

History of Christianity II: Pre-Reformation to Modern Times

RTS Atlanta – Spring 2010

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Course Description

Luke introduces the *Book of Acts* by reminding his reader that his previous account, the *Gospel of Luke*, was a proclamation of what “Jesus **begun** 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

Calvin, John. *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion*. J. T. McNeill. The Library of Christian Classics Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1960.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *The Story of Christianity, Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1985.

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 Bonhoeffer
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.