Church History II  
HT 504  
Spring, 2011

Dr. Daniel J. Steere

Course Description: Church History II presents a survey of the history of the Christian church from the Reformation into the 19th century. The course is designed to provide the student with a broad understanding of the major figures as well as the political and theological trends within both the Church and the culture during this timeframe. Special emphasis will be placed upon the development and history of the Reformed Tradition.

Course Dates: Feb. 25-26; March 18-19; April 15-16; May 6-7

Required Texts:
Hans Hillerbrand, *The Protestant Reformation*
John T. McNeill, *The History and Character of Calvinism*
John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* [selected sections – Battles translation preferred]
Mark Noll, *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*

Course Requirements:
1. Three essays of 3-5 pages each. Students will write on one topic from each of the following groups. Students may substitute a topic of their own choice for one of the essays, if it is approved in advance by the instructor. Each essay must have a thorough bibliography appended that lists both primary and secondary sources. Sources consulted in writing each essay must be marked with an asterisk (*). (25% each)
   Group A:
   a. An overview of Luther’s view on soteriology and free will.
   b. An analysis of Calvin’s teaching on faith from the *Institutes*.
   c. The impact and influence of a “secondary reformer” – i.e. Bucer, Bullinger, Beza, Martyr, Melanchthon.
   d. The rise and course of the French Reformed Church.
   e. The Anabaptist critique of paedobaptism and the territorial church.
   
   Group B
   f. The impact of Continental Reformed Theology on the English Reformation.
   g. The political nature of the English Reformation.
   h. The role of Puritanism in the lead up to the English Civil War.
   i. The question of episcopacy in England and Scotland.
   j. English nonconformity in the late 17th century.

   Group C
   k. The decline of American Puritanism.
   l. The Great Awakening and its fruits.
   m. The Wesleys and Whitefield.
   n. Presbyterianism in early America.
   o. The denominational response to the American frontier.

2. Develop a synthesis project that demonstrates your interaction with the events and course of Modern Church History. Your project must include a discussion of the application of Church History to your chosen field (1-2pp.). The project must also cover the entire span of the Modern period and be approved by the instructor. (25%)
   Examples:
a. A book list on Modern Church History, listing each book (25 books minimum) with a paragraph describing its content, outline and usefulness.
b. An annotated collection of psalms and hymns from throughout the period, considering the style, lyrical content and focus of each hymn.
c. An annotated timeline that includes a brief discussion of major figures and events – religious, cultural and political – for the period 1500 to 1800.
d. A series of theological “flow charts” that traces major doctrines and practices through the people and movements that aligned with each. (i.e. Who held to predestination, to Sabbatarianism, to episcopacy, etc.)

Optional Readings:
- Louis Berkhof, *The History of Christian Doctrines*
- Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand, A Life of Martin Luther*
- William James Bouwsma, *John Calvin: A Sixteenth-Century Portrait*
- A.G. Dickens, *The English Reformation*
- Patrick Collinson, *The Religion of Protestants*
- Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation*
- Bruce L. Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*
- C. Gregg Singer, *A Theological Interpretation of American History*

Reading and Assignment Schedule:

Feb. 25-26
- Hillerbrand 1-213
- McNeill 2-52; 93-234

March 18-19
- Calvin I. 1-2; III. 6-19, 21-24
- McNeill 237-67
- Group A essay due

April 15-16
- Hillerbrand 277-326
- McNeill 290-330
- Group B essay due

May 6-7
- McNeill 331-438
- Noll 30-190
- Group C essay due

May 17 (postmarked)
- Synthesis project due.

My contact information:
Address: 8905 Hurricane Ridge Rd. Chattanooga, TN 37421
Email: magister53@gmail.com
Mobile: 706/506-0070