

Björklunden Fall Zoom Seminars

NOV. 6 - DEC. 4, 2024



The Birth of Christianity

Course Description

**Class held online every Wednesday, 2 pm*

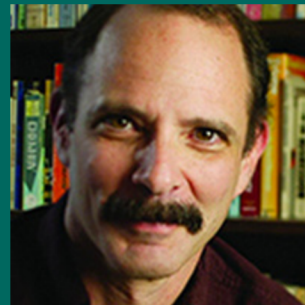
Currently the world's largest religion, Christianity emerged in the first century CE from a small Jewish sect in Judea, which was then part of the Roman Empire. In this seminar, we will explore the historical world of early Christianity by discussing several New Testament texts as well as historical documents that reflect the early Roman view of the Christians.

We will discuss:

- *The Acts of the Apostles*
- *Paul's Letter to the Galatians*
- *Paul's Letter to the Romans*
- An exchange of letters between the Roman Emperor Trajan and Pliny, one of his provincial governors

[Register Here>>](#)

Instructor



Paul Cohen

Cohen is a professor emeritus in history and Patricia Hamar Boldt professor of liberal studies at Lawrence University, where he taught for 37 years. He specializes in Modern European history but has also taught courses on film and history. Between 1996 and 1998, he was Director of Lawrence's Freshman Studies Program (currently 'First Year Studies'), which introduces students to the liberal arts. He helped oversee that program's transition from its great-works-of-the-West origins in 1945 to its current multi-civilizational and multidisciplinary orientation. While he is the author of two books on the intellectual history of modern France, Professor Cohen considers himself first and foremost a teacher. In 1999, Lawrence awarded him with the Lawrence University Freshman Studies Award, and in 2008 with the Lawrence University Excellence in Teaching Award. "Teaching," he writes, "has amounted to a calling more than an occupation for me. Being a spur to student growth has been the greatest joy of my career. That, I like to think, more so than the mastery of a field of study or the preparation for a career, is what characterizes a Lawrence education at its best."

