

Heretics of the Christian Tradition

Institute for Christian Studies Diocese of Central Florida

Instructor: The Rev. Andrew Petiprin

[L]
[SEP]

There is a lot of talk about heresy these days. The frequency and volume of accusations suggest that some Christians have lost a sense of the gravity of the word. On the other hand, many believers have little to no familiarity with orthodox doctrine or the historic distortions of it. What's needed is a strong dose of humility and restraint, and also a clear and informed definition of orthodoxy and heresy. This course provides an accessible “travel guide” to the most significant heresies throughout Christian history.

Required pre-class assignment: Justin S. Holcomb, [*Know the Heretics*](#)

Recommended reading: No secondary sources are required before the class. These are just a few reference works and commentaries that may be useful in this class and others:

- Justin S. Holcomb, [*Know the Creeds and Councils*](#)
- Alister McGrath's *Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth*
- Bruce Demarest, “Heresy,” in *New Dictionary of Theology*
- David Christie-Murray, *A History of Heresy*
- Harold O. J. Brown, *Heresies: Heresies and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*

Post-class assignment: In a 1 to 2 page reflection paper demonstrate your engagement with the materials. This paper should not simply be a review of the video material but should reflect your interaction with the materials. Examples include how you might use these materials in your ministry, or how the material presented impacted you personally or in your discernment process. In order to receive credit for this class, the assignment must be submitted to Archdeacon Kristi Alday by e-mail no later than 30 days after the class.