

Kolbe Academy Home School

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH (DIDACHE) HIGH SCHOOL THEOLOGY ELECTIVE

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COURSE TITLE: The History of the Church

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This high school Theology elective course is part of the *Didache Series*, which relies on authoritative sources such as Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the lives of the Saints, the Fathers of the Church, the General Directory for Catechesis and the teachings of Vatican II. The focus of this course is to understand the history of the Church as presented with the basic doctrinal, scriptural, moral and sacramental tenets of the Catholic Church and its development down through the ages. All student materials needed for successful completion of the course (including the supplemental readings) are included in the *Didache* book "The History of the Church: A Complete Course" in conjunction with this course plan. The study guide questions answer key is made available with enrollment and is accessed in the Parent Portal.

COURSE TEXTS:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Didache |  Socias, James. <i>The History of the Church: A Complete Course</i> . Woodridge, Ill: Midwest Theological Forum, 2005.
 <i>The History of the Church (Didache) Study Questions Answer Key</i> , Kolbe Academy, 2019. (provided with enrollment, accessed in Parent Portal) |
| MLA |  <i>MLA Handbook Eighth Edition</i> . Modern Language Association of America, 2016 |

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will enable the student to:

- ❖ Understand in detail the establishment of the Church, the developments of its doctrines, its sufferings, its triumphs, its mode of action, its unique presence in every century since Christ and its hope for the salvation of the world
- ❖ Deepen his appreciation of the Catholic Faith
- ❖ Gain exposure to the origins of the Church's treasury of prayers and spiritual practices, so as to develop an appreciation for the Church's tradition and a zealousness to serve God
- ❖ Give a defense and justification for the Crusades, extra-biblical traditions, the Inquisition, etc.
- ❖ Become familiar with the lives of many Saints and their works, particularly as they contributed to the unfolding of Catholic Doctrine and Sacred Tradition
- ❖ Apply Christian principles faithfully, as a result of studying the examples and seeking the intercession of Saints

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE:**First Semester: The Roman World through the The High Middle Ages**

Week 1: The Roman World: Facilitating the Spread of the Gospel
 Week 2: Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church
 Week 3: The Early Christians
 Week 4: Persecution of "The Way"
 Week 5: The Church Fathers and Heresies (Parts I-III)
 Week 6: The Church Fathers and Heresies (Parts IV-V)
 Week 7: Light in the Dark Ages
 Week 8: Review
 Week 9: Midterm 1 Exam
 Week 10: The Conversion of the Barbarian Tribes (Parts I-IV)
 Week 11: The Conversion of the Barbarian Tribes (Parts V-VII)
 Week 12: Iconoclasm, the Carolingian Renaissance, and the Great Schism
 Week 13: Collapse, Corruption, and Reform in Europe and the Church (Parts I-III)
 Week 14: Collapse, Corruption, and Reform in Europe and the Church (Parts IV-V)
 Week 15: The Crusades, Military Orders, and the Inquisition
 Week 16: The High Middle Ages: Scholastic Development and the Flowering of Culture
 Week 17: Review
 Week 18: Semester 1 Exam

Second Semester: A Century of Suffering through The Church in the United States

Week 1: A Century of Suffering, Plague, War and Schism
 Week 2: The Renaissance (pts I-II)
 Week 3: The Renaissance (pts III-IV)
 Week 4: The Reformation: Protestant and Catholic (pts I-II)
 Week 5: The Reformation: Protestant and Catholic (pts III-IV)
 Week 6: Wars of Religion
 Week 7: Exploration and Missionary Movements
 Week 8: Review
 Week 9: Midterm 2 Exam
 Week 10: The Church and the Age of Enlightenment
 Week 11: The French Revolution and Napoleon
 Week 12: The Nineteenth Century: The Age of Revolution and the Emergence of Nationalism (pts I-IV)
 Week 13: The Nineteenth Century: The Age of Revolution and the Emergence of Nationalism (pts V-VI)
 Week 14: The Church Gives Witness in Wars and Revolutions
 Week 15: Vatican II and the Church in the Modern World
 Week 16: The Church in the United States
 Week 17: Review
 Week 18: Semester 2 Exam

COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY:

- 📖 Students should know those points listed in the ➔ **Key Points** section, most especially the chapter vocabulary and the **Study Questions** (for answer to the Study Questions see the Study Questions Answer Key available in the Parent Portal).
- 📖 Any religion course should be designed to inculcate faith.
- 📖 Memorization ability may be fostered by assignment of passages from Sacred Scripture, certain quotes, and most especially the chapter vocabulary.
- 📖 Note-taking skills, organizational abilities, and oral and written recapitulation should be developed throughout the course.
- 📖 Be mindful when reading this material to note similarities and differences between the Church of the first three centuries after the Incarnation and that of our own day. Note the continuity and development of doctrine in the Catholic Church.
- 📖 This work is devotional as well as historical. What lessons can be learned from it? How can a Christian take encouragement from it? Also, how have emphases changed in Christian piety over the centuries? How does this show the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Church?
- 📖 The best way to retain material and prepare for the exams is to go over the **Study Questions** and chapter vocabulary with your student several times a week—also giving weekly quizzes based on them.
- 📖 Review weeks should make use of both these elements, as the exams are completely based on the **Study Questions** and chapter vocabularies.
- 📖 Exams are closed book exams, designed to be taken within a two-hour period.

GUIDE FOR READING:

Didache = (Pages in text)

Supp. Read. = (Pages in text)

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:

Summa Cum Laude students must complete the entire Kolbe Academy proposed curriculum as written. This course may be used as an Academic Elective for the **Summa Cum Laude**, but not as part of the standard curriculum. **Magna Cum Laude** and **Standard** diploma candidates may choose to pursue the (H) or (K) designation but are not required to do so. If the student is not pursuing either of these designations, the parent has the option of altering the course plan as desired. **Magna Cum Laude** students must include 4 years of Theology in high school. **Standard** diploma students must include 3 years of Theology in high school.

KOLBE CORE (K) COURSE

- ❖ Students pursuing the **Kolbe Core (K)** designation should do all of the readings. **Kolbe Core students need to complete 4 of the 7 weekly papers each semester**; they should have discussions or write informal essays in response to the rest of the weekly paper topics as these are major themes and will appear in some way on the semester exam.
- ❖ For students who are not seeking the Kolbe Core (K) designation for this course, parents may alter the course as they so desire.

REQUIRED SAMPLE WORK:

Designation*	No Designation	K
Course Title	The History of the Church (Didache)	The History of the Church (Didache)
Semester 1	Any TWO samples of written and graded work	1. <i>Complete</i> Midterm 1 Exam 2. <i>Complete</i> Semester 1 Exam
Semester 2	Any TWO samples of written and graded work	1. <i>Complete</i> Midterm 2 Exam 2. <i>Complete</i> Semester 2 Exam

*Designation refers to designation type on transcript. K designates a Kolbe Academy Core course.

The Kolbe academic advisor will verify that the required work was completed successfully and award the Kolbe Core (K) designation. The Kolbe academic advisor has the final decision in awarding the designation for the course. **If no designation on the transcript is desired, parents may alter the lesson plan in any way they choose and any written sample work is acceptable to receive credit for the course each semester.** If you have any questions regarding what is required for the (K) designation or diploma type status, please contact the academic advisory department at 707-255-6499 ext. 5 or by email at advisors@kolbe.org.

◆◆◆ FIRST SEMESTER ◆◆◆

WEEK 1		
Didache	1-21	The Roman World: Facilitating the Spread of the Gospel
Supp. Read.	22, 25-26	
Study Questions	24 (questions 1-16)	
Paper Topic	How did Hellenism and the Pax Romana help the expansion of Christianity?	
<p>↪ Key Points</p> <p>From the Chapter: The purpose of this week's lesson is to provide a proper historical background for understanding the emergence of Christianity. The Roman World into which Christ was born was a composite society whose three major influences were Hellenism, the Pax Romana and Judaism. Hellenistic language (Greek) and thought (Greek philosophy) "...were a very suitable medium through which the teachings of Christ could be transmitted" (4). They were also able to express theologically the realities of the Catholic Truth, proving to be invaluable for the development of the Church. The Pax Romana (Roman Peace) afforded the early Church the ideal conditions to expand rapidly. Roman peace came in the form of organization, which provided the technological capabilities and freedom for its citizens who were able to travel throughout the empire. Judaism during this time period was heavily marked by sectarianism—in other words, there were quite a few different Jewish groups. Many of them were looking for the messiah to free them from Roman imperialism. A few decades after Jesus' death and Resurrection, the Romans would destroy the temple in Jerusalem (70 AD) and the Jews would be scattered throughout world.</p> <p>Vocabulary: Refer to the chapter vocabulary on page 23.</p>		

WEEK 2		
Didache	28-54	Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church
Supp. Read.	55, 58	
Study Questions	57 (questions 1-31)	
Paper Topic	What kind of men were the Apostles? What does their social status, education, and personality demonstrate about how Jesus calls people to live a Christian life?	
<p>↪ Key Points</p> <p>From the Chapter: The goal of this week’s chapter is to explain the inauguration of Church History from its initiation at Pentecost until the death of the original Apostles. Christ laid the foundation of the Church during his earthly ministry wherein He appointed Peter as the “Rock” upon whom He would build His Church. Following Pentecost, one of the major conflicts in the primitive Church would be just how to admit God-fearing Gentiles into the Christian community. A council was called and it was determined that Gentiles could in fact become members of the Church and that they would not have to practice the Mosaic Law. This paved the way for a vast and rapid expansion of the Church both spiritually and physically, despite the simultaneous onset of a long and severe persecution against Christians. Almost all of the original Apostles received the Crown of Martyrdom, many of them having given their lives in far-flung corners of the Roman Empire. The enemies of God tried to eradicate the Church in its infant stages, just as Herod had tried to kill the infant Jesus with the “Slaughter of the Innocents” in Bethlehem. But even as Jesus survived, so has the Church down to our age. None of these achievements could have been accomplished naturally, and so the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit, which has been with the Church since Pentecost, is paramount in explaining this period of Church history.</p> <p>Vocabulary: Refer to the chapter vocabulary on page 56.</p>		

WEEK 3		
Didache	60-87	The Early Christians
Supp. Read.	89, 92	
Study Questions	91 (questions 1-20)	
Paper Topic	Jesus taught, “turn the other cheek,” and yet many Christian thinkers developed theories for the just waging of war. Are these two ideas compatible? With both Jesus’ words and the writings of St. Augustine in mind, describe Christian justice, both on a personal and political scale.	
<p>↪ Key Points</p> <p>From the Chapter: The goal of this week is to understand the faith of the early Christians and the outcome of their obedience to Christ. These early Christians cultivated and developed the traditions passed down to them and through steadfast obedience to God, they heroically suffered through trials and dangers imposed by the society in which they lived. Meeting sometimes secretly in house churches and the Catacombs of Rome, they developed many practices and rituals which would be present in the Church down through the ages. Consistent growth, energy and development are the themes of this historical period, which gave the world many treasures which were often paid for in blood.</p> <p>Vocabulary: Refer to the chapter vocabulary on page 90.</p>		