

Reformed Theological Seminary - Charlotte
HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II
Spring 2007 – Atlanta

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Class Dates: February 9,10; March 2,3; April 13,14.

Course Description

This general introduction to Christianity in the Reformation and Post-Reformation eras focuses on the key persons, movements and ideas that have made significant contributions to the history of the Church. Special attention will be given to exploring how experiences and insights from the Christian past inform contemporary faith and practice. As an outcome of the course, students should have a general grasp of Christian history during these periods and a basic knowledge of the major personalities and ecclesiastical issues of the 15th – 18th C. Church History in Europe and Britain.

Required Texts

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. **3rd Edition**. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Dowley, Tim. Editor. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2001.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly Assignments

A. *Reading* - Students will have 11 assignments with readings from the required texts and Scripture.

B. *Weekly Quiz* - There will be 9 short cumulative quizzes on dates from the assignment sheets – quizzes will be taken via e-mail. The dates will also be included as a part of the final exam.

C. *On-Line Discussion Questions* - Students will write responses to discussion questions for each assignment. The questions will be posted on the web for students to interact with one another (in groups). There should be a total of 9 postings plus interactions with your group each week. Directions for this component will be distributed during the first class.

2. Biographical Paper Each student will choose an individual from Christian history that lived during the 15th – 18th C. and write a 10 -12 page typed paper on this person. A least one major biography (200 page minimum) on the person should be read. The paper should include commentary on the person's contribution to the Church and reflection on insights from the person's life that might be useful today. A list of sources should be attached. The due date is **May 7 (postmarked)**.

3. Final Exam The examinations will include essay questions from the required reading and lectures. There will also be short-answer sections on important dates and people. The final will be due on **May 21 (postmarked)**.

4. Reading Report – The Reading Report will be due to the Professor on **May 21 (postmarked)** – the Reading Report is attached to this syllabus. This report will indicate the amount of Required Reading that has been completed during the semester.

4. Class participation: Per seminary policy, it is required that students be present for all class sessions. In an emergency, you may notify professor that you have been “provisionally hindered” from attendance. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and hand in assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction.

Grading

Weekly Quizzes and On-line Discussion Questions - 25%

Biographical Paper - 25%

Reading Report - 25%

Final Exam - 25%

BIBLIOGRAPHY – STANDARD WORKS

Church History Surveys

- Bainton, Roland. *Christendom: A Short History of Christianity and its Impact on Western Civilization*. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Row, 1966
- Chadwick Henry, and Owen Chadwick, gen. eds. *Oxford History of the Christian Church*. Multi-volume set. NY: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Dowley, Tim, ed. *Eerdman's Handbook to the History of Christianity*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.
- Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity*. 2 vols. NY: Harper and Row, 1984.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of Christianity*. Revised ed. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Row, 1975.
- _____. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. 7 vols. in 8. NY: Scribner, 1882-1910.
- Jedin, Hubert and John Dolan, eds. *History of the Church*. 10 vols. NY: Seabury, 1979.
- Schaff, Philip. *History of the Christian Church*. 8 vols. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949-50.
- Walker, Williston. *A History of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970.

History of Doctrine

- Berkhof, Louis. *The History of Christian Doctrines*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, Reprint 1976.
- Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1967.
- Cunningham, William. *Historical Theology*. London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960.
- H. Cunliffe-Jones. *A History of Christian Doctrine*. T&T Clark.
- Gonzalez, Justo. *A History of Christian Thought*. 3 Vols. reprint ed., Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.
- Harnack, Adolf. *History of Dogma*. 4 vols. Reprint. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1976.
- _____. *Outlines of the History of Dogma*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1957.
- Lane, *Exploring Christian Thought*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1984
- Lohse, Bernhard. *A Short History of Christian Doctrine From the First Century to the Present*. Trans. F. Ernest Stoeffler. Rev. Ed. Phil.: Fortress Press, 1985
- McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher, 2001
- Pelikan, Jaroslav Jan. *The Christian Tradition*. 5 Vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-89.
- Seeberg, Reinhold. *History of Doctrines*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.
- Tillich, Paul. *A History of Christian Thought*. New York: Harper and Row, 1968.
- Bromiley, Geoffrey. *Historical Theology An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.

- Forell, George W. ed. *Christian Social Teachings*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1971.
- Leith, John. *Creeds of the Churches*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1977.
- McGrath, Alister. ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, 1995
- Schaff, Philip. *Creeds of Christendom*. 3 Vols. reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993.

Encyclopedias , Handbooks and Dictionaries

- Beinert, Wolfgang and Francis Schussler Fiorenza. *Handbook of Catholic Theology*. New York : The crossroad Publishing Co., 1995
- Brauer, Jerald C. ed. *The Westminster Dictionary of Church History*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1971. *Church*. Reprint. Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Cross, F.L. and E. A. Livingstone ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford Univ. Press.
- Douglas, J.D., ed. *The New International Dictionary of Church History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Edwards, Paul, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 8 vols. NY: Macmillan, 1967.
- Elwell, Walter. ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
- Ferguson, Sinclair B.; Wright, David F.; and Packer, J.I., ed. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988.
- Harrison, Everett F., ed. *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*. Reprint., Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.
- Hart, Trevor. *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000
- Hastings, James, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*. 12 vols. NY: Scribners, 1908-34. Reprint. Scribners, 1961
- Jackson, Samuel M. ed. *The New Schaff - Herzog Encyclopedia of Religion*, 12 vols. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Co., 1908-1914
- McClintock, J. and Strong, J., ed. *Cyclopedia of Biblical Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature*. 10 vols. New York: Harper & Bros., 1867-87.
- McDonald, William J., ed. *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*. 15 vols. NY: McGraw-Hill, 1967.
- Muller, Richard A. *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.
- Richardson, Alan and Bowen, John, eds. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.

History of Christianity II
Assignment 1 – **February 17, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 352-365.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 149-150.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 101-113, 116-123, 146-155.

Dates to Remember:

1418	Thomas a Kempis writes <i>Imitation of Christ</i>
1453	Fall of Constantinople
1456	Guttenburg's printed Bible
1512	Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel frescoes
1516	Erasmus' Greek New Testament

Discussion Questions:

1. Should Christians be involved in the Arts? What challenges do Christians face in this arena?
2. How do you respond to this statement: "All truth is God's truth"? What are the implications of this idea?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 2 – **February 24, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 366-377, 384-386.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 202-236.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 156-160, 177-190.
4. Eph. 2:8-9
Romans 1:17; 3:24,28; 5:1
2 Tim. 3:16
1 Tim. 2:1-6
Heb. 10:19-22.

Dates to Remember:

1517	Martin Luther posts <i>95 Theses</i>
1521	Diet of Worms
1530	<i>Augsburg Confession</i>
1555	Peace of Augsburg
1577	<i>Formula of Concord</i>

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you explain to a Roman Catholic friend Luther's understanding of justification by faith alone? What is the role of "good works?"

2. What is the meaning of the phrase, "priesthood of believers?" Is every Christian his or her own priest?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 3 – **March 10, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 378-379, 401-405
3. *Historical Theology*, pp.166, 195-205.
3. Col. 2:11-12
1 Cor. 1:16 ; 7:14; 11:23-29
Acts 16:31-33; 18:8
John 14:26; 16:8-15

Dates to Remember:

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| 1518 | Ulrich Zwingli comes to Zurich |
| 1525 | Anabaptist movement begins |
| 1529 | Marburg Colloquy |
| 1536 | Memo Simons baptized as Anabaptist |

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the Anabaptist vision are you attracted to? Why?
2. With so many Protestant differences over the sacraments, how can we demonstrate unity in Christ?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 4 – **March 17, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.378-383.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 236-241; 282-284.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 168-172, 199, 205-213.
4. Acts 4:28; 13:48
Rom. 8:29
Eph. 1:4; 2:1-10

Dates to Remember:

1536	First edition, John Calvin's <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>
1563	<i>Heidelberg Catechism</i>
1572	St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
1598	Edict of Nantes
1618	Synod of Dordt

Discussion Questions:

1. Is the doctrine of predestination a comforting or disturbing doctrine to you? Why?
2. Do you consider church discipline a mark of the true church? Explain your answer.

History of Christianity II
Assignment 5 – **March 24, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 386-400.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 241-272.
3. 1 Pet. 1:1-9; 3:13-18; 4:12-19

Dates to Remember:

1534	Act of Supremacy, Henry VIII
1549	Thomas Cranmer's <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>
1559	John Knox returns to Scotland
1563	<i>Thirty-Nine Articles</i>

Discussion Questions:

1. Is a Prayer Book helpful for Christian worship today? Why or why not?
2. What are the advantages/disadvantages of a state Protestant Church?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 6 – **March 31, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 410-434.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 272-297, 359-369..
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 163; 172-174; 183-184; 190-197, 239-240, 312-319.
4. Romans 12

Dates to Remember:

1540	Ignatius Loyola and Jesuits
1545	Council of Trent convenes
1549	Francis Xavier's mission to Japan
1854	Immaculate Conception becomes Dogma
1962	Vatican II

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your evaluation of the Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation and what do you think we can learn from it?

2. What is your perspective on Evangelical / Catholic dialogue and cooperation on social issues?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 7 – **April 7, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 388-389; 392-393; 406-409
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.298-344.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 174-175.
4. John 4:20-24
Phil. 3:2,3
Col. 3:12-17

Dates to Remember:

1609	John Smyth baptizes the first English Baptists
1611	King James Bible
1643	Westminster Assembly begins
1678	John Bunyan writes <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>
1793	William Carey sails for India

Discussion Questions:

1. How important is it for Christian worship to conform to the norms of Scripture?
2. In what areas do evangelical churches need to be “purified” today?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 8 – **April 21, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 444-461, 475-484
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 349-351
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 175-176
4. Matt. 28:19,20
Rom. 12:1
Eph. 1:4
1 Pet. 1:15,16

Dates to Remember:

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| 1675 | Jacob Spener writes <i>Pia Desideria</i> |
| 1707 | Isaac Watts publishes <i>Hymns and Spiritual Songs</i> |
| 1732 | First Moravian missionaries |
| 1738 | John and Charles Wesley's evangelical conversions |
| 1771 | Francis Asbury comes to America |

Discussion Questions:

1. Has Christianity in America lost its holiness? What's wrong?
2. How important is evangelism and world missions for the life of the church? Explain.

History of Christianity II
Assignment 9 – **April 28, 2007**

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.485-517.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 345-349.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 214-229, 270-273, 297-298, 305-306.
4. 1 Tim. 1:5-11
2 Tim. 3:16,17
2 Tim. 4:1-4

Dates to Remember:

- 1781 Kant publishes *Critique of Pure Reason*
- 1789 French Revolution begins
- 1799 Friederich Schleiermacher's *Lectures on Religion*

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you answer a non-Christian who asked you why you believe the Bible is unique compared to any other religious book?
2. How has the Enlightenment had an impact on Christianity?

Course Outline

Unit I Understanding the Protestant Reformation

Unit II Luther's Reform of the Church

Unit III Zwingli and the Anabaptists

Unit IV Calvin and the Reformed Tradition

Unit V Reformation in England and Scotland

Unit VI Roman Catholic Reform

Unit VII English Puritans and Separatists

Unit VIII Pietists and Methodists

Unit IX The Enlightenment

History of Christianity II

Reading Report

Please state the percentage of the Required Reading that you have completed.

Dowley, *Introduction to the History of Christianity* _____%

McGrath, *Historical Theology* _____%

Bettenson, *Documents of the Christian Church* _____%