

Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington DC

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II

Spring 2006 – Washington, D.C.

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Class Dates: March 3,4; April 7,8; May 12,13.

Course Description

This general introduction to Christianity in the Reformation and Modern eras 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 last 500 years of Church History.

Required Texts

Bettenson, Henry. *Documents of the Christian Church*. **3rd Edition**. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

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

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

Course Requirements

1. Weekly Assignments

A. *Reading* - Students will have 11 assignments with readings from the required texts and Scripture.

B. *Weekly Quiz* - There will be 11 short cumulative quizzes on dates from the assignment sheets – quizzes will be taken via e-mail. The dates will also be included as a part of the final exam.

C. *On-Line Discussion Questions* - Students will write a one-page typed response to the discussion questions for each assignment. Discussion question responses will be posted on the web and students will interact with one another's responses (in groups). There should be 11 postings during the term.

2. Biographical Paper Each student will choose an individual from Christian history that lived during or after 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. A list of sources should be attached. The due date is **May 8 (postmarked)**.

3. Final Exam The examinations will include essay questions from the required reading and lectures. There will also be short-answer sections on important dates and people. The final will be due on **May 22 (postmarked)**.

4. Reading Report – The Reading Report will be due to the Professor on **May 22 (postmarked)** – the Reading Report is attached to this syllabus. 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

Weekly Quizzes and On-line Discussion Questions - 25%

Biographical Paper - 25%

Reading Report - 25%

Final Exam - 25%

BIBLIOGRAPHY – STANDARD WORKS

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. *Eerdmans 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Bromiley, Geoffrey. *Historical Theology An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.

- Forell, George W. ed. *Christian Social Teachings*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1971.
- Leith, John. *Creeeds of the Churches*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1977.
- McGrath, Alister. ed. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, 1995
- Schaff, Philip. *Creeeds of Christendom*. 3 Vols. reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993.

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.
- 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, 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 II
Assignment 1

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 352-377, 384-386.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 202-236.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 156-160, 177-190.
4. Eph. 2:8-9
Romans 1:17; 3:24,28; 5:1
2 Tim. 3:16
1 Tim. 2:1-6
Heb. 10:19-22.

Dates to Remember:

1517	Martin Luther posts 95 Theses
1521	Diet of Worms
1530	Augsburg Confession
1555	Peace of Augsburg
1577	Formula of Concord

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you explain to a Roman Catholic friend Luther's understanding of justification by faith alone? What is the role of "good works?"
2. What is the meaning of the phrase, "priesthood of believers?" Is every Christian his or her own priest?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 2

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 378-379, 401-405

3. *Historical Theology*, pp.166, 195-205.

3. Col. 2:11-12

1 Cor. 1:16 ; 7:14; 11:23-29

Acts 16:31-33; 18:8

John 14:26; 16:8-15

Dates to Remember:

1518 Ulrich Zwingli comes to Zurich

1525 Anabaptist movement begins

1529 Marburg Colloquy

1536 Memo Simons baptized as Anabaptist

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the Anabaptist vision are you attracted to? Why?

2. With so many Protestant differences over the sacraments, how can we demonstrate unity in Christ?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 3

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.378-383.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 236-241; 282-284.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 168-172, 199, 205-213.
4. Acts 4:28; 13:48
Rom. 8:29
Eph. 1:4; 2:1-10

Dates to Remember:

1536	First edition, John Calvin's <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>
1563	Heidelberg Catechism
1572	St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
1598	Edict of Nantes
1618	Synod of Dordt

Discussion Questions:

1. Is the doctrine of predestination a comforting or disturbing doctrine to you? Why?
2. Do you consider church discipline a mark of the true church? Explain your answer.

History of Christianity II
Assignment 4

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 386-400.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 241-272.
3. 1 Pet. 1:1-9; 3:13-18; 4:12-19

Dates to Remember:

1534	Act of Supremacy, Henry VIII
1549	Book of Common Prayer
1559	John Knox returns to Scotland
1563	Thirty-Nine Articles

Discussion Questions:

1. Is a Prayer Book helpful for Christian worship today? Why or why not?
2. What are the advantages/disadvantages of a state Protestant Church?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 5

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 410-434.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 272-282; 284-286.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 163; 172-174; 183-184; 190-197.
4. Romans 12

Dates to Remember:

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|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1540 | Ignatius Loyola and Jesuits |
| 1545 | Council of Trent convenes |
| 1549 | Francis Xavier's mission to Japan |

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your evaluation of the Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation and what do you think we can learn from it?
2. What is your church / denomination's perspective on "the nature of the Real Presence"?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 6

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 388-389; 392-393; 406-409
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp.298-344.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 174-175.
4. John 4:20-24
Phil. 3:2,3
Col. 3:12-17

Dates to Remember:

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|------|--|
| 1609 | John Smyth baptizes the first English Baptists |
| 1611 | King James Bible |
| 1643 | Westminster Assembly begins |
| 1678 | John Bunyan writes <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> |

Discussion Questions:

1. How important is it for Christian worship to conform to the norms of Scripture?
2. In what areas do evangelical churches need to be “purified” today?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 7

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 444-461, 475-484
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 349-351
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 175-176
4. Matt. 28:19,20
Rom. 12:1
Eph. 1:4
1 Pet. 1:15,16

Dates to Remember:

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|------|--|
| 1675 | Jacob Spener writes <i>Pia Desideria</i> |
| 1707 | Isaac Watts publishes <i>Hymns and Spiritual Songs</i> |
| 1732 | First Moravian missionaries |
| 1738 | John and Charles Wesley's evangelical conversions |

Discussion Questions:

1. Has Christianity in America lost its holiness? What's wrong?
2. How important is evangelism and world missions for the life of the church? Explain.

History of Christianity II
Assignment 8

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 436-444, 466-475
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 345-349
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 214-218.
4. 2 Chron. 7:14
Matthew 5:13—16
Hebrews 11: 8-16

Dates to Remember:

1620	Mayflower Compact
1649	Cambridge Platform
1729	Jonathan Edwards becomes pastor in Northhampton
1740	Great Awakening peaks
1788	US Constitution ratified

Discussion Questions:

1. What do think about the original American Puritan vision for the New World? Should American Christians share that vision in the present cultural circumstances?
2. Should we be praying for God to send revival today? What is our responsibility?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 9

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 518-547, 557-580.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 351-359
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 249-253
4. John 3:1-21
Acts 1:8
Acts 2:1-21

Dates to Remember:

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|------|--|
| 1807 | William Wilberforce leads abolition of slave trade |
| 1835 | Charles Finney's <i>Lectures on Revivals</i> |
| 1855 | Dwight L. Moody converted |
| 1865 | Hudson Taylor founds China Inland Mission |
| 1906 | Azusa Street revival |

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define what it means to be an Evangelical?
2. What do you think about the worldwide spread of Pentecostalism?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 10

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.485-517, 548-556.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 369-411.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 218-237, 270-305.
4. 1 Tim. 1:5-11
2 Tim. 3:16,17
2 Tim. 4:1-4

Dates to Remember:

- 1799 Friederich Schleiermacher's *Lectures on Religion*
- 1859 Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*
- 1885 Julius Wellhausen's *Documentary Hypothesis*
- 1906 Albert Schweitzer's *Quest for the Historical Jesus*
- 1919 Karl Barth's *Commentary on Romans*

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you answer a non-Christian who asked you why you believe the Bible is unique compared to any other religious book?
2. How would you respond to J. Gresham Machen's statement: "The Church of Rome may represent a perversion of the Christian religion; but naturalistic liberalism is not Christianity at all." ?

History of Christianity II
Assignment 11

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 584-672.
2. *Documents of the Christian Church*, pp. 286-298, 359-369, 411-435.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 253-270, 305-341.
3. John 17:14-23
Eph. 4: 3-6

Dates to Remember:

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|------|---|
| 1948 | World Council of Churches |
| 1962 | Vatican II opens |
| 1974 | Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization |

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think evangelicals can justify separation from mainline liberal denominations or do you think they should remain in those churches as a witness?
2. Are you in favor of ecumenical dialogue between different Protestant denominations? What do you think about discussions between Evangelicals and Catholics? Explain your perspectives.

Course Outline

Unit I Understanding the Protestant Reformation

Unit II Luther's Reform of the Church

Unit III Zwingli and the Anabaptists

Unit IV Calvin and the Reformed Tradition

Unit V Reformation in England and Scotland

Unit VI Roman Catholic Reform

Unit VII English Puritans and Separatists

Unit VIII Pietists and Methodists

Unit IX Christianity in the New World

Unit X Evangelicalism

Unit XI Revisionist Christianity

Unit XII Roman Catholicism and Ecumenism

History of Christianity II

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* _____%