



CONSTANTINE THE GREAT and the Rise of the Christian Church

Presented by: Daniel DeSelm

Friday, April 1, 2022 ▪ 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

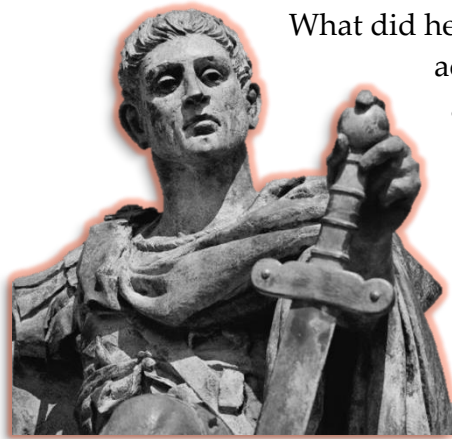
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Bethany Congregational Church, 556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

The Roman Emperor Constantine I's impact on the history of the Christian church is incalculable. Constantine's innovations completely redefined Christianity and singlehandedly transformed it from an obscure Jewish mystery cult into a world religion.

Constantine's shotgun marriage between the Roman state and the religious sect it once persecuted is one of history's great turnabouts. Why did he do it? What was the political, religious, and personal context for Constantine's conversion? What did he think he was converting to?

What did he hope to achieve? Could he have foreseen the consequences of his actions? Perhaps no other single decision has had such a profound and reverberating effect on the history of the West.



In this class, we will probe some of the many seemingly eternal aspects of pre-Reformation Christianity that are actually adaptations wrought by Constantine. I will make the case not only that Constantine was perhaps the most important Christian ever, but also that he could be considered the most important Roman Emperor ever, whose impact on Rome was at least as great and lasting as "golden age" emperors like Augustus Caesar.

PLEASE REVIEW THE STATEMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FLYER REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS.

Preferred registration deadline* : March 25, 2022

*Early enrollment helps us with our planning; also, those who register by the preferred deadline will be given priority in case of over-enrollment.

Enrollment form: *Constantine the Great*

Friday, April 1, 2022

VISTAS members \$20; non-members \$30

➤ **EITHER pay online** on our website by secure credit card through PayPal*:

<https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/current-courses>

*Subject to a 3% processing fee

➤ **OR mail this form** and your check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc.

P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Number of persons _____ \$ _____ Check # _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

It is understood that attendance is limited to those who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.



Daniel DeSelm earned his BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and his PhD in History from the University of Michigan. He also studied at Trinity College, Oxford, and at the École nationale des chartes at the Sorbonne, Paris. His published work has focused on Christian relic cults in Western Europe. Dan has served on the faculty at the University of Michigan, Marymount University, and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Roman and Medieval History. When not teaching, Dan has worked as a diplomat for the US Department of State. He is the son of longtime VISTAS members Jane and David DeSelm.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 POLICY

The health and safety of our attendees, as well as their entire families, are of utmost importance to us. **Accordingly, we are limiting attendance to those who are fully vaccinated.** Proof of vaccinations and boosters (digital Covid-19 Vaccination Card or a photo of your printed card) must be sent to Liz Linde via email (vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org) or text (805-967-6030). All participants may also be asked to show vaccination status on the first day of each course in case our records are incomplete. This needs to be done only once—your proof of vaccination will remain valid for all VISTAS events. Please note that applicable local mask mandates may apply to VISTAS in-person, indoor gatherings.

VISTAS Calendar

SUBJECT TO CHANGE; for up-to-date information, visit our website (VistasLifelongLearning.org) frequently!
 Dates listed in red below are different from those listed in our printed Winter/Spring 2002 Course Catalog.

Course / Event	Date(s)	Time	Venue
Monday Nonfiction Book Club / Dawn McGrew	4th Monday monthly	1:30 pm	Via Zoom
Santa Barbara & Our Courthouse / David DeSelm	Fri. Jan. 21 and 28	10:00 am	Via Zoom
<i>Carmen</i> and Consequences / Simon Williams	Thurs. Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24	9:30 am	Music Academy of West
Civil Unrest in the 1960s / Robert Benham	Mon. Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, Mar. 7, 14	9:30am	Bethany Congreg. Church
"Sounds Good! But Does It Work?" / P. Sokolove	POSTPONED — updated dates and venue to come		
God Save This Honorable Court / David Bisno	SOLD OUT — ENROLLMENT CLOSED		
Financial Mkts, Regs, Crises, Frauds / Peter Naylor	Tues. Feb. 22, March 1	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Ch.
Van Gogh: Beyond the Myth (Lori Windsor Mohr)	Fri. Feb. 25, March 4	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Shakespearean Comedies / Mark Rose	Tues. March 8, 15, 22, 29	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Ch.
Short Story Discussion Group II / Denny Klos	SOLD OUT — ENROLLMENT CLOSED		
Constantine the Great / Daniel DeSelm	Fri. April 1	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Demonic Violinists and Duels / Derek Katz	Wed. April 6, 13, 20	9:30 am	Music Academy of West
Heroes & Rogues (4th Series) / Gerry Corrigan	Mon. April 18, 25, May 2	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Ch.
Cole Porter / Bob Weinman	Tues. April 19 and 26	9:30 am	Via Zoom
Origins, Adventures in Amer. Ag. / Daniel Stone	Tues. May 3 and 10	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Ch.
Frayed Amer. Social Safety Net / Ted Anagnoson	Wed. May 4, 11, 18, 25	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
Mother–Daughter Relationship / Denny Klos	Mon. May 9 and 16	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Ch.