GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CH 502: CHURCH HISTORY SINCE THE REFORMATION
Spring Semester 2014 (Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.)
Professor: Carolynne H. Brown, B.M. Ed., M.M., Th.D.
Email: cbrown7@gordonconwell.edu
Phone: 617.733.1962, Available weekdays, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course covers the history of the Christian church from the Reformation up to the present, including theological, historical, social, and aesthetic issues in the development of the church. The rise of modernity and questions of religious, philosophical, and sociopolitical change will be addressed. The course fulfills the biblical and theological core church history requirement for all degree programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

• Trace the major historical developments in the Christian tradition from the Reformation to the present day in relation to political, social, and cultural contexts. (M.Div. degree goals: 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; MA Counseling degree goals: 1, 2, 5, 6)
• Discuss and process important events and movements in the development of Christian theology that indicate major shifts in popular beliefs and practices of the Christian faith. (M.Div. degree goals: 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; MA Counseling degree goals: 1, 2, 5, 6)
• Analyze the contributions of some of the major figures of the past five hundred years of Christian church history. (M.Div. degree goals: 2, 5, 7, 8, 9; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 2, 6, 7; MA Counseling degree goals: 2, 6)
• Consider the significant roles played in the development of Christianity by historically marginalized groups including, but not limited to, women and racial
minorities. (M.Div. degree goals: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; MA Counseling degree goals: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

- Gain a broader perspective on the contemporary Christian tradition through the lens of its historical development, with particular emphasis on enduring challenges to Christian belief and practice. (M.Div. degree goals: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; MA Counseling degree goals: 1, 5, 6)
- Understand the pietistic and spiritual movements, as well as the social influences that particularly led to the development of evangelical tradition. (M.Div. degree goals: 1, 2, 5, 9; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 1, 2; MA Counseling degree goals: 1, 2, 6)
- Develop research and writing skills in the field of Religious Studies. (M.Div. degree goals: 3, 7; MA Urban Ministry degree goals: 3, 4, 5; MA Counseling degree goals: 3)

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Selected articles and essays (available on the course website or on library reserve)

ASSIGNMENTS

**Participation**

Dialogue and reflection are key to helping you digest and wrestle with information and materials in class. Remember that meaningful contribution is not just about how much you say but also the kinds of questions you raise, the intelligence and reasonableness of the insights you provide, the meaningfulness of the contributions you provoke in others, and the manner in which you handle disagreement. Having the “right” answers is less important than demonstrating that you are thinking and wrestling with the material. Regular attendance is key.

**Reading Quizzes**

In order to ensure that you stay on task with the assigned reading and to prepare you for class lectures and discussions as well as the mid-term and final exams, there will be 12 *unannounced* reading quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth 10
points; your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. The quizzes will be on the Kee, Noll, and Gonzalez texts only. Important note: There are no make-up quizzes for ANY reason. This means that regular attendance is important to a good overall grade on the reading quizzes.

Practical Application Research Project  
Total: 125 pts
To assist you in learning to handle primary sources according to historical methodology, and to provide you with supervised experience using church history in a practical ministry situation, you will be divided into groups of 2-4 to conduct a research project at a local church using the church’s historical documents. You may conduct research at your own church (if applicable), or you may contact a local church to offer research services for a special event or purpose (anniversary, celebration, concert, etc.) The professor will approve each project, and will be available to offer guidance and instruction until the project is completed.

Major Historical Figure Research Paper  
Total: 100 pts
Each student will complete an 8-10 page research paper on a major historical figure in Christianity. (A list of options will be provided.) The paper will be primarily biographical but must also include some reflection on the overall significance of the individual to the history of the Christian tradition. The paper must conform to the Standards for Writing included in this syllabus.

Mid-Term Exam  
Total: 75 pts
The mid-term exam will include both objective and essay components.

Final Exam  
Total: 75 pts
The final exam will include both objective and essay components.

GRADING

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STANDARDS FOR WRITING

All research papers must conform to Chicago (Turabian) style, as found in The Chicago Manual of Style (16th ed) or Kate Turabian’s Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers. Papers should adhere to the following: Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margin on all sides, and stapled prior to submission.
ACADEMIC CONDUCT

The Seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has a zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially the same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1
Th, Jan 30: Course Introduction; The Study of Church History

Reformations of the Sixteenth Century

Week 2
Th, Feb 6: Luther and the German Reformation
(Kee, Ch. 18; Steven Ozment, Luther and Scholasticism from “The Mental World of Martin Luther,” and Lutheran Social Philosophy and The Revolt of the Common Man from “Society and Politics in the German Reformation” in The Age of Reform:1250-1550 –course website; Lindberg, chapter 2, pp. 25-30, also, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.14, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.21; Ch. 3, pp. 46-47 and 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.16; Ch. 4, p. 67 and 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.9, 4.12, 4.13; Ch. 5, p. 83, and 5.1, 5.3, 5.5, 5.10, 5.11, 5.16, 5.17, 5.20, 5.21; Luther, Smalcald Articles, preface, part 1; part 2, articles 1, 2, and 4; part 3, articles 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15, available online at: http://bookofconcord.org/smalcald.php)

Week 3
Th, Feb 13: Calvin and International Reformation
(Kee, Ch. 20; Lindberg, Ch. 9, pp. 163-171, and 9.7, 9.8, and Ch. 10, pp. 184-185, 10.10, 10.11, 10.14, 10.16, 10.17, 10.19, 10.20, 10.22)

The Anabaptists & Radical Reformation
Week 4 – February 17-21, 2014, Reading Week, no class meetings

Week 5
Th, Feb 27: English and Scottish Reformation
(Kee, Ch. 21; Lindberg, Ch. 12, pp. 217-218, and 12.6, 12.7, 12.10, 12.11, 12.19, 12.21, 12.24, 12.25; John Bunyan, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, Part 1)

Week 6
Th, March 6: Catholic Renewal and the Counter-Reformation

*Practical Application Research Project Proposals Due*

Week 7
Th, March 13: MID-TERM EXAM
Religion in the Americas and an Introduction to “Lived Religion”

Week 8
Th, March 20:
Orthodoxy, Pietism, and the Enlightenment

Week 9 – March 24-28, Reading Week, no class meetings
Week 10
Th, April 3: Transatlantic Revival and the Rise of Evangelicalism
(Noll, Introduction, Ch. 1-3 and 6; Nathan O. Hatch, “Introduction” from The
Democratization of American Christianity –course website; Sylvia R. Frey and
Betty Wood, “The First Awakening,” in Come Shouting to Zion –course website;
Jonathan Edwards, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God –available online at:
of the Spirit,” Sermon 11, parts 1-3 –available online at:
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/wesley/sermons.v.xi.html; and The Life and Religious
Experience of Jarena Lee –available online at: http://www.umilta.net/jarena.html

Week 11
Th, April 10: The Church in the Nineteenth Century
(Kee, Ch. 25 and 31-34; Noll, Ch. 8; Raboteau, Ch. 2-4; James Cone, The
Spirituals and the Blues, pp. 1-31 –course website; Stephen A. Marini,
“Introduction,” in Radical Sects of Revolutionary New England –course website;
Pheobe Palmer, excerpts (TBD) from The Way of Holiness, available online at:
http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/christn/palmerhp.html; Interview with Clara C. Young
at her home in Monroe County Mississippi from Praying to Be Set Free –
available online at: http://msgw.org/slaves/young-clara-xslave.htm

Week 12
Th, April 17: Twentieth-Century Developments and Response to the City
(Kee, Ch. 35; Raboteau, Chs. 5, 6, 7; Iain MacRobert, “The Black Roots of
Pentecostalism” and Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, “Together and in Harness:’
Women’s Traditions in the Sanctified Church” in Cornel West and Eddies S.
Glaude, Jr. eds. African American Religious Thought (Louisville and London:
Westminster John Knox Press, 2003) –course website; William J. Seymour,
“Pentecost Has Come,” in The Apostolic Faith –available online at:
http://www.azusabooks.org/af/LA01.shtml; Walter Rauschenbusch, excerpts
(TBD) from Theology for the Social Gospel –available online at:
https://archive.org/details/theologyforsoc00raus

Week 13
Th, April 24: Modern Missions
(Kee, Chs. 40 and 41; excerpts (TBA) from David Livingstone, Missionary
Travels and Researches in South Africa available online at:
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1039/1039-h/1039-h.htm; Barmen Declaration
available online at: http://www.westpresa2.org/docs/adulted/Barmen.pdf; H.
Richard Niebuhr, “The Enduring Problem” in Christ and Culture –course
website)

FINAL EXAM