

History of Christianity II – 6HT504
Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington D.C.
Spring 2009

Instructor:
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Not to know the events that happened before one was born
is to remain always a child.

-Marcus Tullius Cicero

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this course is to provide a general introduction to Christian History from the Reformation to the dawn of the Twentieth Century. Special emphasis will be given to significant figures and the historical development of theological doctrines as articulated by the Christian Church. Additionally, attention will be given to the contemporary relevance of historical theology.

II. REQUIRED BOOKS

- Euan Cameron, *The European Reformation* (Oxford, 1991), pp. 1-48, 79-167, 199-318, 361-388.
- J. Coffey & P. Lim (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to Puritanism* (Cambridge, 2008), pp. 1-16, 34-88, 107-276.
- Bengt Häggglund, *History of Theology* (St. Louis, 1968), pp. 211-298, 325-410.
- Denis R. Janz (ed.) *A Reformation Reader: Primary Texts with Introductions* (Minneapolis, 1999), pp. 38-44, 52-53, 81-85, 90-105, 154-60, 162-163, 226-367.
- William C. Placer, *Readings in the History of Christian Theology, Volume 2: From the Reformation to the Present* (Philadelphia, 1988), pp. 66-76, 82-106.
- John E. Smith, Harry S. Stout, and Kenneth P. Minkema (eds.), *A Jonathan Edwards Reader* (New Haven, 1995), 89-136, 192-243.
- Douglas Sweeney, *The American Evangelical Story* (Grand Rapids, 2005).

III. COURSE SCHEDULE

February 20, 21 – Introduction to Church History, the Forerunners of the Reformation (Medieval Continuity), the Renaissance and the Early Reformation

March 13, 14 – The German, Swiss and Radical Reformation

April 24, 25 – The English Reformation, Catholic Counter-Reformation, post-Reformation

May 15, 16 – Colonial North America to the Nineteenth Century

IV. EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT

There will be a 3 hour take home final examination covering all the material (lectures and readings). It will not be open note or open book. Please see the RTS proctoring requirements.

In addition one 10-12 page research paper comparing one historical figure from the Reformation with an individual from the Modern Church era.

Examples:

1. Compare Martin Luther and Charles Finney on free will.
2. Compare Turretin and Charles Spurgeon on predestination.
3. Compare John Owen and Karl Barth on the atonement.

V. ASSESSMENT

Final Exam: 50% of grade

Paper: 50% of grade