

Church History II

From the Arab Conquest to Modernity

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver, and Western Canada
Saint Paul Theological Seminary

January 13th - 14th, 2017

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This course surveys the history of the Coptic Orthodox Church and community from the seventh through the twentieth centuries. Several themes are privileged throughout the course: Christian-Muslim interactions, shifting communal identities, liturgical developments, and the importance of Coptic-Arabic literature. While the emphasis is on the history and historiography of the Coptic Church (the See of Alexandria), the course will also discuss the major political and theological developments and personalities of the Christian east in general.

Prerequisites

None

Learning Goals

- A. To grasp the history and historiography of the Coptic Church over the historical span surveyed.
- B. To gain insight into the various historical issues and difficulties pertaining to the study of Coptic Christianity at various historical junctures.
- C. To understand and intelligently discuss various socio-religious shifts in Coptic history.
- D. To become acquainted with the wide array of resources available for research and writing about the history of the Coptic Church.

Readings in sequence (all in PDF)

David W. Johnson, "Anti-Chalcedonian Polemics in Coptic Texts 451-641," in *The Roots of Egyptian Christianity*, ed. B.A. Pearson and J. Goehring (Philadelphia, Fortress Press, 1986), pgs. 216-234.

Leslie S.B. MacCoull, "Redating the Inscription of El-Moallaqa," *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 64 (1986), 230–34.

Anthony Alcock, "The Apocalypse of Samuel of Kalamun: An English Version," Unpublished translation of the Arabic text published by J. Ziadeh in "L'apocalypse de Samuel, supérieur de Deir-el-Qalamoun," *Revue de l'Orient Chrétien* 20 (1915-17), 376-392.

Mark N. Swanson, "Arabic as a Christian Language?" Unpublished Paper.

M.S.A. Mikhail, "A Lost Chapter in the History of Wadi al-Natrun (Scetis): The Coptic *Lives* and Monastery of Abba John Khame," *Le Muséon* 127.1-2 (2014), 149-85.

M.S.A. Mikhail, "The Coptic Orthodox Church and Community from the Arab Conquest through the Mamluk Sultanate (641-1517 CE)." In *The Coptic Christian Heritage: History, Faith, and Culture*, ed. L. Farag. New York: Routledge Press, 2013.

Additional Books and Readings

The core readings will be provided to you in PDF format (see the Reading Schedule, below). In addition, I strongly urge you to acquire *The Popes of Egypt* trilogy.

Stephen J. Davis, *The Early Coptic Papacy: The Egyptian Church and Its Leadership in Late Antiquity*, vol. 1 The Popes of Egypt (Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2005).

Mark N. Swanson, *The Coptic Papacy in Islamic Egypt (641–1517)*, vol. 2 The Popes of Egypt (Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2010).

Magdi Guirguis and Nelly van Doorn-Harder, *The Emergence of the Modern Coptic Papacy: The Egyptian Church and its Leadership from the Ottoman Period to the Present*, vol. 3 The Popes of Egypt (Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2011).

I also highly recommend the following

Lois M. Farag, *The Coptic Christian Heritage: History, Faith and Culture* (New York: Routledge, 2013).

Gabra, Gawdat, ed. *Coptic Civilization* (Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2013).

Otto F.A. Meinardus, *Two Thousand Years of Coptic Christianity* (Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 1999).

M.S.A. Mikhail, *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt: Religion, Identity and Politics after the Arab Conquest* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2014); Paperback 2016. This may be purchased

at a discounted price from the St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society at the following link: http://www.stshenouda.org/BIE_OrderForm.htm .

Otto F.A. Meinardus, *Two Thousand Years of Coptic Christianity* (Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 1999).

Expectations & Grading

Your grade will be comprised of three parts.

20 % *Participation and in class discussions*

40 % *First Analysis/reaction paper* (approximately three double-spaced pages long)

40 % *Second Analysis/reaction paper* (approximately three double-spaced pages long)

Citation format: e.g. (Swanson, 20)

1) Excluding the Arab conquest of Egypt, what are the two most important events, developments, or individuals that impacted the history of the Coptic Church from the mid-seventh to the end of the tenth (641 - 999 AD)? Discuss the social and religious significance and ramifications of your two choices. (Why are they important, and what changes did they bring about?) Make sure to draw upon our readings and lectures in your answer.

2) Discuss the three most important developments over the past millennium, from 1000 to 1959 AD, which have made the Coptic Church what it is today. Make sure to be specific in your discussion. Demonstrate how the individual(s) or event(s) you have chosen were not just important in their day and age, but highlight how they have had a lasting influence on the church.

For the second prompt, make sure that your answer is not overly broad. For instance, “monasticism” would not be a good issue to discuss here since it has its origins long before the year 1000. Note that the parameters intentionally *exclude* the tenures of Patriarchs Kyrillos VI and Shenouda III.

Your short essays should *not be a summary* of the readings, but an intellectual assessment and reaction to the lectures, discussions, and prescribed readings.

Schedule

Friday, January 13th (evening)

UNIT 1: THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH CENTURIES

7:00 – 8:00 PM: **Lecture 1:** *Chalcedon to Justinian*

8:00 – 9:00 PM: **Lecture 2:** *The Seventh Century: Cyrus, Benjamin, and the Conquest*

Saturday, January 14th

UNIT 2: EARLY ISLAMIC RULE TO THE TENTH CENTURY

9:00 – 10:15 AM, **Lecture 3:** *Sources, and the Copts under Umayyad Rule (661 – 750 AD)*

10:15 – 10:30 AM, *Break*

10:30 – 11:45 AM, **Lecture 4:** *The Abbasids and the Dawning of a New Age*

11:45 – 1:00 PM, *Lunch*

UNIT 3: THE DAWNING OF A NEW AGE

1:00 – 2:15 PM, **Lecture 5:** *Fatimid and Ayyubid Rule*

2:15 – 2:30 PM, *Break*

2:30 – 3:45 PM, **Lecture 6:** *The Copts under Mamluk Rule (1250 – 1517)*

3:45 – 4:00 PM, *Break*

UNIT 4: APPROACHING MODERNITY

4:00 – 5:15 PM, **Lecture 7:** *From the Ottoman Conquest to the Age of Modernity*

Select Bibliography for the Course

For a Broad Historical Orientation

Petry, Carl F. ed. *The Cambridge History of Egypt*. Vol. 1, *Islamic Egypt, 640 – 1517*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Daly, M.W., ed. *The Cambridge History of Egypt*, vol. 2, *Modern Egypt: From 1517 to the End of the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Irvin, Dale T., and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement: Earliest Christianity to 1453*. New York: Orbis Books, 2001.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—and How It Died*. New York: HarperOne, Reprint edition, 2009.

Coptic and Christian-Arabic Studies

Armanios, Febe. *Coptic Christianity in Ottoman Egypt*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Atiya, Aziz S. *A History of Eastern Christianity*. London, 1968; repr. 1980.

- Atiya, Aziz S., ed. *The Coptic Encyclopedia*, 8 vols. New York: MacMillan, 1991. Accessible at the *Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia*:
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cce>.
- Ayad, Mariam, ed. *Coptic Culture: Past, Present and Future*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2012.
- Ayad, Mariam, ed. *Studies in Coptic Culture: Transmission and Interaction*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2016.
- Bolman, Elizabeth S., ed. *Monastic Visions: Wall Paintings in the Monastery of St. Antony at the Red Sea*. New Haven: Yale University Press and The American Research Center in Egypt, 2002.
- Bolman, Elizabeth S., ed. *The Red Monastery Church: Beauty and Asceticism in Upper Egypt*. New Haven: Yale University Press and The American Research Center in Egypt, 2016.
- Davis, Stephen J. *Coptic Christology in Practice: Incarnation and Divine Participation in Late Antique and Medieval Egypt*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Farag, Lois M. *The Coptic Christian Heritage: History, Faith and Culture*. New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Gabra, Gawdat, ed. *Historical Dictionary of the Coptic Church*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2009.
- Gabra, Gawdat ed. *Christianity and Monasticism in the Fayoum Oasis*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2005.
- Gabra, Gawdat and Marianne Eaton-Krauss. *The Treasures of Coptic Art: in the Coptic Museum and Churches of Old Cairo*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2007.
- Gabra, Gawdat and Hany N. Takla, eds. *Christianity and Monasticism in Northern Egypt: Beni Suef, Giza, and the Nile Delta*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2017.
- Gabra, Gawdat and Hany N. Takla, eds. *Christianity and Monasticism in Aswan and Nubia*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2013; repr. 2016.
- Gabra, Gawdat and Hany N. Takla, eds. *Christianity and Monasticism in Middle Egypt*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2015.
- Gabra, Gawdat and Hany N. Takla, eds. *Christianity and Monasticism in Upper Egypt, Volume 1, Akhmim and Sohag*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2008.
- Gabra, Gawdat and Hany N. Takla, eds. *Christianity and Monasticism in Upper Egypt, Volume 2, Nag Hammadi – Esna*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2010
- Griffith, Sidney H. *The Bible in Arabic: The Scriptures of the 'People of the Book' in the Language of Islam*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2013.
- Griffith, Sidney H. *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the World of Islam*. Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the ancient to the modern world. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2007.
- Guirguis, Magdi and Nelly Hanna. *An Armenian Artist in Ottoman Cairo: Yuhanna al-Armani and His Coptic Icons*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2008.
- Hamilton, Alastair. *The Copts and the West, 1439 – 1822: The European Discovery of the Egyptian Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Hasan, S.S. *Christians versus Muslims in Modern Egypt: The Century-Long Struggle for Coptic Equality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Lyster, William. *The Cave Church of Paul the Hermit: At the Monastery of St. Paul in Egypt*. New Haven: Yale University Press and The American Research Center in Egypt, 2008.
- Malaty, Fr. Tadros Y. *Introduction to the Coptic Orthodox Church*. Alexandria: St. George Coptic Church, 1993.

- Meinardus, Otto F. A. *Coptic saints and Pilgrimages*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2002.
- Meinardus, Otto F. A. *Monks and Monasteries of the Egyptian Desert*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 1989.
- Meinardus, Otto F.A. *Christian Egypt Ancient and Modern*. 2nd rev. ed. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 1977.
- Meinardus, Otto F.A. *Christian Egypt: Faith and Life*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 1970.
- Mikhail, M.S.A. *The Legacy of Demetrius of Alexandria, 189 - 231: The Form and Function of Hagiography in Late Antique and Islamic Egypt*. London and New York: Routledge, 2017.
- Mikhail, M.S.A. and Mark Moussa, eds. *Christianity and Monasticism in Wadi al-Natrun*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2009.
- Papaconstantinou, Arietta, ed. *The Multilingual Experience in Egypt from the Ptolemies to the Abbasids*. Burlington, 2010.
- Partrick, Theodore Hall. *Traditional Egyptian Christianity*. Greensboro: Fisher Park Press, 1996.
- Sharkey, Heather J. *American Evangelicals in Egypt: Missionary Encounters in an Age of Empire*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008; Paperback, 2015.
- Sedra, Paul. *From Mission to Modernity: Evangelicals, Reformers and Education in Nineteenth Century Egypt*. London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2011.
- Van Doorn-Harder, Nelly and Kari Vogt, eds., *Between Desert and City: The Coptic Orthodox Church Today*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Pub., 1997; repr. 2012.
- Van Doorn-Harder, Nelly. *Contemporary Coptic Nuns*. South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1995.
- Werthmuller, Kurt J. *Coptic Identity and Ayyubid Politics in Egypt, 1218-1250*. Cairo and New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2010.
- Wakin, Edward. *A Lonely Minority: The Modern Story of Egypt's Copts*. New York: William Morrow & Company, 1963.