

*Reformed Theological Seminary - Atlanta*  
**HT502 History of Christianity I**  
Fall 2010

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**Course Dates**

September 3-4, November 5-6, December 3-4

**Course Description**

This general introduction to Christianity in the early church and medieval era 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 first 1500 years of Church History.

**Required Texts**

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. Second Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1963 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1999)

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

Maier, Paul. *Eusebius: The Church History*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007

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

**Course Requirements**

1. Weekend Assignments

A. *Reading* - Students will have 10 assignment sheets with readings from the required texts and Scripture that are due by each Friday of the course.

B. *Quizzes* - At the beginning of each Friday class session there will be a short cumulative quiz on dates from the assignment sheets. The dates will also be included as a part of the final exam.

C. *Discussion Questions* - Students will write a one-page typed response to the discussion questions for each assignment. Discussion question responses will be due at the beginning of each Friday class session.

D. *Due Dates* – Assignments 1-3 are due on **September 3**, Assignments 4-7 are due **November 5**, Assignments 8-10 are due **December 3**.

2. Biographical Paper Each student will choose an individual from Christian history that lived before the Protestant Reformation 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.

#### *Choosing a biography*

Students are free to select from a wide array of biographies. One may choose an Early Church Father, a martyr, a medieval scholastic or mystic, a Christian emperor, a Pope, a Christian king, a monk, reformer or any significant Christian that lived before Martin Luther. There are many options; use the Dowley text and course lectures to help you make a good choice. Autobiographies, such as Augustine's *Confessions*, do not qualify for this assignment. Do not use a biography you have read before; learn about someone new.

You may select an individual for whom there is not a full 200-page biography. One option is to read a shorter biography and then read some of that person's writings up to the 200 page minimum requirement. For example, if you find a 100-page biography, you will need to supplement that with another 100 pages (at least) of his/her writings.

Students are welcome to use multiple sources for the biography paper but this is not necessary. One 200-page biography will fully satisfy the assignment.

#### *Where to look*

If you live near a Bible College, Christian University or Seminary, you will find a wealth of options in these libraries. Public universities and public libraries will also have a few biographies of famous Christians like Augustine, St. Patrick, Francis of Assisi or Thomas Aquinas. If your home church has a library, you may find something there. Also, your pastor may have a few Christian biographies in a personal library.

Students may also wish to consider purchasing a good biography that would be a useful addition to their own library. There are many places to look and one should not have a problem locating an acceptable biography.

#### *How to write the paper*

The basic pattern of the paper should be to tell the person's story utilizing the biography you have read. You may choose to emphasize the person's life story or his/her writings in the paper – a good paper should have some of both. If one is using the person's writings as a significant part of the reading, the paper should reflect this.

It is not necessary to use footnotes for summaries of historical information if one is using only one book as the primary source. However, if there are direct quotations from this one book, page numbers should be indicated. If one is using multiple sources, footnotes would be proper to indicate the source of specific information. A bibliography should be attached even if it is only to list one source. The due date is **December 4**.

3. Final Exam The examination will include essay questions from the required reading and lectures. There will also be short-answer sections on important dates, people and ideas. The final exam will be a take-home exam that will be distributed at the last class session. The due date is **December 18** (post-marked). No notes or books allowed for taking exam. Mail **exam** and **proctor form** to address below:

Dr. Don Fortson  
Reformed Theological Seminary  
2101 Carmel Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226

4. Reading Report – The Reading Report will be due to the Professor the **last day of class, December 4** (see attached). 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**

Quizzes and Discussion Questions - 25%

Biographical Paper - 25%

Reading Report - 25%

Final Exam - 25%

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 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.
- Quasten, Johannes. *Patrology*. 4 vols. Utrecht: Spectrum; Westminster, MD: Christian Classics, 1950-86.
- 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.
- Kelly, J.N.D. *Early Church Doctrines*. reprint ed., San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1978.
- 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.

### Primary Source Collections

- Bromiley, Geoffrey. *Historical Theology An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.
- Culbertson, Philip and Arthur Shippee. *The Pastor: Readings from the Patristic Period*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
- Deferrari, R.J. *The Fathers of the Church: A New Translation*. 70 vols  
Washington, D.C., Catholic University of America Press, 1947-
- Forell, George W. ed. *Christian Social Teachings*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1971.
- Leith, John. *Creeds of the Churches*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1977.
- Lull, Timothy. ed. *Luther's Theological Writings*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.
- McGrath, Alister. ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, 1995
- Oates, Whitney J. Editor. *Basic Writings of Augustine*. 2 Vols, Baker Bk.House,1980.
- Quasten , Johannes and Joseph C. Plumpe, ed. *Ancient Christian Writers: The Works of the Fathers in Translation*. 55 vols. New York: Newman Press,1946.
- Schaff, Philip. *Creeds of Christendom*. 3 Vols. reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993.
- The Classics of Western Spirituality: A Library of the Great Spiritual Masters*. 63 vols.  
NY: Paulist Press, 1979
- Schaff, Philip.ed. *Ante-Nicene, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*. 36 Vols. Reprint ed., Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1991.
- The Library of Christian Classics: Ichthus Edition*. 20 vols. Louisville:Westminster Press.
- Wiles, Maurice and Mark Santer, eds. Reprint ed., *Documents in Early Christian Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

### 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.
- Di Berardino, Angelo, ed. *Encyclopedia of the Early Church*. Trans. by Adrian Walford.2 vols. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1992.
- 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, Everett, ed. *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1990.

- 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 I  
Assignment 1

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp.14-28,34-36,57-81.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 62-67 (68-73, **3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**)
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 1-16
4. *Eusebius*, Book 1
5. Acts chapters 1-11, Romans 1:8-16, 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Dates to Remember:

35 A.D.	Paul's conversion
64 A.D.	Nero's persecution
70 A.D.	Destruction of Jerusalem
100 A.D.	St. John's death

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think about the Christian community life described in the book of Acts?  
What appeals to you?
2. In what ways are Christians today a witness by the lives they live?

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 2

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp.82-100.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.1-4, 7-15. (1-5, 7-16)
3. *Historical Theology*, pp.17-27, 86-93.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 2
5. Matthew 5:10-16; 10:16-39; 16:24-26  
Romans 8:16-18, 28-39  
Hebrews 11:32-12:2  
Revelation 2:8-11; 6:9-11; 20:4-6

Dates to Remember:

- |          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 150 A.D. | Justin Martyr's <i>First Apology</i> |
| 155 A.D. | Martyrdom of Polycarp                |
| 251 A.D. | Novatian Schism                      |
| 303 A.D. | Diocletian Persecution               |

Discussion Questions:

1. What, in your opinion, is the biblical understanding of persecution and martyrdom?
2. Who are the intellectual attackers of Christianity today? What are their criticisms of the Church? Is anyone answering them?

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 3

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.101-122, 130-136.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.5-6, 23-24, 26-33, 67-74, 77-78. (5-7, 25-26, 29-36, 74-81, 84-86).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 28- 38.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 3
5. 1 Timothy 4:1-7  
Titus 1:5-2:1  
1John 4:1-6

Dates to Remember:

- |          |                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 144 A.D. | Marcion excommunicated             |
| 200 A.D. | Muratorian Canon                   |
| 215 A.D. | Hippolytus' Old Roman Creed        |
| 248 A.D. | Cyprian elected Bishop of Carthage |

Discussion Questions:

1. Should we use the "Apostles' Creed" in the 20th Century Church? Why or why not?
2. How do you respond to this statement by St. Cyprian, "You cannot have God for your father unless you have the church for your mother."?

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 4

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.139-161, 195-203.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.15-23, 74-77, 79-83 (16-25, 81-84, 86-91).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 39-51.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 4
5. John 4:23,24  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34, 14:26-40, 16:1,2  
Colossians 3:16,17

Dates to Remember:

- |          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 312 A.D. | Conversion of Constantine     |
| 325 A.D. | Council of Nicaea             |
| 392 A.D. | Theodosius bans pagan worship |
| 440 AD   | Leo I, Petrine Theory         |

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways has the contemporary church incorporated "pagan ideas" into its faith and practice?
2. Is there value in following traditional forms of worship that link the 20th Century church with the historic church? Why or why not?

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 5

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.164-186.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 24-26, 33-35, 39-52 (27-29, 36-38, 42-57)
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 51-72.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 5
5. John 1:1-18  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Colossians 1:13-20; 2:9,10  
Hebrews chapters 1,2

Dates to Remember:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 328 A.D. | Athanasius becomes bishop of Alexandria |
| 381 A.D. | Council of Constantinople               |
| 451 A.D. | Council of Chalcedon                    |

Discussion Questions:

1. What authority should the Nicene and Chalcedonian Creeds have for the church today?
2. Why is it important for Christian faith that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine?

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 6

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.187-194, 204-211.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.52-62, 78-79 (57-68, 85, 86).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 72-85.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 6
5. John chp. 17  
Romans chps. 3-5, 9-11  
Ephesians chps. 1-2; 4:1-6  
1 Peter 2:5-10

Dates to Remember:

- |          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 397 A.D. | Augustine's <u>Confessions</u> |
| 426 A.D. | Augustine's <u>City of God</u> |
| 529 A.D. | Council of Orange              |

Discussion Questions:

1. Augustine condemned the Roman passion for luxury. Would this be an appropriate evaluation of Western society also? Why or why not?
2. Can you think of any contemporary Christians that have Donatist-like attitudes? How would you describe the "true church?"

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 7

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 212-245.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.97-101, 116-128, 151-155 (106-110, 127-141, 167-171).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 94-103
4. *Eusebius*, Book 7
5. Matthew 16:13-20; 20:20-28  
Matthew 10:7-10; 16:24-26; 19:21  
1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 25-31

Dates to Remember:

432 AD	St. Patrick returns to Ireland
529 A.D.	Benedict's Monastic Rule
622 A.D.	Birth of Islam
718 A.D.	Boniface, mission to the Germans
800 AD	Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor

Discussion Questions:

1. How is the church in North America responding to the challenges of Islam? Do you have any suggestions?
2. Do the ideals of the ascetic/monastic life have a place in the contemporary church? (i.e., separation from the world, a life of renunciation, celibacy, the giving away of one's possessions, fasting, a life of prayer).

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 8

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp.247-259, 316-319.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.89-97 (97-106).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 123-126.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 8
5. Deuteronomy 4:15-18; 5:7-10  
Mark 12:13-17  
Acts 5:25-29  
Romans 13:1-7

Dates to Remember:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 860 A.D.  | Cyril and Methodius missionaries to Slavs |
| 988 A.D.  | Christianity comes to Russia              |
| 1054 A.D. | Schism of East and West                   |
| 1099 A.D. | First Crusade                             |

Discussion Questions:

1. What reasons would you give to support the freedom and independence of the Christian church from state control?
2. What is your reaction to this statement:

"Pictures of Jesus Christ ought not to appear in any Christian printed material in the church or home. We wouldn't think of putting statues of Christ in our homes and churches, so too we shouldn't think of putting His likeness on our walls and in the pages of our publications. Such pictures are clearly a violation of the Second Commandment."

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 9

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp.260-306.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 101-116, 137-151, 155-173 (110-127, 151-166, 171-191).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 113- 123, 127-143.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 9
5. Matthew 20:28  
Romans 5:6-11  
2 Corinthians 5:14-21  
Hebrews 2:14-17  
1 Peter 3:18

Dates to Remember:

- |           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1093 A.D. | Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury     |
| 1150 A.D. | Universities of Paris and Oxford     |
| 1215 A.D. | Innocent III, Fourth Lateran Council |
| 1272 A.D. | Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i>     |

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you understand the relationship of faith and reason?
2. What in your view is the value of the sacraments for the life of the church?

History of Christianity I  
Assignment 10

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Chr.*, pp. 307-315, 320-350.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 128-136, 173-182 (141-150, 191-202).
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 103-113, 143-155.
4. *Eusebius*, Book 10

Dates to Remember:

- |           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1175 AD   | Waldensian Movement begins |
| 1208 A.D. | Francis renounces wealth   |
| 1378 A.D. | Great Schism               |
| 1415 A.D. | Hus burned at the stake    |

Discussion Questions:

1. How receptive is your church/denomination to the voice of responsible critics?
2. How should contemporary Christianity deal with "heretics" in the church?

## Unit I Christianity and History

### 1. Why Study Church History?

- a. Cultural apathy toward history
- b. Modern Church's ignorance of the past
- c. Results of neglecting Christian history
- d. Why the work is necessary
- e. Benefits of knowing the Christian past

### 2. Christian Historiography

- a. Three Christian convictions about history
- b. Approaches to history (in the past)
- c. Self-consciousness of the historian
- d. Critical Objectivity
- e. Reconstructing the past
- f. The question of meaning
- g. Components of a Christian approach to history
- h. Unity of Biblical and Historical Studies

## Unit II The Character of Primitive Christianity

### 1. The Coming of Christ

- a. The "fullness of time"
- b. Birthday of the church
- c. Reconstructing the picture of the early church
- d. The Greco-Roman political/cultural context
- e. The growth of Christianity

### 2. Early Christianity Sources

- a. New Testament Apostolic Church
- b. Didache
- c. The Apostolic Fathers

### 3. First Century Christian Practices

- a. The Jewish foundation
- b. Baptism and the early church
- c. Eucharistic practice
- d. Prayer and fasting
- e. The pastoral functions
- f. Leadership
- g. Gathering for Worship
- h. Women in the early church

## Unit III The Persecution of First Three Centuries

### 1. Death of the Twelve

### 2. Accusations against Believers

### 3. The Roman Persecutions

- a. Nero (54-68)
- b. Domitian (81-96)
- c. Trajan (98-117)
- d. Hadrian (117-138)
- e. Marcus Aurelius (161-181)
- f. Septimius Severus (202-211)
- g. Decius (249-251)
- h. Valerian (253-260)
- i. Diocletian (284-305)
- j. Galerius (305-311)

### 4. The Problem of the Lapsed

- a. Two parties – Diversities of Policies
- b. The Concept of Penance

### 5. Honoring the Martyrs and Confessors

## Unit IV The Church Sets Standards

### 1. Apologists Defend Christianity

- a. Justin Martyr
- b. Response to Jewish attacks
- c. Response to Graeco-Roman attacks
- d. Apologetic Methodology

### 2. Heretical Groups in the Early Church

- a. Ebionites
- b. Gnostics
- c. Marcionites
- d. Monarchianism
- e. Montanists

### 3. The Question of Authority

- a. The Canon
- b. The Creed
- c. The Bishop
- d. Apostolic Foundation

## Unity V The Catholic Tradition

### 1. The Church Unites with the Empire

- a. Constantine the Great
- b. Church life before and after the persecutions

### 2. The Ministry of the Church

- a. Leadership Patterns
- b. The Priesthood concept
- c. Liturgies of the Patristic Era (2<sup>nd</sup> C. - 6<sup>th</sup> C.)
- d. Baptism and Eucharist
- e. Preaching, Music and Prayer
- f. Church Buildings and the Christian Year

### 3. John Chrysostom

- a. His life and ministry
- b. John the preacher

### 4. The Bishop of Rome

- a. The fall of Rome
- b. The Petrine Theory
- c. Primacy of the Papacy emerges (1<sup>st</sup> C. - 6<sup>th</sup> C.)
- d. Benefits of the Papacy

## Unit VI The Great Ecumenical Councils

### 1. The Council of Nicaea

- a. The theological climate
- b. Immediate setting of the controversy
- c. The Council debates
- d. The Creed of Nicaea

### 2. The Continuing Battle with Arianism

- a. Controversy for 50 years
- b. Athanasius
- c. The Three Cappodocians

### 3. Christology and the Definition of Chalcedon

- a. Apollinarius
- b. Nestorius
- c. Eutyches
- d. The Council of Chalcedon

### 4. Devotion to Mary

- a. Early Fathers
- b. Century following Nicaea
- c. Christological Debates of mid 5<sup>th</sup> Century

## Unit VII St. Augustine and African Christianity

### 1. Christianity in North Africa

### 2. Augustine's Life

- a. Road to Conversion
- b. Bishop of Hippo

### 3. The Great Works of Augustine

- a. *The Confessions*
- b. *The City of God*
- c. *De Trinitate*

### 4. Controversies of Augustine's Time

- a. The Donatist Schism
- b. The Pelagian Conflict

### 5. Christianity in Africa during the First Millennium

- a. Coptic Church of Egypt
- b. Nubian Christianity
- c. Orthodox Ethiopian Church

## Unit VIII Monasticism, Missions and the Dark Ages

### 1. **The Rise of Monastic Ideals**

- a. Ascetic practices
- b. St. Anthony of Egypt
- c. Monastic Spirituality

### 2. **Benedict of Nursia**

- a. His life
- b. The Benedictine Rule

### 3. **Monks and Missions**

- a. St. Patrick and Celtic Christianity
- b. Gregory sends monks to England
- c. Boniface and the German tribes
- d. Benefits of Monasticism

### 4. **Decline of Culture in the West**

- a. Charlemagne
- b. Feudalism
- c. Rise of Islam

### 5. **The Carolingian Renaissance**

- a. Education and the literature of antiquity
- b. Theological controversies

## Unit IX The Traditions of Eastern Orthodoxy

### 1. **Unity and Diversity with the West**

- a. A Distinctive Eastern Church emerges
- b. A Common Catholic Faith
- c. Diversity in Christian practices

### 2. **Turning Points**

- a. Photian Schism
- b. Schism of 1054

### 3. **The Crusades**

Understanding the Crusades

The Church and Warfare

Eight Major Crusades

Results of Crusades

### 4. **Iconoclastic Controversy**

- a. Role of the Emperors
- b. Iconoclasts vs. Iconodules

### 5. **The Orthodox Way**

- a. Apophatic Theology
- b. The Divine Liturgy
- c. Holy Tradition
- d. Orthodox Spirituality

## Unit X The Life and Times of the Medieval Church

### 1. The German Kings and the Church

- a. Lay investiture
- b. Cluniac Reform Movement
- c. Greater claims for the papacy

### 2. Fourth Lateran Council

### 3. The Universities and the Schoolmen

- a. Anselm of Canterbury
- b. Peter Abelard

### 4. Bernard of Clairvaux

- a. His life
- b. Contributions

### 5. Medieval Philosophy

- a. Roots of Medieval thought
- b. Metaphysics

### 6. St. Thomas Aquinas

## Unit XI Reform Movements in Medieval Christianity

### 1. **The French Kings Dominate the Church**

- a. The Avignon Papacy
- b. The Conciliar Movement

### 2. **Mendicant Orders**

- a. St. Francis and his new order
- b. Dominicans

### 3. **The Inquisition**

- a. Cathari
- b. Waldensians

### 4. **John Wycliffe**

- a. 14th C. England
- b. His life
- c. Wycliffe's theology
- d. The Lollards
- f. The English Bible

### 7. **Jan Hus**

- a. Life and trial
- b. His beliefs and influence

# History of Christianity I

## 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* \_\_\_\_\_%

Eusebius, *The Church History* \_\_\_\_\_%

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Review for Final Exam

History of Christianity I – Fall 2010

- A. Know all **dates** in all Assignments and review text through page 350.
- B. Review the “**blue blocks**” - biographical sketches only, through page 350. For each person know: who they were and significant contributions the person made to the Church
- C. Know the Christological Heresy chart. Know the four perspectives on sin, grace and predestination related to the Pelagian conflict.
- D. The following are potential discussion questions from reading and lectures:
1. Why is Christian History important for the modern church?
  2. How did early believers practice the faith? What light does the Didache shed on this era?
  3. Describe how the Roman persecutions shaped the church of the first three centuries?
  4. What were the pagan criticisms of Christianity and how did the apologists answer them?
  5. Explain why the views of the Gnostics, Marcionites and Monarchians were heretical?
  6. Discuss the boundaries of authority established to guard the church from heresy.
  7. What was the long-term impact of Constantine’s conversion to Christianity?
  8. Explain the development of the papacy in the Christian Church after the first century.
  9. What was the Arian heresy and how did the Nicene Creed address it?
  10. What is the significance of Augustine’s *City of God*?
  11. How did Augustine respond to the Donatist schism in North Africa?
  12. Tell how the monastic tradition understands Christian spirituality.
  13. Describe the distinctives of the Eastern Orthodox tradition.
  14. What was Scholasticism? Include the contributions of Abelard and Aquinas.
  15. How did Bernard of Clairvaux have an impact on the church of his day.
  16. What were some of the medieval attempts at reform in the church?
  17. Why is John Wycliffe important for Protestantism?