PROFESSOR: Dr. Ryan Reeves

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

CLASS TIME: Tuesdays 9-12

TEXTBOOKS: Students will be required to read the following books:

Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity*

Bruce Shelly, *Church History in Plain Language*

Donald Logan, *A History of the Church in the Middle Ages* (Routledge, 2002)

St. Gregory, *The Book of Pastoral Rule*

St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

OBJECTIVES: This is a survey course to introduce the student to the history of the Christian church in the early and medieval periods (100 -- 1500 A.D.) 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:

Please note: any students who have emergencies that require them to reschedule an exam (e.g. illness or personal crisis) or due date for course assignments are required to do so with the Academic Dean (Scott Swain: sswain@rts.edu) Only if approval is granted by Dr. Swain will I then proceed with alternative dates for papers/exams. These approvals, however, must be sought in a timely manner, and approval may not be granted in each case, in which case assignments will be subject to normal late penalties.

EXAMS: There will be a midterm and final exam each worth 30% of your grade (60% combined)

Please note: exam dates
- The mid-term will be held on **Tuesday, October 9th** during the class session
The final will be taken during the official RTS final exam period. Students are responsible for managing their own final schedule and taking the final exam.

**PAPER**: The paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. It will be due **December 5th** at midnight.

**READING REPORT**: The reading report will make up 10% of the final grade and will be reported on the final exam.

**Late work**: All late work will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade per day beyond the due date, unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. If you anticipate a problem, contact the professor as soon as possible.

---

**Paper**

**GOAL**: The goal of this paper is for students to immerse themselves in the writings of one theologian or major church figure from the lectures. The essay assignment that goes along with this reading is a reflective, critical examination of the spiritual and theological substance of your reading. To be clear: I want you to graze through the writings of just one of these great Christian thinkers: I do not want this to be superficial reading assignment or an exercise in abstract thinking.

Your assignment is to engage with one figure – perhaps a church father you always wanted to learn more about – and really pour over his devotional, biblical, and theological works. Take notes on things that inspire you, ponder things that challenge you, and question things that trouble you. Christian pastors and missionaries have read these works for centuries as part of their devotional and spiritual diet. If I can get you hooked on just one, I will have done my job!

**METHOD**: Throughout the semester, choose one figure (e.g. Augustine). Use the resources in the library to find modern translations of his works. You may choose his sermons or several of his theological texts. You may also choose to read portions of each of these areas. I am always available to discuss this with students (particularly if you are uncertain who to read).

You should be sure to begin with some biographical work on your source. The assigned texts for this course have short biographies of every major figure, but you may also consult other reference works that sketch historical biographies.
It is preferred that you read these works regularly throughout the semester rather than in one or several sittings. By the end of the semester, you must have read an equivalent of 325 pages in a modern edition—this amounts to 25 pages of reading a week.

ESSAY:

The essay will be graded 1/3 for your writing style/execution and 2/3 on the substance of your reflections. Students are to be reflective, engaging their readings in the light of scripture and the modern world.

The penalty for late papers is one letter grade per day that it is late, if you have not received permission from the professor to submit it late. If it is turned it at 12:01pm, then I’m afraid it will count as the “next day”, and so will only receive a B or lower. Given that this paper is cumulative for the entire semester, permission for late papers will be given for only serious issues. Common colds and fatigue, I’m afraid, will not suffice!

Sources:

In addition to standard printed versions of primary texts, there are several approved online sources for your readings. For print versions, use either the Schaff edition or any of a dozen stand alone printings of individual Fathers. Please contact the library staff for print versions of these texts, or speak to the professor about which versions you may wish to purchase.

New Advent: http://www.newadvent.org/fathers

New Advent is a Catholic site that maintains a database of nearly every text from the early church. The texts are easy to read, the biblical citations are hyperlinked in, and they even tell you if a text is ‘spurious’ or ‘authentic’. This site, in particular, is highly recommended.

CCEL: http://www.ccel.org/fathers.html

Another popular site, though I find their page layout to be frustrating and difficult to read. Others love the convenience of being able to pay a bit for a downloadable pdf version of a text.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

### Course: Church History 1 (2HT501)
### Professor: Ryan M. Reeves
### Campus: Orlando
### Date: Fall 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Articulation (oral & written)** | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Strong | 1. Student submits extensive paper  
2. Exams are heavily based on essays and written communication |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Minimal | 1. Showing interpretation history is a small part of the lectures. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | 1. Discuss the church tradition, its history and heritage is an extensive part of the reading/lectures |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | None | |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | 1. Worldview is driven by our knowledge of the past |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Minimal | 1. Understanding church history leads to a proper sense of being winsome with others. |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | None | |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | None | |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | None | |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, | None | |

---

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*
| within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal knowledge of the past |