

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Patrick Meegan

Humanities Discipline: World History

Date: January 29, 2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module Title: The Origins of Christianity

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to Christian scriptures and the time frame of their origin.
2. Examine the cultural and religious environment that led to the spread of Christianity in the ancient world.
3. Familiarize students with the basic historical events related to Christian scripture.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Duiker and Spielvogel, Chapter 5.

Excerpts from the New Testament (Revised Standard Version),

Available online at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/r/rsv/browse.html>

The Gospels: Mark 1:1-14

Book of Acts: Acts 2:1-47 (Pentecost)

The Epistles: Romans 1:1-32, Galatians 3:1-10

Book of Revelation: 21-22 (all verses)

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What was the cultural background of the first Christians? Who are Gentiles?
2. What was the political situation at the dawn of Christianity? Who ruled where Jesus and Paul lived?
3. To which Romans was Paul writing?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Come to class with written responses to these questions. We will discuss the answers together and have a brief lecture in preparation for a quiz, which I will give the students after this class session.

Important points to stress in classroom discussion:

What cultural factors might have become obstacles to the early spread of Christianity?

How were these obstacles overcome?

How did Rome become the center of the Christian Church?

By what means did Christianity spread from its early Jewish roots to a universal faith?