

CH 502 The Church Since the Reformation
Spring 2012

Instructor

Dr. S. Donald Fortson III

Contact Information

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Schedule of Class Meetings

February 3,4; March 2,3; March 30, 31 (Fridays 6:30-9:30; Saturdays 8:30-4:30)

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.

Relation to Curriculum

This is the second of two basic church history courses required in the Masters programs. There is no prerequisite though it is recommended to take the two history courses in order if possible.

Course Objectives

1. Explore the history of various Protestant traditions of 16th C.
2. Understand the trajectory of these traditions in post-Reformation era
3. Appreciate and critique the faith and practice of the various traditions
4. Reflect on meaning of the traditions for contemporary faith and practice
5. Grasp the basic story of early Evangelicalism in America

Course Requirements

1. Weekend Assignments

A. *Reading* - Students will have 11 assignments with readings from the required texts and Scripture that are due by each Friday of the course.

B. *Quizzes* - At the beginning of each Saturday morning 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 beginning of each Friday class session.

D. *Due Dates* – Assignments 1-3 are due on **February 3,4**, Assignments 4-7 are due **March 2,3**, Assignments 8-11 are due **March 30,31**.

2. Biographical Paper Each student will choose an individual from Christian history that lived during the 16th – 20th Century and write a 10 -12 page typed paper on this person. The paper must be based upon the reading of a major biography (200 page minimum) on the person. The paper should include a one-page conclusion that is a 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 **April 30** (post-marked). Mail the paper to:

Dr. Don Fortson
Reformed Theological Seminary
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226

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 exam will be a take-home exam that will be distributed at the last class session. The due date is **April 16** (post-marked). Mail **exam** and **proctor form** to address above. *No notes or books allowed for taking exam.*

4. Reading Report – The Reading Report will be due to the Professor the **last day of class, March 31** (see attached). This report will indicate the amount of *Required Reading* that has been completed during the semester.

Course Assignment	Expected Time Commitment	Student's Actual Time
Weekly Assignments	40 hours	
Biographical Paper	20 hours	
Final Exam	15 hours	
Reading Report	60 hours	
	135 Total Hours	

Students must keep a record of the time they spend on each assignment and by April 30 must upload to the Sakai site a chart like the one above indicating the amount of time they have actually spent on each assignment in the right-hand column.

Required Texts

Dowley, Tim. Editor. *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Reprint. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.

McGrath, Alister. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2001.

Noll, Mark. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*. Baker Book House, 1991.

Sweeney, Douglas. *The American Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Grading

Date Quizzes and Discussion Questions - 25%
Biographical Paper - 25%
Reading Report - 25%
Final Exam - 25%

Course Assignments

Assignment 1

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 352-365.
2. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, pp. 25-36.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 101-113, 116-123, 146-155.

Dates to Remember:

1418	Thomas a Kempis writes <i>Imitation of Christ</i>
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?

Assignment 2

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 366-377, 384-386.
2. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, pp. 59-80, 81-121.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 156-160, 177-190.
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 <i>95 Theses</i>
1521	Diet of Worms
1530	<i>Augsburg Confession</i>
1555	Peace of Augsburg
1577	<i>Formula of Concord</i>

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?

Assignment 3

Reading:

1. *Introduction to Hist. of Christianity*, pp. 378-379, 401-405.
2. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, pp. 37-58.
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?

Assignment 4

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.378-383.
2. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation* pp. 123-164.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp.168-172, 199, 205-213.
4. Acts 4:28; 13:48
Rom. 8:29
Eph. 1:4; 2:1-10

Dates to Remember:

1536	First edition, John Calvin's <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>
1563	<i>Heidelberg Catechism</i>
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.

Assignment 5

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 386-400.
2. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, pp. 211-227.
3. 1 Pet. 1:1-9; 3:13-18; 4:12-19

Dates to Remember:

1534	Act of Supremacy, Henry VIII
1549	Thomas Cranmer's <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>
1559	John Knox returns to Scotland
1563	<i>Thirty-Nine Articles</i>

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?

Assignment 6

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 410-434.
2. *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation*, pp. 165-210.
3. *Historical Theology*, pp. 163, 172-174, 183-184, 190-197, 239-240, 312-319.
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?

Assignment 7

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp. 388-389, 392-393, 406-409.
2. *Historical Theology*, pp. 174-175.
3. John 4:20-24
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 <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>
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?

Assignment 8

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 <i>Pia Desideria</i> |
| 1707 | Isaac Watts publishes <i>Hymns and Spiritual Songs</i> |
| 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.

Assignment 9

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.485-517.
2. *Historical Theology*, pp. 214-229, 270-273, 297-298, 305-306.
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?

Assignment 10

Reading:

The American Evangelical Story, pp. 17-102.

Dates to Remember:

1620 Mayflower Compact

1636 Harvard College founded

1649 Cambridge Platform

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?

Assignment 11

Reading:

1. *Introduction to History of Christianity*, pp.436-444.
2. *The American Evangelical Story*, pp. 107-185.

Dates to Remember:

- 1740 Great Awakening peaks
- 1746 Jonathan Edwards, *Religious Affections*
- 1801 Cane Ridge Revival
- 1835 Finney's *Lectures on Revival*

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you describe the proper relationship between Christian experience and biblical doctrine?
2. What issues are currently causing division among Evangelicals?

Grading Percentage

Weekly Quizzes and Discussion Questions - 25%

Biographical Paper - 25%

Reading Report - 25%

Final Exam - 25%

Grading Scale: The point values listed above mean that the total number of points available for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be applied with cutoffs as follows: A 95, A- 90, B+ 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D+ 67, D 63, D- 60, F below 60. A grade of A+ will be given very rarely, when the student's work is truly exceptional. (At Gordon-Conwell, a grade of A+ and a grade of A are both counted the same way in calculating the student's GPA. Thus, a GPA above 4.0 is not possible.)

Class participation

It is required that students be present for all weekend class sessions. In an emergency (death in the family or trip to the emergency room), 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.

Course Units

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
Unit V	Reformation in England and Scotland
Unit VI	Roman Catholic Reform
Unit VII	English Puritans and Separatists
Unit VIII	Pietists and Methodists
Unit IX	Thirty-Years War and the Enlightenment
Unit X	Christianity in the New World
Unit XI	Awakenings in America

CH205 Church Since the Reformation Review for Final Exam

- A. Know all dates in all Assignments and review text pp. 352 – 517.
- B. Review the “blue blocks” – biographical sketches – matching questions on exam
- C. Be prepared to write a one-page essay on **each** of 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. How did the First and Second Great Awakenings shape American Christianity?

CH 502 Church Since the Reformation

Reading Report

Please state the percentage of the Required Reading that you have completed.

McGrath, *Historical Theology* _____%

Dowley, *Introduction to the History of Christianity* _____%

Sweeney, *The American Evangelical Story* _____%

Noll, *Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation* _____%

Name

Date

Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially 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. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy

The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class

In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancellation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding makeup. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the "last day to submit written work", as noted on the seminary's *Academic Calendar*, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the "last day to submit written work." Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

Grades

Grades are posted on line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

Returned Work:

Submitted course work will be returned to the student provided s/he provides a self addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed once the grade has been assessed and issued.