



# Religion in the Medieval World

Dr. Rodger Payne  
Dept. of Religious Studies

Humanities 214  
Fall 2009

*Image: Figures on the central tympanum, Chartres Cathedral*  
*Music: Gregorian Chants in honor of the Virgin Mary*

- I. Introduction: What was the medieval world?
  - A. Western European Christian culture
    1. Early medieval period (c. 450-1000)
    2. High medieval period (c. 1000-1300)
    3. Late medieval period (c. 1300-1450)
  - B. Alternative perspectives
    1. Byzantine Christian culture (c. 330-1453)
    2. Rabbinic Judaism (c. 70-1500)
    3. Classical Islamic culture (c. 630-1248)
- II. Christianity and the Roman State
  - A. Constantine I
    1. Edict of Milan (313)
    2. Founding of Constantinople (c. 330)
    3. Council of Nicea (325)
  - B. The Christian Empire (Byzantine Empire)
    1. Theodosius I
    2. The Patriarchates (*symphonia*)
    3. Justinian I
  - C. Defining Orthodoxy
    1. The Christological Councils (325-451)
    2. Byzantine religious art and architecture
    3. Judaism and “paganism”
- III. Christianity in the West
  - A. Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*
  - B. Authority and expansion
    1. Rise of the papacy (Gregory I)
    3. The conversion of the Franks
  - C. Western Christian art and architecture (Romanesque)
- IV. Contours of Medieval Christian Piety
  - A. The Sacraments
  - B. Popular devotions
    1. Saints and relics
    2. Pilgrimage