

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2016

TITLE OF PAPER : SELECT THEMES IN THE HISTORY OF
CHRISTIAN THOUGHT 1

COURSE CODE : TRS 313/IDE-TRS 313

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A NEW PAGE.**
- 4. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

QUESTION ONE

Critically discuss the interactions between Jews and foreign civilisations during the inter-testamental period. How did these interactions shape Jewish religious thought?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

“This agreement shifted Christianity from being an illicit, persecuted sect to being a welcome—and soon dominant—religion of the Roman Empire” (David F. Wright, 2005)

Discuss how edicts shaped the history of Christianity during the period 303 CE and 313 CE.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Critically examine the impact of Arianism in shaping Christian thought in the post Apostolic era.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Critically analyse the factors that caused tensions between the Donatist churches and St Augustine in North Africa. Your discussion should also include St Augustine’s reaction in his *Confessions* to the challenge of the Donatists.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

With reference to the Benedictine Rule, do the ideals of an ascetic life have a place in the contemporary Christian Church? Why or why not?

[25]

QUESTION SIX

Illustrate relations between Christians and Muslims as reflected in the 'holy wars' (1095-1261). How have these relations shaped contemporary religious landscape? Cite examples to support your reasoning.

[25]
