Luke introduces the Book of Acts by reminding his reader that his previous account, the Gospel of Luke, was a proclamation of what “Jesus began to do and teach.” By implication, his second account describes the continuation of Jesus’ ministry through the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God’s people. Church history documents the subsequent accounts of Christ’s amazing redemptive epic. Our study will survey this divine institution from the Protestant Reformation to the modern era (1500-present). The course objective is to provide students with a thorough overview of the theological developments and shifts as well as the key figures within these movements. Specific attention will be given to primary sources.

Our approach to church history will extend beyond mere names and dates. This course will have a pastoral emphasis, and thus, we’ll constantly seek to apply the lessons we learn in our survey. We’ll evaluate how events and people of the past relate to issues facing the church in our own day.

Class Schedule
Time:
   Friday 6:30pm - 8:30pm and Saturday 8:30am - 3:30pm
Dates:
   March 5 & 6
   April 9 & 10
   April 23 & 24
   April 30 & May 1
   May 7 & 8

Texts


In addition to these two main texts, students will be required to read articles and original source materials made available to them via photocopies or PDF files.
Research Paper
Students will write a 10-12 page research paper. Papers will include footnotes and bibliography organized in Turabian citation style. Topics need to be approved. Your paper is due at the beginning of class Friday, Apr 30th and is worth 35% of your final grade.
Suggested areas of research:

- Lutheranism and Calvinism: The Evolution of Protestant Theology
- The Counter Reformation
- Arminianism and the Synod of Dort
- Geneva, John Knox, and the New Israel
- William Laud and the Covenanters
- The Marrow Controversy
- The Church’s Response to the Enlightenment
- George Whitefield, John Wesley, and the Birth of Methodism
- Jonathan Edwards and the Half-way Covenant
- Revivalism and the Second Great Awakening
- The Church and the Civil War
- Black Churches and the Fight for Equality
- Karl Barth: Encountering the Word Fundamentalism: A Hermeneutic and a Worldview

Class Presentation
Students will prepare a 1 page full outline based on their research paper and will give a 10min class presentation. The presentation is worth 10% of your final grade.

Biographical Sketch
Students will write a 2 page biographical sketch of an individual listed below. This brief description should include elements of this person’s life, thought, and impact upon the church. It should be thought of as similar to the foreword or preface of a book, provoking readers to further investigate the individual. The biographical sketch is worth 10% of your final grade.

- Erasmus
- Philipp Melanchthon
- Heinrich Bullinger
- John Davenant
- William Perkins
- Samuel Rutherford
- Thomas Boston
- Immanuel Kant
- Friedrich Schleiermacher
- John McLeod Campbell
- James Henley Thornwell
- Frederick Douglass
- A.A. Hodge
- B.B. Warfield
- John Murray
- Rudolf Bultmann
- Dietrich Bonhoeffe
- T.F. Torrance

Class Participation and Reading
Class participation is an important aspect of the learning process. Therefore, combined with the required reading for the class, it will account for 5% of your final grade.

Final Exam
There will be one comprehensive final exam worth 40% of your final grade. The exam will include fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.