and theology of the human body as expressed in Christianity in the West. Consequently, although it has a rough chronological framework, examples are used from different periods to illuminate particular themes. As a result in one session texts are referred to that relate to pre-Christian Judaic history and nineteenth century documents, for example. This can make a sense of when things happened quite difficult to maintain.

Useful books

There are two useful books that should help with the contextual history for this course:

Miles, M. R. (2005) *The Word Made Flesh: A History of Christian Thought*. Blackwell, Oxford. (From death of Christ until end of 18th Century)

Porter, R. (2003) *Flesh in the Age of Reason*. Norton, London. (18th-19th Century).

Time Line

Having trouble with what happened, when?

Hopefully the diagram below and on the following pages will help contextualize things, at least chronologically. Remember this time line is not definitive. It is just an introductory way of ordering the materials explored in the course.

Date (century)	Place	Key events or texts mentioned in this course's lectures	Case study: primary sources	Other events / people
Compilation late first millennium BCE (BC)	Varied, mainly Middle East		Old Testament <i>Genesis</i>	
			Old Testament <i>Song of Songs</i>	
1st-2 nd Century CE (AD)	Varied, mainly Middle East, Greece etc		New Testament	ROMAN EMPIRE Birth of Christ
2 nd -3 rd Century	North Africa		<i>Gospel of Judas</i>	
3 rd Century	North Africa		Perpetua & Felicitas, <i>Acta of Perpetua and Felicity</i>	
4 th Century	Rome, North Africa, Middle East	Jerome's Letters (b.342-420)		381 Council of Constantinople creates the <i>Nicene Creed</i> as it is known now.

4 th - 5 th Century	North Africa	Augustine writing (b.356-430)		
6 th Century	Italy	Gregory the Great (b. 540-604) <i>Moralia</i> , <i>Dialogues</i>		
8 th Century	England	Bede's <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> (731)		
11 th -12 th Century	England		<i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> , Orderic Vitalis on William Rufus	
13 th -14 th Century	England		<i>Ancrene Wisse</i> , Julian of Norwich's <i>Showings</i>	
16 th Century	England	Matthew Parker, John Bale, John Jocelyn reinterpret ecclesiastical history from a Protestant perspective.		REFORMATION Period in Europe 1560 Scottish Parliament adopts Scots Confession. 1567 Act of Parliament: Reformed Protestantism becomes Church of Scotland.
17 th Century	America	John Cotton, <i>Commentary on Song of Songs</i> (1640s)		
17 th Century	Scotland		Transcripts of the trials of the Witches of Libberton (1660s)	GREAT WITCH HUNTS
18 th Century	England	Elizabeth Elstob (1730-50) challenges the reinterpretation of pre-Reformation ecclesiastical history undertaken by Matthew Parker et al.		John Wesley (1703-91)

19 th Century	Scotland England		Havelock Ellis & John Addington Symonds, <i>Sexual Inversion</i> (1897)	VICTORIAN ERA Disruption in the Church of Scotland (1840s)
20 th Century	France	Emile Durkheim, <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i> (1912)		WWI (1914-18)
20 th Century	France	Surrealist Movement in Art and Literature	Georges Batailles, <i>Erotism</i> (1940-50s)	WWII (1939-45)
20 th Century	Britain		Mary Douglas, <i>Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo</i> (1966) <i>Pollution</i> (1968)	
20 th Century	France		Michel Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (1977)	HIV/ AIDS Epidemic 1980s
21 st Century	USA		Judith Butler, <i>Gender Trouble and Gender Undone</i> (2004)	