History of Christianity Area
Qualifying Exam Bibliographies

Examination 1: Ancient Christianity (to 600 C.E.)

Key Themes:
1) “orthodoxy” and “heresy” in earliest Christianity
2) creeds and councils
3) persecution and martyrdom
4) asceticism
5) Judaism and Hellenism as cultural matrices of earliest Christianity
6) modes of early Christian cultural creation
7) “the rise of Christianity” -- factors, causes and narrative constructions

A. Narrative Historiographical Treatments

Edward Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (Penguin, 1995 [1776], vol. 1, chaps. 15, 16, 20, 21, 23)
Robert M. Grant, Augustus to Constantine (Westminster/John Knox, reedition 2004)
Ramsay MacMullen, Christianizing the Roman Empire A.D. 100-400 (Yale, 1984)
Christoph Markschies, Between Two Worlds: Structures of Earliest Christianity (SCM, 1999)
R.A. Markus, The End of Ancient Christianity (Cambridge, 1991)
Frances M. Young, From Nicaea to Chalcedon: A Guide to the Literature and its Background (SCM, 1983)

B. Primary Sources

Collections/Anthologies:


Writings By Selected Authors:
C. Studies:

Walter Bauer, Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christianity (Fortress, 1971).
Glenn W. Bowersock, Martyrdom and Rome (Cambridge, 2002).
Daniel Boyarin, Dying for God: Martyrdom and the Making of Christianity and Judaism (Stanford, 1999).
Peter Brown, Augustine of Hippo: A Biography (new ed.; University of California, 2000).
Averil Cameron, Christianity and the Rhetoric of Empire: The Development of Discourse (University of California, 1991).
Elizabeth A. Clark, Reading Renunciation: Asceticism and Scripture in Early Christianity (Princeton, 1999) [OR Young, Biblical Exegesis, see below]
David Frankfurter, Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and Resistance (Princeton, 1998) [OR Trombley, below]
Robert M. Grant, Gods and the One God (Westminster, 1986)
Christoph Markschies, *Gnosis: An Introduction* (T & T Clark, 2003)
R.A. Markus, *Gregory the Great and His World* (Cambridge, 1997)
Margaret M. Mitchell, *The Heavenly Trumpet: John Chrysostom and the Art of Pauline Interpretation* (Westminster John Knox, 2002), chaps. 7 and 8
Margaret M. Mitchell, “What Can We Know About the Beginnings of Christianity?” Foreward to Robert M. Grant, *Augustus to Constantine*, xi-xxxv

**D. Reference Works for Consultation**

