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


**Encyclopedias, Handbooks and Dictionaries**

New York: Funk and Wagnalls Co., 1908-1914
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?
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:

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


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.
History of Christianity II
Assignment 5 – March 12, 2009

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

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?
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:

1609  John Smyth baptizes the first English Baptists
1611  King James Bible
1643  Westminster Assembly begins
1678  John Bunyan writes *Pilgrim’s Progress*
1793  William Carey sails for India

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:

1675    Jacob Spener writes *Pia Desideria*

1707    Isaac Watts publishes *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*

1732    First Moravian missionaries

1738    John and Charles Wesley’s evangelical conversions

1771    Francis Asbury comes to America

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 16, 2009

**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?
Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.436-444.


Dates to Remember:

1620  Mayflower Compact
1636  Harvard College founded
1649  Cambridge Platform
1682  Francis Makemie comes to America

Discussion Questions:

1. How realistic was the Puritan vision for the New World?

2. Should American believers emphasize the Christian heritage of our forefathers? Why or why not?
History of Christianity II
Assignment 11 – April 30, 2009

Reading:

Colonial Presbyterianism, pp. 113-218.

Dates to Remember:

1706    First Presbytery meets in Philadelphia
1729    Adopting Act
1740    Great Awakening peaks
1789    1st Presbyterian General Assembly

Discussion Questions:

1. Is ecclesiastical compromise a necessity for the peace of the church? Why or why not?
2. If the U.S. experienced another “awakening” in the 21st C., what would it look like?
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

Unit X     Christianity in the New World

Unit XI    Colonial Presbyterians
Please state the percentage of the Required Reading that you have completed.

Dowley, *Introduction to the History of Christianity* %

Fortson, *Colonial Presbyterianism* %

McGrath, *Historical Theology* %

Noll, *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation* %

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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 were Jacob Spener’s proposals for reforming the Lutheran Church?
23. What were the key emphases of John Wesley’s ministry?
24. How did the Enlightenment challenge Christianity?
25. What was the Puritan vision for the New World?
26. What happened in the Adopting Act of 1729?