CHURCH HISTORY 502--THE CHURCH FROM THE REFORMATION
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary--Boston: Spring 2012
February 18-19, March 11-12, April 8-9
CUME Building-- 90 Warren St. (Roxbury, MA)

Dr. Gordon L. Isaac 978-646-4099 (office)
Box 239 (Intra-campus Mail) 978-646-4512 (fax)
130 Essex Street e-mail: gisaac@gcts.edu
South Hamilton, MA 01982

COURSE OBJECTIVE: By the end of this course students will be able to trace the major themes, issues, and personalities of Church History from the Reformation to the present and to integrate this knowledge into their practice of ministry. (Cf. M.Div. degree goals: 2., 5., 6., 7.)

TEXTBOOKS:

For detailed bibliographical information, see “Suggested Readings” at the conclusion of each section in González.

CORE COURSE ("C"-LEVEL) REQUIREMENTS:
1) Regular class attendance and participation in discussions.
2) Assigned readings, completing as scheduled and being ready to discuss in class.
3) One Mid-Term done in class on the second weekend of course and a Final Exam (accessed through CAMS Student Portal & due Apr. 27). Final Exam covers the entire semester, but will be weighted toward the latter part of the course.
4) 400 pages of church history reading over and above the assigned readings in Gonzalez, Pinn, and Isaac.
5) Local History Project: research the history of your own congregation and write a five page introduction crafted for someone who knows nothing about your church.

"B"-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:
1) All of the Core Course Requirements.
2) An additional 250 pages of independent reading (650 pages total). List on Reading Report form attached to this syllabus and submit by Apr. 27.
3) Reading reflections of no less than 3 and no more than 5 double-spaced pages based upon independent reading on some specific topic related to Church History to the Reformation. Readings must be other than the assigned texts, preferably primary sources. Reading reflections due Apr. 27.
"A"-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS:
1) All of the Core Course Requirements.
2) An additional 400 pages of independent reading (800 pages total).
   Readings must be other than the assigned texts, preferably primary sources, but may be related to Research Paper. Due April 27.
3) Research Paper on some specific topic related to Church History from the Reformation to the present.
   (For suggestions see "Suggested Topics" list.) Emphasis should be upon primary sources (what was written at the time by participants) rather than secondary sources (what was written about the topic later by scholars). The papers should be typed and in correct form, and no less than 10 pages and no more than 14 pages double-spaced. Please include a bibliography and endnotes or footnotes. Please read the plagiarism advisory on CAMS Student Portal to guide citations. Papers due Apr. 27.

CONTRACT GRADING:
Grading will be based upon both fulfilling the grade level requirements and the quality of work submitted. Contracts for grades will be due February 24. Exams and papers will be graded according to the level of grade contracted and will primarily contain comments, not percentages or letter grades.
A summary evaluation will be given in terms of a "√" ("check") meaning that the work has met the level of the grade contracted for, a "+" ("plus") meaning that the work has exceeded the level of the grade contracted for, a "-" ("minus") meaning that the work has not met the level of the grade contracted for, or some combination thereof (e.g. √- "check-minus" for work that minimally meets the level of grade contracted for or √+ "check-plus" for work that minimally exceeds the level of the grade contracted for).
It is not possible to receive a letter grade higher than contracted for, though it is possible to receive a letter grade lower than contracted for. For example, if a student who contracts for a "B" performs "A" quality work on their exams, that student would receive a "+" on exams, but no higher than a "B+" grade. However, a student who contracts for "B" and performs "C" quality work on their exams would receive a "-" on their exams and could receive a "C" grade for the course.
Students may adjust their grade contract up or down simply by submitting a request in writing (or e-mail) to the instructor.
In keeping with the policy of the Association of Theological Schools, students who do not turn work in on schedule and who have not requested appropriate extensions from CUME will receive an “F” (Failing grade) for the course on their transcript, not an “I” (Incomplete). Work turned in late without an extension or after the extension expires may be graded and the “F” changed to a passing grade at the discretion of the instructor and CUME.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS:
READINGS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS SESSION (1/27):
Gonzalez, chapters 1-13

It is strongly recommended that students complete as much as possible of their assigned reading in the textbook and of their independent reading before the first class session.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
Introduction--Christianity as an Historical Subject.
Preparations for Protestantism
Luther & the German Reformation
Anabaptists & the Radical Reformation
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
Calvin & the Swiss Reformation

The Counter-Reformation & Roman Catholic Expansion in the New World
Reformation in Great Britain Puritanism in England
Puritanism in America
The Age of Reason: The Enlightenment

ASSIGNMENTS FOR February 24
READINGS:
Fortress Introduction to Black Church History (entire book)
Gonzalez, chapters 14-24

GRADE CONTRACT FILLED OUT AND READY TO SUBMIT

"A" PAPER TOPICS (discuss with instructor if desired)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Christianity in the Age of Reason: Germany
Christianity in the Age of Reason: England
Christianity in the Age of Reason: Scotland
Christianity in the Age of Reason: America
Introduction to the "Age of Progress"

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Roman Catholic Reaction
Anglo-Catholicism
Evangelicalism in Britain
Early Voluntary Societies
Anglo-Saxon Protestant USA
African-American Church
Protestant Liberalism
Social Gospel

ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH 23
READINGS:
Gonzalez, chapters 25-36

MID-TERM (in class Mid-term)
FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Christianity & Totalitarianism
Fundamentalist/Modernist Debate
Ecumenical Movement
Vatican II

SATURDAY, APRIL 24
Pentecostalism & Charismatic Renewal
Modern Missionary Movement
Global Spread of Christianity
Denominationalism in America
Rise of Neo-Evangelicalism
Complete & turn in Evaluation Form

FINAL ASSIGNMENTS TO BE MAILED TO INSTRUCTOR (POSTMARKED) FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Mail paper copies to: Dr. Gordon L. Isaac
(no e-mail submissions; may be dropped off in person at office)
Dean’s Office (box 239)
130 Essex Street
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Final Exam
Reading Reflections for Students with "B" Contracts []
Research Paper for Students with "A" Contracts []

(Students wishing their exams & papers to be returned to them should also enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. )