HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II

(HT504)
Reformed Theological Seminary/Orlando
Spring 2009

NB: First class begins 10 February

PROFESSOR: Dr. Frank A. James III
TIME/PLACE: Tuesday 9 am – Noon
OFFICE HOURS: See Dr. James’ Chief of Staff to schedule appointments.
HISTORY T.A.: Please use the historyta@rts.edu email to contact teaching assistants about grades, papers, quizzes, etc.

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

Calvin’s Institutes –Abridged, Donald McKim, ed. Westminster/John Knox, 2000)


**OBJECTIVES:** This is a survey course to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church from the Reformation to the dawn of the twentieth-century (1500-1900). 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 **31 MARCH** 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) **10 MARCH:** *(The Emergent Church: what is good and bad about it?)* First response paper is due **14 April** and

(2) **28 APRIL:** *(The New Perspective of NT Wright—Is it Evangelical?)* Second response paper is due **15 May at 11 a.m.**

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 17 FEBRUARY**

Nicholas, *Martin Luther*, read all. Quiz will cover pp. 67-146 & 166-178.

Reading Assignment 2: **DUE 3 MARCH**

McKim edition of *Calvin's Institutes*, read all. Quiz will cover only book III (pp. 65-123).

Reading Assignment 3: **DUE 17 MARCH**

Nicholas, *Jonathan Edwards*, Read all. Quiz will cover pp. 69-204.

Reading Assignment 4: **DUE 14 APRIL**

Tice, *Schleiermacher*. Read all. Quiz will cover chapters 1-3 (pp. xiii-46).

Reading Assignment 5: **DUE 5 MAY**

Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity (Vol. 2) The Reformation to the Present Day*. Read All. Quiz will cover—**TBA**

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? Is it DOUBLE SPACED?
   * 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 marshaled 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


GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Christianity II
RTS

I. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS


Index to Religious Periodicals

New Catholic Encyclopedia

The Cambridge Ancient History

The Cambridge Modern History

The Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge

II. HISTORICAL/DOCTRINAL SURVEYS:


Bromiley, G.W. Historical Theology: An Introduction (Grand Rapids, 1978).


The Pelican History of the Church, 6 vols.


Seeberg, R. *The History of Doctrines*.


**III. JOURNALS**

- Sixteenth Century Journal
- Church History
- Journal of Modern History

**IV. RECOMMENDED READING FOR ENTHUSIASTS:**


Hughes Oliphant Old, *The Age of the Reformation Volume 4: The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures* (Eerdmans)

Mack P. Holt, The French Wars of Religion, 1562-1629 (Cambridge)

John W. Riggs, Baptism in the Reformed Tradition: An Historical and Practical Theology (Westminster/John Knox)


Roger Steer, Guarding the Holy Fire: The Evangelicalism of John Stott, J.I. Packer and Alister McGrath (Baker).

W. Placher, Readings in the History of Christian Theology: From the Reformation to the Present vol. 2 (Westminster).

Claude Welch, Protestant Thought in the Nineteenth Century, 2 vols. (Yale, 1974).


Robert Wilken, *Remembering the Past*.


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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.