Course Description
This general introduction to Christianity in the Reformation and Post-Reformation 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 15th – 18th C. of Church History in Europe and Britain.

Required Texts

Course Requirements
1. Weekly Assignments
   A. Reading - Students will have weekly assignment sheets with readings from the required texts and Scripture that are due by the next class period.
   B. Weekly Quiz - At the beginning of each class session there will be a short cumulative quiz on dates from the assignment sheets. The dates will also be included as a part of the final exam.
   C. Discussion Questions - Students will write a one-page typed response to the discussion questions for each assignment. Discussion question responses will be due at the end of class sessions.

2. Biographical Paper  Each student will choose an individual from Christian history that lived during the 15th – 18th C. 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 the last day of class lectures.
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, people and ideas. The final may be taken any time during **Exam Week**.

4. **Reading Report** – The Reading Report will be due to the Professor the **last day of Exam Week** (see attached). This report will indicate the amount of Required Reading that has been completed during the semester.

5. **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 “providentially 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 Quizes and Discussion Questions - 25%
Biographical Paper - 25%
Reading Report - 25%
Final Exam - 25%
BIBLIOGRAPHY – STANDARD WORKS

Church History Surveys


History of Doctrine


McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher, 2001


Forell, George W. ed. *Christian Social Teachings*. Minneapolis: Augsburg

**Encyclopedias, Handbooks and Dictionaries**

Reading:


Dates to Remember:

1418    Thomas a Kempis writes *Imitation of Christ*
1453    Fall of Constantinople
1456    Guttenburg’s printed Bible
1512    Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel frescoes
1516    Erasmus’ Greek New Testament

Discussion Questions:

1. Should Christians be involved in the Arts? What challenges do Christians face in this arena?

2. How do you respond to this statement: “All truth is God’s truth”? What are the implications of this idea?
History of Christianity II  
Assignment 2 – February 20, 2007

Reading:


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?
Reading:


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?
Reading:


   Rom. 8:29
   Eph. 1:4; 2:1-10

Dates to Remember:

1536 First edition, John Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

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.
Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 386-400.

Dates to Remember:

- 1534: Act of Supremacy, Henry VIII
- 1549: Thomas Cranmer’s *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?
Reading:


4. Romans 12

Dates to Remember:

- 1540: Ignatius Loyola and Jesuits
- 1545: Council of Trent convenes
- 1549: Francis Xavier’s mission to Japan
- 1854: Immaculate Conception becomes Dogma
- 1962: Vatican II

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 perspective on Evangelical / Catholic dialogue and cooperation on social issues?
History of Christianity II
Assignment 7 – April 9, 2007

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 388-389; 392-393; 406-409

2. *Historical Theology*, pp. 174-175.

   Phil. 3:2,3
   Col. 3:12-17

Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1609</td>
<td>John Smyth baptizes the first English Baptists</td>
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<td>1611</td>
<td>King James Bible</td>
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<td>1643</td>
<td>Westminster Assembly begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>1678</td>
<td>John Bunyan writes <em>Pilgrim’s Progress</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>William Carey sails for India</td>
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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?
Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 444-461, 475-484

2. *Historical Theology*, pp. 175-176

3. Matt. 28:19,20  
   Rom. 12:1  
   Eph. 1:4  
   1 Pet. 1:15,16

Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1675</td>
<td>Jacob Spener writes <em>Pia Desideria</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1707</td>
<td>Isaac Watts publishes <em>Hymns and Spiritual Songs</em></td>
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<td>1732</td>
<td>First Moravian missionaries</td>
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<td>1738</td>
<td>John and Charles Wesley’s evangelical conversions</td>
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<td>1771</td>
<td>Francis Asbury comes to America</td>
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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 9 – April 23, 2007

Reading:

3. 1 Tim. 1:5-11
   2 Tim. 3:16,17
   2 Tim. 4:1-4

Dates to Remember:

1781  Kant publishes *Critique of Pure Reason*
1789  French Revolution begins
1799  Friederich Schleiermacher’s *Lectures on Religion*

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 has the Enlightenment had an impact on Christianity?
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

Unity V  Reformation in England and Scotland

Unit VI  Roman Catholic Reform

Unit VII  English Puritans and Separatists

Unit VIII  Pietists and Methodists

Unit IX  The Enlightenment
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 _______%

Noll, Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation _______%

_________________________________________            ________________________
Name               Date
A. Know all dates in all Assignments and review text pp. 352 – 517.
B. Review the “blue blocks” – biographical sketches – briefly list persons’ contributions
C. Be prepared to write a one-page essay on the following:

1. How did Luther understand the place of “tradition”?
2. What kinds of corruption were prevalent in the 16th C. Roman Catholic Church?
3. How did the Renaissance help pave the way for the Protestant Reformation?
4. Why is Erasmus important for any study of the 16th C.?
5. What topics did Luther address in the three treatises of 1520?
6. What happened at the Diet of Worms in 1521?
7. Describe the contributions of Philip Melancthon to the Lutheran reform.
8. Describe Zwingli’s ministry in Zurich.
9. What happened at the Marburg Colloquy?
10. Who were the Anabaptists and what did the Schleitheim Confession teach?
11. What were the contributions of Menno Simons to the Anabaptist movement?
12. How did Calvin reform the city of Geneva?
13. What was the historical setting of the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre?
14. What were the concerns of Jacob Arminius and how did the Synod of Dordt respond?
15. Describe the 1534 Act of Supremacy and the 1539 Six Articles Act.
16. What were Thomas Cranmer’s contributions to the English Reformation?
17. How was the Protestant cause furthered in England under Edward VI?
18. What was accomplished in the Elizabethan Settlement?
19. How did John Knox reform the church in Scotland?
20. What were some of the major decisions of the Council of Trent?
21. Discuss the goals of the Elizabethan Puritan movement?
22. What was the historical context of the Westminster Assembly?
23. What are the distinguishing marks of the English Baptists?
24. What were Jacob Spener’s proposals for reforming the Lutheran Church?
25. What were the key emphases of John Wesley’s ministry?
26. How did the Enlightenment challenge Christianity?