

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I

(H502)

Reformed Theological Seminary/Orlando

Fall 2008

NB: No classes: 14 OCTOBER

PROFESSOR: Dr. Frank A. James III

OFFICE HOURS: Make appointment with Chief of Staff/President's Office

CLASS DAY: Tuesdays--9 am to noon

TEXTBOOKS: Students will be required to read all or part of the following books:

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries* (San Francisco, Harper Collins, 1997).

J. Patout Burns, ed. trans. *Theological Anthropology. Sources of Early Christian Thought* (Fortress, 1981) -- Pelagian Controversy.

Richard Norris, Jr., ed. trans. *The Christological Controversy. Sources of Early Christian Thought* (Fortress, 1980) --Arian Controversy.

Eusebius, *The History of the Church* (Penguin, 1989)—first four centuries of early church by the first Church historian.

Everett Ferguson, *Church History: From Christ to Pre-Reformation* (Zondervan, 2005).

OBJECTIVES: This is a survey course to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church in the early and medieval periods (100 -- 1500 A.D.) The course objective is to thoroughly acquaint the student with the historical and theological development of key figures, movements and doctrines. Special emphasis will be on reading the primary sources.

COURSE
REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS: There will be a **Mid-term exam on 21 October** and a comprehensive **final exam during exam week**. The mid-term exam is 20% and the final exam is 30% of your final grade.

PAPERS: **Two response papers (6-7 pages each)** on topics from Student Presentations. The two scheduled presentations/discussions are:

(1) **30 September**: (*Debate on the Bart Ehrman Thesis: Orthodox Christians corrupted NT Scripture—pro & con*). *First response paper is due 28 October*.

(2) **11 November**: (*According to Augustine’s “just-war” theory was U.S. invasion of Iraq “just”?—pro and con*). *Second response paper is due 3 December*.

Each paper is 20% of your final grade. The goal of the response paper is for the student to interact critically and intelligently with the primary source material. Student **must** carefully and fairly consider **both** sides of debated issues before reaching a conclusion. Response paper includes (i) footnotes or endnotes (ii) brief bibliography. **STUDENT MUST SUBMIT TWO (2) COPIES OF EACH PAPER.** Follow Turabian for footnotes and general outline in the response paper. Sample Papers are available for consultation in secretary’s office.

There will be 4 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS. To encourage volunteers for the student presentations, **they will NOT be required to take the Final Exam.** The grade for the mid-term exam will be substituted for the comprehensive final exam and a VERY generous grade will be given for the presentation. NOTE BENE: Student presenters are required to write a response paper on the other discussion topic.

Student presenters will be responsible for the following:

- to give a 20-25 minute presentation.
- one week **before** scheduled presentation, student should identify and place on library reserve c. 100-150 pages of reading material for student response papers—Please make 3 copies of material for library. Also make sure full bibliographical references are included in the reserve material.
- **on day of presentation**, a complete typed copy of their presentation is placed on library reserve—**full research paper or annotated outline**.
- to meet with professor **at least 1 week in advance** to discuss presentation. It is the Presenters responsibility to make arrangements with Prof. in advance.
- Provide a copy of all material to professor 1 week in advance.

There is a Communal/Ecclesiastical component to all papers. As part of the research for response/research papers, student must discuss topic with **(i) spouse if married or a friend if not married (ii) with your pastor, elder or church leader (iii) a student in the class from another ethnic background or gender.** At least half an hour should be taken for each discussion. Name, date and amount of time spent in discussion must be indicated at end of each paper. (Failure to complete this part of the assignment will have a negative effect on final grade).

QUIZZES: There will be 5 scheduled quizzes over the reading assignments. The goal is to acquaint you with some of the major writings of the Western church tradition. **The lowest grade will be dropped.** The average of the FOUR highest quiz scores will make up 10% of your final grade.

READING REPORT: On the Final Exam, each student must indicate whether they have completed all the assigned reading. (Failure to complete all the reading assignments will have a negative effect on final grade).

I do not like MAKE-UP EXAMS, MAKE-UP QUIZZES or LATE PAPERS.

READING
ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignment 1: due 2 Sept –

Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, read all. Quiz will cover only chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 8.

Reading Assignment 2: due 16 Sept--

Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, read all. Quiz will cover only introduction and Book V -- sections 1-2, 6-7 and Book VIII.

Reading Assignment 3: due 7 Oct --

Norris, *The Christological Controversy*, read all. Quiz will cover only introduction and Athanasius' Oration Against the Arians, (pp. 83-101).

Reading Assignment 4: due 4 Nov --

Burns, *Theological Anthropology*, read all. Quiz will cover only introduction, Pelagius' "Letter to Demetrias" (pp. 39-55) and Augustine's "On the Grace of Christ" (pp. 61-96).

Reading Assignment 5: due 18 Nov --

Ferguson, *Church History*, read all. Quiz will cover only chapters, 17-19 and 22-23.

ACADEMIC
HONESTY:

Any form of cheating will automatically result in failure of the course.
Students may NOT consult exams or class notes from previous years.

Criteria for Evaluation of Response/Research Papers

I. Grammar and Style (25%)

- * Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
- * Is the text punctuated correctly?
- * Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
- * Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (Turabian, A Manual for Writers).
- * Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., the guidelines in Strunk and White, The Elements of Style)?

II. Organization (25%)

- * Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
- * Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
- * Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
- * Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
- * Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

III. Clarity and Force of Argument (25%)

- * Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
- * Is the evidence marshalled to support the argument used judiciously?
- * Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
- * Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
- * Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

IV. Research (25%)

- * Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
- * Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
- * Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

Recommended Resources:

J. Barzun and H. Graff, The Modern Researcher (New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, latest edition).

Mary-Claire van Leunen, A Handbook for Scholars (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979).

William Zinsser, On Writing Well (New York: Harper and Row, latest edition).

W. Booth, G. Colomb, J. Williams, The Craft of Research (University of Chicago, 1995).

Recommended Reading for Enthusiasts:

O'Donnell, *Augustine: A New Biography*

Roger Olson, *The Story of Christian Theology* (IVP, 1999). Chapters 1-22.

_____, *The Mosaic of Christian Beliefs: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity* (InterVarsity)

Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints* (University of Chicago).

Marylyn Dunn, *The Emergence of Monasticism: From the Desert Fathers to the Early Middle Ages* (Blackwell)

Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church* (Penguin, latest edition)

John Meyerdorff, *Byzantine Theology* (Fordham University Press)

Norman Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium: Revolutionary Millenarians and Mystical Anarchists of the Middle Ages*, (Oxford, 1970, revised edition)

Peter Kreeft, ed. *The Summa of the Summa: Essential Passages of Aquinas* (Ignatius Press).

John A.F. Thomson, *The Western Church in the Middle Ages* (Oxford, 1998).

Jean Richard, *The Crusades, c. 1071-c. 1291* (Oxford, 1999).

Adrian House, *Francis of Assisi* (Paulist, 2001).

Charles Carpenter, *Theology as the Road to Holiness in St. Bonaventure* (Paulist Press).

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Christianity I

I. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS

Henry Bettenson, ed. and trans. The Early Christian Fathers (Oxford, 1956).

Henry Bettenson, ed. and trans. The Later Christian Fathers (Oxford, 1970).

Alexander Roberts and J. Donaldson, eds. The Ante-Nicene Fathers (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark), 10 vols.

Philip Schaff, ed. The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark), 29 vols.

S.J. Case, et al, A Bibliographical Guide to the History of Christianity (New York).

O. Chadwick, The History of the Church: A Select Bibliography (London, 1962).

L.J. Paetow, A Guide to the Study of Medieval History, rev. G.C. Boyce (New York 1980).

B.B. Price, Medieval Thought: An Introduction (Blackwell).

R.J. Kepple, Reference Works for Theological Research.

Justo Gonzalez, Church History: An Essential Guide (Abingdon).

J. E. Bradley and R.A. Muller, Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods (Eerdmans).

Dictionary of the Christian Church, ed. J.D. Douglas (Baker).

The New Catholic Encyclopedia 15 vols. (1967)

Dictionary of the Middle Ages, ed. J.R. Strayer.

Cross and Livingston, eds. The Oxford History of the Christian Church (Oxford).

The Encyclopedia of Early Christianity, ed. E. Ferguson.

Encyclopedia of the Early Church, ed. Angelo Di Berardino (2 vols.)

The Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge

Religion Index One: Periodicals

Index to Book Reviews in Religion

Religious and Theological Abstracts

The Cambridge Ancient History

II. HISTORICAL/DOCTRINAL SURVEYS:

Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, 7 vols, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans).

Philip Schaff, The Creeds of Christendom 3 vols.

Hubert Cunliffe/-Jones, A History of Christian Doctrine (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1978).

J.N.D. Kelly, Early Christian Doctrines (Harper and Row, latest edition).

Robert Wilken, Remembering the Past.

J. Pelikan, The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine 5 vols. (Chicago).

The Pelican History of the Church, 6 vols.

1. Henry Chadwick, The Early Church.
2. R.W. Southern, Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages.
3. Owen Chadwick, The Reformation.

Reinhold Seeberg, The History of Doctrines (Grand Rapids: Baker).

Louis Berkhof, The History of Christian Doctrines (Grand Rapids: Baker).

Burns, J.P., ed. and trans. Theological Anthropology (Fortress, 1981).

Cunningham, A. ed. and trans. The Early Church and State (Fortress, 1982).

Froehlich, K., ed. and trans. Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church (Fortress, 1985).

Norris, R. A., ed. and trans. Christological Controversy (Fortress, 1980).

Rusch, W.G., ed. and trans. The Trinitarian Controversy(Fortress, 1980).

R. Bainton, Christianity.

Bede, The Ecclesiastical History of the English People (Penguin).

W. Placher, Readings in the History of Christian Theology: From the Beginnings to the Eve of the Reformation, vol. 1, (Westminster).

E. Glenn Hinson, The Early Church: Origins to the Dawn of the Middle Ages (Abingdon).

Carl Volz, The Medieval Church: The Dawn of the Middle Ages to the Eve of the Reformation (Abingdon).

Justo Gonzalez, A History of Christian Thought: From Beginnings to the Council of Chalcedon, vol. 1 (Abingdon)

Justo Gonzalez, A History of Christian Thought: From Augustine to the Eve of the Reformation, vol. 2 (Abingdon).

P. V. Reid, Readings in Western Religious Thought: The Ancient World vol. 1 (Paulist Press).

P. V. Reid, Readings in Western Religious Thought: The Middle Ages Through the Reformation, vol. 2 (Paulist Press).

G. Fackre, The Christian Story, vol. 1 (Eerdmans).

T.D. McGonigle and J.F. Quigley, eds. A History of the Christian Tradition: From Its Jewish Origins to the Reformation vol. 1 (Paulist Press).

T.D. McGonigle and J.F. Quigley, eds. A History of the Christian Tradition: From the Reformation to the Present vol. 2 (Paulist Press).

W. Placher, The History of Christian Theology: An Introduction.

III. JOURNALS

Journal of Early Christian Studies

Church History

Journal of Ecclesiastical History

Medieval Studies

Medium Aevum

Speculum

Traditio

Vivarium

STUDENT INFORMATION
Dr. James

NAME/NICKNAME

PHONE/EMAIL

SPOUSE'S NAME/CHILDREN

DENOMINATION

COMMUTER/FROM WHERE

RTS PROGRAM/YEAR

UNIVERSITY/MAJOR

HOMETOWN

GRADUATION DATE

MISCELLANEOUS INFO

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