THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I

(HT502)

Reformed Theological Seminary/Orlando

Fall 2007

NB: No classes: 16 OCT

PROFESSOR: Dr. Frank A. James III

OFFICE HOURS: Make appointment with Chief of Staff/President’s Office

T.A.: Heidi Herberich & Jennie Hisson

T.A. EMAIL: historyta@rts.edu

CLASS DAY: Tuesdays--9 am to noon

TEXTBOOKS: Students will be required to read all or part of the following books:


Eusebius, The History of the Church (Penguin, 1989)—first four centuries of early church by the first Church historian.

Everett Ferguson, Church History: From Christ to Pre-Reformation (Zondervan, 2005).
Recommended Reading for Enthusiasts:


______, *The Mosaic of Christian Beliefs: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity* (InterVarsity)


Marylyn Dunn, *The Emergence of Monasticism: From the Desert Fathers to the Early Middle Ages* (Blackwell)

Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church* (Penguin, latest edition)

John Meyerdorff, *Byzantine Theology* (Fordham University Press)


Charles Carpenter, *Theology as the Road to Holiness in St. Bonaventure* (Paulist Press).
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:

EXAMS: There will be a Mid-term exam on 30 October and a comprehensive final exam during exam week. The mid-term exam is 20% and the final exam is 30% of your final grade. The T.A.s will be offering study sessions prior to each exam. The first will be held on 23 October, and the second on 27 November. Both sessions will be held from 12-1, immediately after class in the history classroom.

PAPERS: Two response papers (6-7 pages each) on topics from Student Presentations. The two scheduled presentations/discussions are 2 October: (According to Augustine’s “just-war” theory was U.S. Israel’s invasion of Iraq “just”?—pro and con) and 13 November: (Islam is inherently violent—pro & con) First response paper is due 6 November. Second response paper is due by end of semester paper deadline.

Each paper is 20% of your final grade. The goal of the response paper is for the student to interact critically and intelligently with the primary source material. Student must carefully and fairly consider both sides of debated issues before reaching a conclusion. Response paper includes (i) footnotes or endnotes (ii) brief bibliography. STUDENT MUST SUBMIT TWO (2) COPIES OF EACH PAPER. Follow Turabian for footnotes and general outline in the response paper. Sample Papers are available for consultation in secretary’s office.

There will be 4 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS. To encourage volunteers for the student presentations, they will NOT be required to take the Final Exam. The grade for the mid-term exam will be substituted for the comprehensive final exam and a VERY generous grade will be given for the presentation. NOTE BENE: Student presenters are required to write a response paper on the other discussion topic.

Student presenters will be responsible for the following:
• to give a 20-25 minute presentation.
• one week before scheduled presentation, student should identify and place on library reserve c. 100-150 pages of reading material for student response papers—Please make 3 copies of material for library. Also make sure full bibliographical references are included in the reserve material.
• on day of presentation, a complete typed copy of their presentation is placed on library reserve—full research paper or annotated outline.
• to meet with professor 1 week in advance to discuss presentation. It is the Presenters responsibility to make arrangements with Prof. In advance.
• copy of all material to professor 1 week in advance.

There are COMMUNAL & ECCLESIASTICAL COMPONENTS for all papers. As part of the research for response/research papers, student must discuss topic with (i) spouse if married or a friend if not married and (ii) with your pastor, elder or Church leader. At least half an hour should be taken for each discussion. Name, date and amount of time spent in discussion must be indicated at end of each paper. *Failure to complete this part of the assignment will have a negative effect on final grade.*

**QUIZZES:** There will be 5 scheduled quizzes over the reading assignments. The goal is to acquaint you with some of the major writings of the Western church tradition. **The lowest grade will be dropped.** The average of the FOUR highest quiz scores will make up 10% of your final grade.

**READING REPORT:** On the Final Exam, each student must indicate whether they have completed all the assigned reading. (Failure to complete all the reading assignments will have a negative effect on final grade).

I do not like MAKE-UP EXAMS, MAKE-UP QUIZZES or LATE PAPERS.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Reading Assignment 1: due 4 Sept** –

Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, read all. Quiz will cover only chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 8.
**Reading Assignment 2: due 18 Sept**

Eusebius, *The History of the Church*, read all. Quiz will cover only introduction and Book V -- sections 1-2, 6-7 and Book VIII.

**Reading Assignment 3: due 9 Oct**

Norris, *The Christological Controversy*, read all. Quiz will cover only introduction and Athanasius’ Oration Against the Arians, (pp. 83-101).

**Reading Assignment 4: due 23 Oct**

Burns, *Theological Anthropology*, read all. Quiz will cover only introduction, Pelagius’ “Letter to Demetrias” (pp. 39-55) and Augustine’s “On the Grace of Christ” (pp. 61-96).

**Reading Assignment 5: due 20 Nov**

Ferguson, *Church History*, read all. Quiz will cover only chapters, 17-19 and 22-23.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Any form of cheating will automatically result in failure of the course. Students may NOT consult exams or class notes from previous years.
Criteria for Evaluation of Response/Research Papers

I. Grammar and Style  (25%)
* Is the text clean of spelling mistakes?
* Is the text punctuated correctly?
* Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar?
* Does the footnote/bibliographic apparatus follow Turabian consistently? (Turabian, A Manual for Writers).
* Is the paper written in clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (e.g., the guidelines in Strunk and White, The Elements of Style)?

II. Organization  (25%)
* Is the subject of the paper clearly delimited? Is it significant, but still manageable?
* Does the subject correspond to what was assigned in the syllabus?
* Does the paper have a well-designed thesis statement and outline?
* Does the running text of the paper adhere to the outline, and are the larger divisions of the paper clearly signposted?
* Are the sentences and paragraphs of the text linked together clearly and in such a way that the thought of the student builds throughout the paper with continuity and coherence?

III. Clarity and Force of Argument  (25%)
* Is a convincing case made to support the thesis statement?
* Is the evidence marshalled to support the argument used judiciously?
* Where the student provides exposition or summary, does she/he do so succinctly and objectively?
* Are opposing viewpoints treated fairly?
* Is there evidence of mature Christian reflection on the subject matter?

IV. Research  (25%)
* Does the paper draw on primary sources for its main evidence?
* Are the secondary sources selected and used judiciously?
* Does the paper demonstrate sufficient depth and breadth of research, given the nature and level of the assignment?

Recommended Resources:
GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Christianity I

I. GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS


B.B. Price, Medieval Thought: An Introduction (Blackwell).

R.J. Kepple, Reference Works for Theological Research.

Justo Gonzalez, Church History: An Essential Guide (Abingdon).

J. E. Bradley and R.A. Muller, Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods (Eerdmans).

Dictionary of the Christian Church, ed. J.D. Douglas (Baker).


Dictionary of the Middle Ages, ed. J.R. Strayer.


*Encyclopedia of the Early Church*, ed. Angelo Di Beradino (2 vols.)

*The Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

*Religion Index One: Periodicals*

*Index to Book Reviews in Religion*

*Religious and Theological Abstracts*

*The Cambridge Ancient History*


**II. HISTORICAL/DOCTRINAL SURVEYS:**


Robert Wilken, *Remembering the Past*.


2. R.W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*.


P. V. Reid, *Readings in Western Religious Thought: The Middle Ages Through the Reformation*, vol. 2 (Paulist Press).


**III. JOURNALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal of Early Christian Studies</th>
<th>Church History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</td>
<td>Medieval Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Aevum</td>
<td>Speculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditio</td>
<td>Vivarium</td>
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STUDENT INFORMATION
Dr. James

NAME/NICKNAME

PHONE/EMAIL

SPOUSE'S NAME/CHILDREN

DENOMINATION

COMMUTER/FROM WHERE

RTS PROGRAM/YEAR

UNIVERSITY/MAJOR

HOMETOWN

GRADUATION DATE

MISCELLANEOUS INFO